

# Symbolic Execution Game Semantics

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## Abstract

We present a framework for symbolically executing and model checking higher-order programs with external (open) methods. We focus on the client-library paradigm and in particular we aim to check libraries with respect to any definable client. We combine traditional symbolic execution techniques with operational game semantics to build a symbolic execution semantics that captures arbitrary external behaviour. We prove the symbolic semantics to be sound and complete. This yields a bounded technique by imposing bounds on the depth of recursion and callbacks. We provide an implementation of our technique in the  $\mathbb{K}$  framework and showcase its performance on a custom benchmark based on higher-order coding errors such as reentrancy bugs.

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## 1 Introduction

Two important challenges in program verification are state-space explosion and the environment problem. The former refers to the need to investigate infeasibly many states, while the latter concerns cases where the code depends on an environment that is not available for analysis. State-space explosion has been approached with a range of techniques, which have led to verification tools being nowadays routinely used on industrial-scale code (e.g. [10, 5, 7]). The environment problem, however, remains largely unanswered: verification techniques often require the whole code to be present for the analysis and, in particular, cannot analyse components like libraries where parts of the code are missing (e.g. the client using the library). This problem is particularly acute in higher-order programs, where the interaction between a program and its environment can be intricate and e.g. involve callbacks or reentrant calls. In this paper we address this latter problem by combining *game semantics*, a semantics theory for higher-order programs, with *symbolic execution*, a technique that uses *symbolic values* to explore multiple execution paths of a program.

To showcase the importance and challenges of the environment problem, following is a simple example of a library written in a sugared version of HOLi, the vehicle language of this paper. The example is a simplified implementation of “The DAO” smart contract, a failed decentralised autonomous organisation on the Ethereum blockchain platform [13]. As with

```
1 import send:(int  $\rightarrow$  unit)
2 int balance := 100;
3
4 public withdraw (m:int) :(unit) =
5   if (not (!balance < m)) then
6     send(m);
7     balance := !balance - m;
8     assert(not(!balance < 0))
9   else ();
```

libraries, the challenge in analysing smart contracts is that the client code is not available. We must thus generate all possible contexts in which the contract can be called. In this case, the error is caused by a reentrant call from the `send()` method, which is provided by the environment. When this method is called, the environment takes control and is allowed to

call any method in the library. If a client were to call `withdraw()` within its `send()` method,



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the recursive call would drain all the funds available, which is simulated in this example by a negative balance. This happens because the method is manipulating a global state, and is updating it after the external call. We can see that an analysis capturing this error would need to be able to predict an intricate environment behaviour. Moreover, such an analysis should ideally only predict realisable environment behaviours.

Symbolic execution [34, 14, 20] explores all paths of a program using symbolic values instead of concrete input values. Each symbolic path holds a path condition (a SAT formula) that is satisfiable if and only if the path can be concretely executed. While the resulting analysis is unbounded in general, by restricting our focus to bounded paths we can soundly catch errors, or affirm the absence thereof up to the used bound. Game semantics [2, 15], on the other hand, models higher-order program phrases in isolation as 2-player games: sequences of computational *moves* (method calls and returns) between the program and its hypothetical environment. The power of the technique lies in its use of combinatorial conditions to precisely allow those game plays that can be realised by including the program in an actual environment. Moreover, the theory can be formulated operationally in terms of a trace semantics for open terms [19, 22, 17] which, in turn, lends itself to a symbolic representation. The latter yields a symbolic execution technique that is *sound and complete* in the following sense: given an open program, its symbolic traces match its concrete traces, which match its realisable traces in some environment.

Returning to the DAO example, we can model the ensuing interaction as a sequence of moves, alternating between the environment and the library. Any finite sequence of moves (that leads to an assertion violation) is a trace defining a counterexample. Running the example in HOLiK, our implementation of the symbolic semantics in the  $\mathbb{K}$  Framework [33], the following minimal symbolic trace is automatically found:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{call}\langle \text{withdraw}, x_1 \rangle \cdot \text{call}\langle \text{send}, x_1 \rangle \cdot \text{call}\langle \text{withdraw}, x_2 \rangle \\ & \cdot \text{call}\langle \text{send}, x_2 \rangle \cdot \text{ret}\langle \text{send}, () \rangle \cdot \text{ret}\langle \text{withdraw}, () \rangle \cdot \text{ret}\langle \text{send}, () \rangle \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_1$  is the original call parameter, and  $x_2$  is the parameter for the reentrant call, satisfiable with values  $x_1 = 100$  and  $x_2 = 1$ . A fix would be to swap line 6 and 7, to update internal state before passing control.

In Appendix A we look at a few more examples of libraries that exhibit errors due to high-order behaviours. We provide three examples: a file lock example, a double deallocation example, and an unsafe implementation of flat-combining.

Overall, this paper contributes a novel symbolic execution technique based on game semantics to precisely model the behaviour of higher-order stateful programs. Specifically:

- We present a symbolic trace semantics for higher-order libraries that captures the behaviour of an unknown environment, and prove it sound and complete: i.e. it produces no spurious error traces, and is able to produce the complete execution tree of any library.
- By bounding the depth of nested calls and the *insistence* of the environment in calling library methods, we derive a sound and bounded-complete technique to check higher-order libraries for errors.
- We implement the latter in the  $\mathbb{K}$  semantical framework [33] to produce a sound and bounded-complete tool for higher-order libraries as a proof of concept. We test our implementation with benchmarks adapted from the literature.

## 2 A Language for Higher-Order Libraries: HOLi

We introduce HOLi, a language for higher-order libraries which define methods to be used by an external client, and in turn require external methods (provided by the client). We

<i>Libraries</i> $L ::=$	$B \mid \mathbf{abstract} \ m; L$	<i>Terms</i> $M ::=$	$m \mid i \mid () \mid x \mid \lambda x.M \mid r := M \mid !r$
<i>Blocks</i> $B ::=$	$\varepsilon \mid \mathbf{public} \ m = \lambda x.M; B$ $\mid m = \lambda x.M; B \mid \mathbf{global} \ r := i; B$ $\mid \mathbf{global} \ r := \lambda x.M; B$		$\mid M \oplus M \mid \langle M, M \rangle \mid \pi_1 M \mid \pi_2 M$ $\mid MM \mid \mathbf{if} \ M \ \mathbf{then} \ M \ \mathbf{else} \ M$ $\mid \mathbf{letrec} \ x = \lambda x.M \ \mathbf{in} \ M$ $\mid \mathbf{let} \ x = M \ \mathbf{in} \ M \mid \mathbf{assert}(M)$
<i>Clients</i> $C ::=$	$L; \mathbf{main} = M$		

---

$() : \mathbf{unit}$	$i : \mathbf{int}$	$\frac{x \in \mathbf{Vars}_\theta}{x : \theta}$	$\frac{m \in \mathbf{Meths}_{\theta, \theta'}}{m : \theta \rightarrow \theta'}$	$\frac{M, M' : \mathbf{int}}{M \oplus M' : \mathbf{int}}$	$\frac{M : \mathbf{int} \quad M_1, M_0 : \theta}{\mathbf{if} \ M \ \mathbf{then} \ M_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ M_0 : \theta}$
$\frac{M : \theta_1 \quad M' : \theta_2}{\langle M, M' \rangle : \theta_1 \times \theta_2}$	$\frac{\langle M, M' \rangle : \theta_1 \times \theta_2}{\pi_i \langle M, M' \rangle : \theta_i}$	$\frac{r \in \mathbf{Refs}_\theta}{!r : \theta}$	$\frac{r \in \mathbf{Refs}_\theta}{r := M : \mathbf{unit}}$	$\frac{M : \theta \quad M' : \theta \rightarrow \theta' \quad M : \theta}{M' M : \theta'}$	
$\frac{M : \theta' \quad x : \theta}{\lambda x.M : \theta \rightarrow \theta'}$	$\frac{x, M : \theta \quad M' : \theta'}{\mathbf{let} \ x = M \ \mathbf{in} \ M' : \theta'}$	$\frac{x, \lambda y.M : \theta \rightarrow \theta'' \quad M' : \theta'}{\mathbf{letrec} \ x = \lambda y.M \ \mathbf{in} \ M' : \theta'}$	$\frac{M : \mathbf{int}}{\mathbf{assert}(M) : \mathbf{unit}}$		

■ **Figure 1** Syntax and typing rules of HOLi.

92 give in HOLi an operational semantics for terms that integrates a counter for the depth of  
 93 nested calls that a program phrase can make. We then extend this counting semantics to  
 94 open terms by means of a trace semantics. We show that the trace semantics of libraries is  
 95 sound and complete for reachability of errors under any external client.

## 96 2.1 Syntax and operational semantics

97 A library in HOLi is a collection of typed higher-order methods. A client is simply a library  
 98 with a main body. Types are given by the grammar:

99  $\theta ::= \mathbf{unit} \mid \mathbf{int} \mid \theta \times \theta \mid \theta \rightarrow \theta$

100 We use countably infinite sets **Meths**, **Refs** and **Vars** for method, global reference and  
 101 variable names, ranged over by  $m$ ,  $r$  and  $x$  respectively, and variants thereof; while  $i$  is for  
 102 ranging over the integers. We use  $\oplus$  to range over a set of binary integer operations, which  
 103 we leave unspecified. Each set of names is typed, that is, it can be expressed as a disjoint  
 104 union as follows:  $\mathbf{Meths} = \bigsqcup_{\theta, \theta'} \mathbf{Meths}_{\theta, \theta'}$ ,  $\mathbf{Refs} = \bigsqcup_{\theta \neq \theta_1 \times \theta_2} \mathbf{Refs}_\theta$ ,  $\mathbf{Vars} = \bigsqcup_\theta \mathbf{Vars}_\theta$ .

105 The full syntax and typing rules are given in Figure 1. Thus, a library consists of  
 106 abstract method declarations, followed by blocks of public and private method and reference  
 107 definitions. A method is considered private unless it is declared **public**. Each public/private  
 108 method and reference is defined once. Abstract methods are not given definitions: these  
 109 methods are external to the library. Public, private and abstract methods are all disjoint.

110 Libraries are well typed if all their method and reference definitions are well typed (e.g.  
 111 **public**  $m = \lambda x.M$  is well typed if  $m : \theta$  and  $\lambda x.M : \theta$  are both valid for the same type  $\theta$ )  
 112 and only mention methods and references that are defined or abstract. A client  $L; \mathbf{main} = M$   
 113 is well typed if  $M : \mathbf{unit}$  is valid and  $L; m = \lambda x.M$  is well typed for some fresh  $x, m$ . A  
 114 library/client is *open* if it contains abstract methods. This is different to open/closed terms:  
 115 we call a term *open* if it contains free variables.

116 ► **Remark 1.** By typing variable, reference and method names, we do not need to provide  
 117 a context in typing judgements. Note that the references we use are of non-product type  
 118 and, more importantly, **global** to the library: a term can use references but not create them  
 119 locally or pass them as arguments (we discuss how to include such references in Appendix C).

$$\begin{array}{ll}
(E[\text{let } x = v \text{ in } M], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M\{v/x\}], R, S, k) & (E[\pi_j \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[v_j], R, S, k) \\
(E[r := v], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[], R, S[r \mapsto v], k) & (E[!r], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[S(r)], R, S, k) \\
(E[\text{if } i \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M_j], R, S, k) & (1) \quad (E[i_1 \oplus i_2], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[i], R, S, k) \quad (2) \\
(E[\lambda x.M], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[m], R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\}, S, k) & (E[\text{assert}(i)], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[], R, S, k) \quad (3) \\
(E[mv], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[\langle M\{v/x\} \rangle], R, S, k+1) & (4) \quad (E[\langle v \rangle], R, S, k+1) \rightarrow (E[v], R, S, k) \\
(E[\text{letrec } f = \lambda x.M \text{ in } M'], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M'\{m/f\}], R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\{m/f\}\}, S, k)
\end{array}$$

Conditions: (1) :  $j = 1$  iff  $i \neq 0$ , (2) :  $i = i_1 \oplus i_2$ , (3) :  $i \neq 0$ , (4) :  $R(m) = \lambda x.M$ .

---

<i>Values</i> $v ::= m \mid i \mid () \mid \langle v, v \rangle$	<i>Terms (extended)</i> $M ::= \dots \mid \langle M \rangle$
<i>Eval. Contexts</i> $E ::= \bullet \mid \text{assert}(E) \mid r := E \mid E \oplus M \mid v \oplus E \mid \langle E, M \rangle \mid \langle v, E \rangle \mid \pi_j E$	
	$\mid mE \mid \text{let } x = E \text{ in } M \mid \text{if } E \text{ then } M \text{ else } M \mid \langle E \rangle$

---


$$\begin{array}{l}
(\text{abstract } m; L, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}} (L, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A} \uplus \{m\}) \\
(\text{public } m = \lambda x.M; B, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}} (B, R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\}, S, \mathcal{P} \uplus \{m\}, \mathcal{A}) \\
(m = \lambda x.M; B, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}} (B, R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\}, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \\
(\text{global } r := i; B, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}} (B, R, S \uplus \{r \mapsto i\}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \\
(\text{global } r := \lambda x.M; B, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}} (B, R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\}, S \uplus \{r \mapsto m\}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})
\end{array}$$

■ **Figure 2** Operational semantics (top); values and evaluation contexts (mid); library build (bottom).

120 ► **Example 2.** The DAO-attack example from the Introduction can be written in HOLi as:

```

121   abstract send; global bal := 100;
122   public withdraw =
123     λx. if !bal ≥ x then (send(x); bal := !bal - x; assert(!bal ≥ 0)) else ()
124
```

125 where  $\text{send}, \text{withdraw} \in \text{Meths}_{\text{int}, \text{unit}}$ ,  $\text{bal} \in \text{Refs}_{\text{int}}$ , and  $M; M'$  stands for  $\text{let } \_ = M \text{ in } M'$ .

126 A library contains public methods that can be called by a client. On the other hand,  
 127 a client contains a main body that can be executed. These two scenarios constitute the  
 128 operational semantics of HOLi. Both are based on evaluating (closed) terms, which we  
 129 define next. Term evaluation requires: the closed term being evaluated; method definitions,  
 130 provided by a method repository; reference values, provided by a store; and a call-depth  
 131 counter (a natural number). Since method application is the only source of infinite behaviour  
 132 in HOLi, bounding the depth of nested calls is enough to guarantee termination in program  
 133 analysis. Hence we provide a mechanism to keep track of call depth.

134 The operational semantics is given in Figure 2. The evaluation of terms (top part) involves  
 135 configurations of the form  $(M, R, S, k)$ , where:

- 136 ■  $M$  is a closed term which may contain *evaluation boxes*, i.e. points inside a term where  
 137 a method call has been made and has not yet returned, and is taken from the syntax  
 138 extending the one of Figure 1 with the rule:  $M ::= \dots \mid \langle M \rangle$
- 139 ■  $R$  is a *method repository*, i.e. a partial map from method names to their bodies
- 140 ■  $S$  is a *store*, i.e. a partial map from reference names to their stored values
- 141 ■  $k$  is a *counter*, i.e. a natural number.

142 Most of the rules are standard, but it is worth noting that lambdas are not values themselves  
 143 but, rather, evaluate to method names that are freshly stored in the repository. Moreover,

evaluation boxes interplay with the counter  $k$  in the semantics: they mark places where the depth has increased because of a nested call. The penultimate line of rules in the operational semantics keeps track of call depth, and illustrates the utility of evaluation boxes: making a call increases the counter and leaves behind an evaluation box; returning from the call removes the box and decreases the counter again.

A library  $L$  *builds* into a configuration of the form  $(\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$ , which includes its public methods according to the rules in Figure 2 (bottom). More precisely,  $R$  and  $S$  are as above, while  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathbf{Meths}$  are (disjoint) sets of *public* and *abstract* method names. We say that (a well typed)  $L$  builds to  $(\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$  if  $(L, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}^*} (\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$ . If  $L$  builds to  $(\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$  then the client  $L; \mathbf{main} = M$  builds to  $(M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$ . Moreover, we can link libraries to clients and evaluate them, as in the following definition.

- **Definition 3.** 1. Library  $L$  and client  $C$  are compatible if  $L$  builds to some  $(\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})$  and  $C$  builds to some  $(M, R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}')$  such that:  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{A}'$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{P}'$  (complementation);  $\text{dom}(S) \cap \text{dom}(S') = \emptyset$  (disjoint state); and  $\text{dom}(R) \cap \text{dom}(R') = \emptyset$  (method ownership).  
 2. For a library  $L$ , we let  $\hat{L}$  be  $L$  with all its abstract method declarations and **public** keywords removed; and similarly for  $\hat{C}$ . Given compatible library  $L$  and client  $C$ , we let their composition be the client:  $L;C = \hat{L};\hat{C}$ .  
 3. Given compatible  $L, C$ , the semantics of  $L;C$  is:

$$\llbracket L;C \rrbracket = \{\rho \mid L;C \text{ builds to } (M, R, S, \emptyset, \emptyset) \wedge (M, R, S, 0) \rightarrow^* \rho\}$$

We say that  $\llbracket L;C \rrbracket$  fails if it contains some  $(E[\mathbf{assert}(0)], \dots)$ .

► **Example 4.** To illustrate how libraries and clients are used, consider the DAO example again as a library  $L_{\text{DAO}}$ . We can define a client  $C_{\text{atk}}$ :

```
abstract wdraw; global wlet := 0;
public send = λx.wlet := !wlet + x; if !wlet < 100 then wdraw(x) else ();
main = wdraw(1)
```

to produce the following linked client  $L_{\text{DAO}};C_{\text{atk}}$  (modulo re-ordering):

```
global bal := 100; global wlet := 0;
wdraw = λx. if !bal ≥ x then (send(x); bal := !bal - x; assert(!bal > 0)) else ();
public send = λx.wlet := !wlet + x; if !wlet < 100 then wdraw(x) else ();
main = wdraw(1)
```

We can see how  $L_{\text{DAO}}$  is vulnerable to an attacker such as  $C_{\text{atk}}$  after linking them. The aim is thus to use bounded analysis to find counterexamples that define clients such as this one.

## 2.2 Trace Semantics

The semantics we defined only allows us to evaluate terms, and only so long as their method applications only involve methods that can be found in the repository  $R$ . We next extend this semantics to encompass libraries and terms that can also call abstract methods. The approach we follow is based on operational game semantics [19, 22, 17] and in particular the semantics is given by means of traces of method calls and returns (called *moves* in game semantics jargon), between the library and its client. In between such moves, the semantics evolves as the operational semantics we already saw.

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
(\text{INT}) & \frac{(M, R, S, k) \rightarrow (M', R', S', k')}{(\mathcal{E}, M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, M', R', S', \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k')_p} \\
(\text{PQ}) & (\mathcal{E}, E[mv], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, 0, R, S, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, k)_o \\
(\text{OQ}) & (\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, mv, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p \text{ if } R(m) = \lambda x.M \\
(\text{PA}) & ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, v, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, k)_o \\
(\text{OA}) & ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p \\
\hline
(\text{PC}) : m \in \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{P}' = \mathcal{P} \cup (\text{Meths}(v) \cap \text{dom}(R)), \quad (\text{OC}) : m \in \mathcal{P} \wedge \mathcal{A}' = \mathcal{A} \cup (\text{Meths}(v) \setminus \text{dom}(R)).
\end{array}$$

■ **Figure 3** Trace semantics rules. Rules (PQ), (PA) assume the condition (PC), and similarly for (OQ), (OA) and (OC).  $\text{Meths}(v)$  contains all method names appearing in  $v$ . INT stands for *internal* transition; PQ for *P-question* (i.e. call); PA for *P-answer* (i.e. return). Similarly for OQ and OA.

To maintain a terminating analysis, we need to keep track of an added source of infinite execution, namely endless consecutive calls from an external component: a library will never terminate if its client keeps calling its methods. This leads us to a semantics with two counters,  $k$  and  $l$ , where  $k$  keeps track of internal nested method calls and  $l$  records the number of consecutive calls made from the external component. This counter  $l$  is orthogonal to  $k$  and is refreshed at every call to the external context.

When computing the semantics of a library, the library and its methods are the *Player* ( $P$ ) of the computation game, while the (intended) client is the *Opponent* ( $O$ ). As the semantics is given in absence of an actual client,  $O$  actually represents every possible client. When computing the semantics of a client, the roles are reversed. In both cases, though, the same sets of rules is used and there is no need to specify who is  $P$  and  $O$  in the semantics.

The trace semantics uses *game configurations*, which are divided into *P-configurations* and *O-configurations* given respectively as:

$$(\mathcal{E}, M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o.$$

In a  $P$ -configuration, a term  $M$  is being evaluated – this is  $P$ 's role. In an  $O$ -configuration, an external call has been made and the semantics waits for  $O$  to either return that call, or reply itself with another call. The components  $M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k, l$  are as above, while  $\mathcal{E}$  is an *evaluation stack*:

$$\mathcal{E} ::= \varepsilon \mid (m, E) :: \mathcal{E} \mid (m, l) :: \mathcal{E}$$

which keeps track of the computations that are on hold due to external calls. The trace semantics is generated by the rules given in Figure 3.

The formulation follows closely the operational game semantics technique. For example, from a  $P$ -configuration  $(\mathcal{E}, M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p$ , there are 3 options:

1. If  $M$  can make an internal reduction, i.e. in the operational semantics in context  $(R, S, k)$ , then  $(\mathcal{E}, M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p$  performs this reduction (via (INT)).
2. If  $M$  is stuck at a method application for a method that is not in the repository  $R$ , then that method must be abstract (i.e. external) and needs to be called externally. This is achieved by issuing a call move and moving to an  $O$ -configuration (via (PQ)). The current evaluation context and the called method name are stored, in order to resume once the call is returned (via (OA)).
3. If  $M$  is a value and the evaluation stack is non-empty, then  $P$  has completed a method call that was issued by  $O$  (via (OQ)) and can now return (via (PA)).

On the other hand, from an  $O$ -configuration  $(\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o$ , there are 2 options:

1. either return the last open method call (made by  $P$ ) via (OA), or
2. call one of the public methods (from  $\mathcal{P}$ ) using (OQ).

The role of conditions (PC) and (OC) is to ensure that each player calls the methods owned by the other, or returns their own, and update the sets of public and abstract names according to the method names passed inside  $v$ .

► **Remark 5.** The novelty of Figure 3 with respect to previous work on trace semantics for open libraries (e.g. [26]) lies in the use of  $l$  in order to bound the ability of  $O$  to ask repeated questions for finite analysis. The way rules (OQ) and (PA) are designed is such that any sequence of consecutive  $O$ -calls and  $P$ -returns has maximum length  $2n$  if we bound  $l$  to  $n$  (i.e.  $l \leq n$ ), as each such pair of moves increases  $l$  by 1. On the other hand, each  $P$ -call supplies to  $O$  a fresh counter ( $l = 0$ ) to be used in contiguous (OQ)-(PA)'s. Thus,  $l$  can be seen as keeping track of the *insistence* of  $O$  in calling.

Finally, we can define the trace semantics of libraries.

► **Definition 6.** Let  $L$  be a library. The semantics of  $L$  is :

$$\llbracket L \rrbracket = \{(\tau, \rho) \mid (L, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}}^* (\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \wedge (\varepsilon, 0, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, 0)_o \xrightarrow{\tau} \rho\}$$

We say that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket$  fails if it contains some  $(\tau, (\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], \dots))$ .

► **Example 7.** Consider the DAO example as library  $L_{\text{DAO}}$  once again. Evaluating the game semantics we know the following sequence is in  $\llbracket L_{\text{DAO}} \rrbracket$ . For economy, we hide  $R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}$  and show only the top of the stack in the configurations. We also use  $m(v)?$  and  $m(v)!$  for calls and returns. We write  $S_i$  for the store  $[bal \mapsto i]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & (\varepsilon, 2, S_{100}, 0)_o \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}(42)?} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), \text{wdraw}(42), S_{100}, 0)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[\text{send}(42)], S_{100}, 1)_p \xrightarrow{\text{send}(42)?} ((\text{send}, E), 2, S_{100}, 1)_o \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}(100)?} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), \text{wdraw}(100), S_{100}, 1)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E'[\text{send}(100)], S_{100}, 2)_p \xrightarrow{\text{send}(100)?} ((\text{send}, E), 2, S_{100}, 2)_o \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{send}()!} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E'[], S_{100}, 2)_p \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), (), S_0, 2)_p \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}()!} ((\text{send}, E), 1, S_0, 2)_o \xrightarrow{\text{send}()!} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[], S_0, 1)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[\text{assert}(-42 \geq 0)], S_{-42}, 1)_p \end{aligned}$$

This transition sequence is an instance of the symbolic trace provided in the Introduction. Here, a call is made with parameter 42, and a reentrant call with 100, which leads to the assertion violation  $\text{assert}(-42 \geq 0)$ . Note that a bound of  $k \leq 2$  is sufficient to find this assertion violation.

We next establish two focal properties of the trace semantics: bounding  $k$  and  $l$  ensures termination (Theorem 8, see Appendix ??), and that it is sound and complete with respect to library errors (Theorem 9).

► **Theorem 8 (Boundedness).** For any game configuration  $\rho$ , provided an upper bound  $k_0$  and  $l_0$  for call counters  $k$  and  $l$ , the labelled transition system starting from  $\rho$  is strongly normalising.



► **Theorem 9** (S and C). *We call a client good if it contains no assertions. For any library  $L$ , the following are equivalent:*

1.  $\llbracket L \rrbracket$  fails (reaches an assertion violation)
2. there exists a good client  $C$  such that  $\llbracket L;C \rrbracket$  fails

**Proof.** 1 to 2: Suppose now that  $(\tau, \rho) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$  for some trace  $\tau$  and failed  $\rho$ . By Theorem 11, we have that there is a good client  $C$  realising the trace  $\tau$ . So then, by Lemma 10, we have that  $\llbracket L;C \rrbracket$  fails.

2 to 1: Suppose  $\llbracket L;C \rrbracket$  fails for some good client  $C$ . Then, by Lemma 10, there are  $\tau, \rho, \rho'$  such that  $(\tau, \rho) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$ ,  $(\tau, \rho') \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$ , and  $\rho$  is failed (i.e. is of the shape  $(\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], \dots)$ ). ◀

The latter relies on an auxiliary lemma (well-composing of libraries and clients, see Appendix ??), and a definability result akin to game semantics definability arguments (see Appendix ??).

► **Lemma 10** (L-C Compositionality). *For any library  $L$  and compatible good client  $C$ ,  $\llbracket L;C \rrbracket$  fails if and only if there exist  $(\tau_1, \rho_1) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$  and  $(\tau_2, \rho_2) \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  such that  $\tau_1 = \tau_2$  and  $\rho_1 = (\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], \dots)$ .*

► **Theorem 11** (Definability). *Let  $L$  be a library and  $(\tau, \rho) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$ . There is a good client  $C$  compatible with  $L$  such that  $(\tau, \rho') \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  for some  $\rho'$ .*

### 3 Symbolic Semantics

Checking libraries for errors using the semantics of the previous section is infeasible, even when the traces are bounded in length, as ground values are concretely represented. In particular, integer values provided by  $O$  as arguments to calls or return values range over all integers. The typical way to mitigate this limitation is to execute the semantics symbolically, using symbolic variables for integers and path conditions to bind these variables to plausible values. We use this technique to devise a symbolic version of the trace semantics, corresponding to a symbolic execution which will enable us in the next sections to introduce a practical method and implementation for checking libraries for errors. The symbolic semantics is fully formal, closely following the developments of the previous section, and allows us to prove a strong form of correspondence between concrete and symbolic semantics (a bisimulation).

Apart from integers, another class of concrete values provided by  $O$  are method names. For them, the semantics we defined is symbolic by design: all method names played by  $O$  are going to be fresh and therefore picking just one of those fresh choices is sufficient (formally speaking, the semantics lives in nominal sets [32]). The reason why using fresh names for methods played by  $O$  is sound is that the effect of  $O$  calling a higher-order public method with an argument  $m$  (where  $m$  is another public method), and with  $\lambda x.m x$ , is equivalent as far as reachability of an error is concerned. In the latter case, the client semantics would create a fresh name  $m'$ , bind it to  $\lambda x.m x$ , and pass  $m'$  as an argument. We therefore just focus on this latter case.

The symbolic semantics involves terms that may contain symbolic values for integers. We therefore extend the syntax for values and terms to include such values, and abuse notation by continuing to use  $M$  to range over them. We let  $\text{SInts}$  be a set of symbolic integers ranged over by  $\kappa$  and variants, and define:

$$\text{Sym.Values} \quad \tilde{v} ::= m \mid i \mid () \mid \kappa \mid \tilde{v} \oplus \tilde{v} \mid \langle \tilde{v}, \tilde{v} \rangle$$



$$\begin{array}{l}
(\widetilde{\text{INT}}) \quad \frac{(M, R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (M', R', \sigma, pc', k')}{(\mathcal{E}, M, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_p \rightarrow_s (\mathcal{E}, M', R', \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma', pc', k')_p} \\
(\widetilde{\text{PQ}}) \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[m\tilde{v}], R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, \tilde{v})}_s ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, 0, R, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, \sigma, k)_o \\
(\widetilde{\text{OQ}}) \quad (\mathcal{E}, l, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, \tilde{v})}_s ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, m\tilde{v}, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', \sigma, pc, k)_p \\
(\widetilde{\text{PA}}) \quad ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, \tilde{v}, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m, \tilde{v})}_s (\mathcal{E}, l, R, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_o \\
(\widetilde{\text{OA}}) \quad ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m, \tilde{v})}_s (\mathcal{E}, E[\tilde{v}], R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', \sigma, pc, k)_p \\
\hline
(\widetilde{\text{PC}}) \quad m \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } \mathcal{P}' = \mathcal{P} \cup (\text{Meths}(\tilde{v}) \cap \text{dom}(R)). \\
(\widetilde{\text{OC}}) \quad m \in \mathcal{P} \text{ and } (\tilde{v}', \mathcal{A}') \in \text{symval}(\theta, \mathcal{A}) \text{ where } \theta \text{ is the expected type of } \tilde{v}. \text{ Moreover:} \\
\text{symval}(\theta, \mathcal{A}) = \begin{cases} \{(\emptyset, \mathcal{A})\} & \text{if } \theta = \text{unit} \\ \{(\kappa, \mathcal{A} \uplus \{\kappa\}) \mid \kappa \text{ is fresh in } \text{dom}(\sigma) \uplus \mathcal{A}\} & \text{if } \theta = \text{int} \\ \{(m, \mathcal{A} \uplus \{m\}) \mid m \text{ is fresh in } \text{dom}(R) \uplus \mathcal{A}\} & \text{if } \theta = \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \\ \{(\langle \tilde{v}_1, \tilde{v}_2 \rangle, \mathcal{A}_2) \mid (\tilde{v}_1, \mathcal{A}_1) \in \text{symval}(\theta_1, \mathcal{A}) \text{ and } (\tilde{v}_2, \mathcal{A}_2) \in \text{symval}(\theta_2, \mathcal{A}_1)\} & \text{if } \theta = \theta_1 \times \theta_2 \end{cases}
\end{array}$$

■ **Figure 4** Symbolic trace semantics rules. Rules  $(\widetilde{\text{PQ}})$ ,  $(\widetilde{\text{PA}})$  assume the condition  $(\widetilde{\text{PC}})$ , and similarly for  $(\widetilde{\text{OQ}})$ ,  $(\widetilde{\text{OA}})$  and  $(\widetilde{\text{OC}})$ .

301 *Sym.Terms*  $M ::= \dots \mid \kappa$

303 where, in  $\tilde{v} \oplus \tilde{v}$ , not both  $\tilde{v}$  can be integers. We moreover use a symbolic environment to  
 304 store symbolic values for references, but also to keep track of arithmetic performed with  
 305 symbolic integers. More precisely, we let  $\sigma$  by a finite partial map from the set  $\text{SInts} \cup \text{Refs}$   
 306 to symbolic values. Finally, we use  $pc$  to range over program conditions, which will be  
 307 quantifier-free first-order formulas with variables taken from  $\text{SInts}$ , and with  $\top, \perp$  denoting  
 308 true and false respectively.

309 The semantics for closed symbolic terms involves configurations of the form  $(M, R, \sigma, pc, k)$ .  
 310 Its rules include copies of those from Figure 1 (top) where the  $pc$  and  $\sigma$  are simply carried  
 311 over. For example:

$$312 \quad (E[\lambda x.M], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[m], R \uplus \{m \mapsto \lambda x.M\}, \sigma, pc, k)$$

313 where  $m$  is fresh. On the other hand, the following rules directly involve symbolic reasoning:

$$\begin{array}{l}
314 \quad (E[\text{assert}(\kappa)], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[\text{assert}(0)], \sigma, pc \wedge (\kappa = 0), k) \\
315 \quad (E[\text{assert}(\kappa)], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[()], R, \sigma, pc \wedge (\kappa \neq 0), k) \\
316 \quad (E[!r], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[\sigma(r)], R, \sigma, pc, k) \\
317 \quad (E[r := \tilde{v}], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[()], R, \sigma[r \mapsto \tilde{v}], pc, k) \\
318 \quad (E[\tilde{v}_1 \oplus \tilde{v}_2], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[\kappa], R, \sigma \uplus \{\kappa \mapsto \tilde{v}_1 \oplus \tilde{v}_2\}, pc, k) \text{ where } \kappa \text{ is fresh} \\
319 \quad (E[\text{if } \kappa \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[M_0], R, \sigma, pc \wedge (\kappa = 0), k) \\
320 \quad (E[\text{if } \kappa \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow_s (E[M_1], R, \sigma, pc \wedge (\kappa \neq 0), k)
\end{array}$$

322 and where  $\tilde{v}_1 \oplus \tilde{v}_2$  is a symbolic value (for  $i_i \oplus i_2$  the rule from Figure 1 applies).

323 We now extend the symbolic setting to the trace semantics. We define symbolic configu-  
 324 rations for  $P$  and  $O$  respectively as:

$$325 \quad (\mathcal{E}, M, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_p \qquad (\mathcal{E}, l, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_o$$

with evaluation stack  $\mathcal{E}$ , proponent term  $M$ , counters  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ , method repository  $R$ , public method name set  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $\sigma$  and  $pc$  as previously. The abstract name set  $\mathcal{A}$  is now a finite subset of  $\text{Meths} \cup \text{SInts}$ , as we also need to keep track of the symbolic integers introduced by  $O$  (in order to be able to introduce fresh such names). The rules for the symbolic trace semantics are given in Figure 4. Note that  $O$  always refreshes names it passes. This is a sound overapproximation of all names passed for the sake of analysis.

Similarly to Definition 6, we can define the symbolic semantics of libraries.

► **Definition 12.** *Given library  $L$ , the symbolic semantics of  $L$  is:*

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket L \rrbracket_s = \{ & (\tau, \rho) \mid (L, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\text{bld}}^* (\varepsilon, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}) \\ & \wedge (\varepsilon, 0, R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, S, \top, 0)_o \xrightarrow{\tau}_s \rho \wedge \exists \mathcal{M}. \mathcal{M} \models \rho(\sigma)^\circ \wedge \rho(pc) \} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\rho(\chi)$  is component  $\chi$  in configuration  $\rho$ . We say that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$  fails if it contains some  $(\tau, (\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], \dots))$ .

The symbolic rules follow those of the concrete semantics, the biggest change being the treatment of symbolic values played by  $O$ . Condition  $(\widehat{\text{OC}})$  stipulates that  $O$  plays distinct fresh symbolic integers as well as fresh method names, in each appropriate position in  $\tilde{v}$ , and all these names are included in the set  $\mathcal{A}$ .

► **Example 13.** As with Example 7, we consider the DAO attack. Running the symbolic semantics, we find the following minimal class of errors. We write  $\sigma_{\tilde{v}}$  for a symbolic environment  $[bal \mapsto \tilde{v}]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & (\varepsilon, 2, \sigma_{100}, k_0)_o \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}(\kappa_1)?} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), \text{wdraw}(\kappa_1), \sigma_{100}, 2)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[\text{send}(\kappa_1)], \sigma_{100}, 1)_p \xrightarrow{\text{send}(\kappa_1)?} ((\text{send}, E), 2, \sigma_{100}, 1)_o \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}(\kappa_2)?} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), \text{wdraw}(\kappa_2), \sigma_{100}, 1)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E'[\text{send}(\kappa_2)], \sigma_{100}, 0)_p \xrightarrow{\text{send}(\kappa_2)?} ((\text{send}, E), 2, \sigma_{100}, 0)_o \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{send}(() )!} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E'[()], \sigma_{100}, 0)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), (), \sigma_{100-\kappa_2}, 0)_p \xrightarrow{\text{wdraw}(() )!} ((\text{send}, E), 1, \sigma_{100-\kappa_2}, 0)_o \\ & \xrightarrow{\text{send}(() )!} ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[()], \sigma_{100-\kappa_2}, 1)_p \\ & \rightarrow^* ((\text{wdraw}, 1), E[\text{assert}(!bal \geq 0)], \sigma_{100-\kappa_2-\kappa_1}, 1)_p \end{aligned}$$

For this to be a valid error, we require  $(\kappa_1, \kappa_2 \leq 100) \wedge (100 - \kappa_2 - \kappa_1 < 0)$  to be satisfiable. Taking assignment  $\{\kappa_1 \mapsto 100, \kappa_2 \mapsto 1\}$ , we show the path is valid.

### 3.1 Soundness

The main result of this section is establishing the soundness of the symbolic semantics: a trace and a specific configuration can be achieved symbolically iff they can be achieved concretely as well. In fact, we will need to quantify this statement as, by construction, the symbolic semantics requires  $O$  to always place fresh method names, whereas in the concrete semantics  $O$  is given the freedom to play old names as well. What we show is that the symbolic semantics corresponds (via *bisimilarity*) to a restriction of the concrete semantics where  $O$  plays fresh names only. This restriction is sound, in the sense that it is sufficient for identifying when a configuration can fail. We make this precise below.

A **model**  $\mathcal{M}$  is a finite partial map from symbolic integers to concrete integers. Given such an  $\mathcal{M}$  and a formula  $\phi$ , we define  $\mathcal{M} \models \phi$  using a standard first-order logic interpretation with integers and arithmetic operators (in particular, we require that all symbolic integers in  $\phi$  are in the domain of  $\mathcal{M}$ ). Moreover, for any symbolic term  $M$  (or trace, move, etc.), we denote by  $M\{\mathcal{M}\}$  the concrete term we obtain by substituting any symbolic integer  $\kappa$  of  $M$  with its corresponding concrete integer  $\mathcal{M}(\kappa)$ . Finally, given a symbolic environment  $\sigma$ , we define its formula representation  $\sigma^\circ$  recursively by:

$$\emptyset^\circ = \top, \quad (\sigma \uplus \{r \mapsto v\})^\circ = \sigma^\circ, \quad (\sigma \uplus \{\kappa \mapsto v\})^\circ = \sigma^\circ \wedge (\kappa = v).$$

We now define notions for equivalence between symbolic and concrete configurations. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a model. For any concrete configuration  $\rho = (\mathcal{E}, \chi, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)$  and symbolic configuration  $\rho_s = (\mathcal{E}', \chi', R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', \sigma, pc, k')$ , we say they are *equivalent in  $\mathcal{M}$* , written  $\rho =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$ , if:

- $(\mathcal{E}, \chi, R) = (\mathcal{E}', \chi', R')\{\mathcal{M}\}, \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}' \cap \text{Meths}$  and  $S = (\sigma \upharpoonright \text{Refs})\{\mathcal{M}\}$ ;
- $\text{dom}(\mathcal{M}) = (\mathcal{A}' \cup \text{dom}(\sigma)) \cap \text{SInts}$  and  $\mathcal{M} \models pc \wedge \sigma^\circ$ .

The notion of equivalence we require between concrete configurations and their symbolic counterparts is behavioural equivalence, modulo  $O$  playing fresh names.

More precisely, a transition  $\rho \xrightarrow{\chi} \rho'$  is called *O-refreshing* if, when  $\rho$  is an  $O$ -configuration and  $\chi = \text{call}/\text{ret}(m, v)$  then all names in  $v$  are fresh and distinct. A finite set  $\mathcal{R}$  with elements of the form  $(\rho, \mathcal{M}, \rho_s)$  is a **bisimulation** if, whenever  $(\rho, \mathcal{M}, \rho_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ , written  $\rho \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$  then  $\rho =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$  and, using  $\chi$  to range over moves and  $\varepsilon$  (i.e. no move):

- if  $\rho \xrightarrow{\chi} \rho'$  is  $O$ -refreshing then there exists  $\mathcal{M}' \supseteq \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\rho_s \xrightarrow{\chi_s} \rho'_s$ , with  $\chi = \chi_s\{\mathcal{M}'\}$ , and  $\rho' \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{M}'} \rho'_s$ ;
- if  $\rho_s \xrightarrow{\chi_s} \rho'_s$  then there exists  $\mathcal{M}' \supseteq \mathcal{M}$  such that  $\rho \xrightarrow{\chi\{\mathcal{M}'\}} \rho'$  and  $\rho' \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{M}'} \rho'_s$ .

We let  $\sim$  be the largest bisimulation relation:  $\rho \sim_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$  iff there is bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $\rho \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$ .

We can show that concrete and symbolic configurations are bisimilar.

► **Lemma 14.** *Given  $\rho, \rho_s$  a concrete and symbolic configuration respectively, and  $\mathcal{M}$  a model such that  $\rho =_{\mathcal{M}} (\rho')$ , we have  $\rho \sim_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s$ .*

**Proof (sketch).** We show that  $\{(\rho, \mathcal{M}, \rho') \mid \rho =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho'\}$  is a bisimulation. ◀

Next, we argue that  $O$ -refreshing transitions suffice for examining failure of concrete configurations. Indeed, suppose  $\tau$  is a trace leading to fail, and where  $O$  plays an old name  $m$  in argument position in a given move. Then,  $\tau$  can be simulated by a trace  $\tau'$  that uses a fresh  $m'$  in place of  $m$ . If  $m$  is an  $O$ -name, we obtain  $\tau'$  from  $\tau$  by following exactly the same transitions, only that some  $P$ -calls to  $m$  are replaced by calls to  $m'$  (and accordingly for returns). If, on the other hand,  $m$  is a  $P$ -name, then the simulation performed by  $\tau'$  is somewhat more elaborate: some internal calls to  $m$  will be replaced by  $P$ -calls to  $m'$ , immediately followed by the required calls to  $m$  (and dually for returns).

► **Lemma 15 (O-Refreshing).** *Let  $\rho$  be a concrete configuration. Then,  $\rho$  fails iff it fails using only  $O$ -refreshing transitions.*

With the above, we can prove soundness.

► **Theorem 16 (Soundness).** *For any  $L$ ,  $\llbracket L \rrbracket$  fails iff  $\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$  fails.*

**Proof.** Lemma 14 implies that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$  fails iff  $\llbracket L \rrbracket$  fails with  $O$ -refreshing transitions, which in turns occurs iff  $\llbracket L \rrbracket$  fails, by Lemma 15. ◀

### 3.2 Bounded Analysis for Libraries

Definition 12 states how the symbolic trace semantics can be used to independently check libraries for errors. As with the trace semantics in Definition 6, this is strongly normalising when given an upper limit to the call counters. As such,  $\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$  with counter bounds  $k_0, l_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ , for  $k, l$  respectively, defines a finite set (modulo selecting of fresh names) of reachable valid configurations within  $k \leq k_0, l \leq l_0$ , where validity is defined by the satisfiability of the symbolic environment  $\sigma$  and the path condition  $pc$  of the configuration reached. By virtue of Theorems 14 and 9, every valid reachable configuration that is failed (evaluates an invalid assertion) is realisable by some client. And viceversa.

Given a library  $L$ , taking  $\mathcal{F}\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$  to be all reachable final configurations, we have the exhaustive set of paths  $L$  can reach. In  $\mathcal{F}\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$ , every failed configuration  $(\tau, \rho)$ , i.e. such that  $\rho$  holds a term  $E[\text{assert}(0)]$ , defines a reachable assertion violation, where  $\tau$  is a true counterexample. Hence, to check  $L$  for assertion violations it suffices to produce a finite representation of the set  $\mathcal{F}\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$ . One approach is to bound the depth of analysis by setting an upper bound to the call counters, using a name generator to make deterministic the creation of fresh names, and then exhaustively search all final configurations for failed elements. In the following section we implement this routine and test it.

## 4 Implementation and Experiments

We implemented the syntax and symbolic trace semantics (symbolic games) for HOLi in the  $\mathbb{K}$  semantic framework [33] as a proof of concept, and tested it on 70 sample libraries.<sup>1</sup> Using  $\mathbb{K}$ 's option to exhaustively expand all transitions,  $\mathbb{K}$  is able to build a closure of all applicable rules. By providing a bound on the call counters, we produce a finite set of all reachable valid symbolic configurations up to the given depth (equivalent to finding every valid  $\rho \in \mathcal{F}\llbracket L \rrbracket_s$ ) which thus implements our bounded symbolic execution.

We wrote and adapted examples of coding errors into a set of 70 sample libraries written in HOLi, totalling 6,510 lines of code (LoC). Examples adapted from literature include: reentrancy bugs from smart contracts [3, 24]; variations of the “awkward example” [31]; various programs from the MoCHi benchmark [36]; and simple implementations related to concurrent programming (e.g. flat combining and race conditions) where errors may occur in a single thread due to higher-order behaviour. We also combined several libraries, by concatenating refactored method and reference definitions, to generate larger libraries that are harder to solve. Combined files range from 150 to 520 LoC.

We ran HOLiK on all sample libraries, lexicographically increasing the bounds from  $k \leq 2, l \leq 1$  to  $k \leq 5, l \leq 3$  (totalling 78,120 LoC checked), with a timeout set to five minutes per library. We start from  $k \leq 2$  because it provides the minimum nesting needed to observe higher-order semantics. All experiments ran on an Ubuntu 19.04 machine with 16GB RAM, Intel Core i7 3.40GHz CPU, with intermediate calls to Z3 to prune invalid configurations. Per bound, the number of counterexamples found, the time taken in seconds, and the execution status, i.e. whether it terminated or not, are recorded in Table 1.

We can observe that independently increasing the bounds for  $k$  and  $l$  causes exponential growth in the total time taken, which is expected from symbolic execution. Note that the time tends towards 21000 seconds because of the timeout set to 5 minutes for 70 programs. The number of errors found also grows exponentially with respect to the increase in bounds,

<sup>1</sup> The tool and its benchmarks can be found at: <https://github.com/LaifsV1/HOLiK>.

	$l \leq 1$	$l \leq 2$	$l \leq 3$
$k \leq 2$	226/70/45 (555s)	5708/60/44 (4710s)	9656/3/23 (12471s)
$k \leq 3$	1254/67/51 (1475s)	4092/27/18 (13482s)	4187/17/12 (16649s)
$k \leq 4$	3392/63/48 (3180s)	3069/19/14 (15903s)	1335/12/10 (17765s)
$k \leq 5$	3659/57/45 (4787s)	895/15/10 (16757s)	215/11/9 (17796s)

$a/b/c$  ( $d$ ) for  $a$  traces found in  $b$  successful runs taking  $d$  seconds in total  
 where  $c$  out of 59 unsafe files were found to have bugs, per bound.  
 59 of 59 unsafe files found to have bugs over the various bounds checked

■ **Table 1** Table recording performance of HOLiK on our benchmarks

which can be explained by the exponential growth in paths. With bounds  $k \leq 2$  and  $l \leq 1$ , all 70 programs in our benchmark were successfully analysed, though not all minimal errors were found until the bounds were increased further. Cumulatively, all unsafe programs in our benchmark were correctly identified.

While the table may suggest that increasing bound for  $l$  is more beneficial than that for  $k$ , the number of errors reported does not imply every trace is useful. For instance, increasing the bound for  $l$  can lead to errors re-merging in a higher-order version, which suggests potential gain from a partial order reduction. Overall, the  $k$  and  $l$  counters are incomparable as they keep track of different behaviours. Finally, since HOLiK was able to handle every file and correctly identified all unsafe files in the benchmark, we conclude that HOLiK, as a proof of concept, captures the full range of behaviours in higher-order libraries. Results suggest that the tool scales up to at least medium-sized programs ( $<1000$  LoC), which is promising because real-world medium-size higher-order programs have been proven infeasible to check with standard techniques (e.g. the DAO withdraw contract was approximately 100 LoC).

## 5 Related Work

Game semantics techniques have been applied to program equivalence verification by reducing program equivalence to language equivalence in a decidable automata class [16, 1]. Equivalence tools can be used for reachability but, as they perform full verification, they can only cover lower-order recursion-free language fragments. For example, the Coneqct [25] tool can verify the simplified DAO attack, but cannot check higher-order or recursive functions (e.g. the “file lock” and “flat combiner” examples), and operates on integers concretely. Close to our approach is also Symbolic GameChecker [12], which performs symbolic model checking by using a representation of games based on symbolic finite-state automata. The tool works on recursion-free Idealized Algol with first-order functions, which supports only integer references. On the other hand, it is complete (not bounded) on the fragment that it covers.

Besides games techniques, a recent line of work on verification of contracts in Racket [28, 27] is the work closest to ours. Racket contracts exist in a higher-order setting similar to ours, and generalise higher-order pre and post conditions, and thus specify safety. To verify these, [28] defines a symbolic execution based on what they call “demonic context” in prior work [39]. This either returns a symbolic value to a call, or performs a call to a known method within some unknown context, thus approximating all the possible higher-order behaviours,

and is equivalent to the role the opponent plays in our games. In [27], the technique is extended to handle state, and finitised for total verification. The approaches are notionally similar to ours, since both amount to Symbolic Execution for an unknown environment. In substance, the techniques are very different and in particular ours is based on a semantics theory which allows us to obtain compositionality and definability results. On the other hand, Racket contracts can be used for richer verification questions than assertion violations. In terms of tool performance, we provide a comparison of the techniques in Appendix B.

Another relevant line of work is that of verifying programs in the Ethereum Platform. Smart contracts call for techniques that handle the environment, with a focus on reentrancy. Tools like Oyente [24] and Majan [29] use pre-defined patterns to find bugs in the transaction order, but are not sound or complete. ReGuard [23] finds sound reentrancy bugs using a fuzzing engine to generate random transactions to check with a reentrancy automaton. In principle, it may detect reentrancy faster than symbolic execution (native execution is faster [41]), but, is incomplete even in a bounded setting. More closely related to our approach, [18] considers the possibility of an *unknown* contract  $c?$  calling a *known* contract  $c^*$  at each higher call level. This can be generalised in our game semantics as *abstract* and *public* names calling each other, but their focus is on modelling reentrancy, while we handle the full range of higher-order behaviours.

Like KLEE [4] and jCUTE [37], our implementation is a symbolic execution tool. These are generally able to find first-order counterexamples, but are unable to produce higher-order traces involving unknown code. Particularly, KLEE and jCUTE only handle symbolic calls provided these can be concretised. This partially models the environment, but calls are often impossible to concretise with libraries. The CBMC [6, 21] bounded model checking approach, which also bounds function application to a fixed depth, partially handle calls to unknown code by returning a non-deterministic value to such calls. This is equivalent to a game where only move available to the opponent is to answer questions. This restriction allows CBMC to find some bugs caused by interaction with the environment, but misses errors that arise from transferring flow of control (e.g. reentrancy). The typical BMC approach also misses bugs involving disclosure of names.

Higher-order model checking tools like MoCHi [36] are also related. MoCHi model checks a pure subset of OCaml and is based on predicate abstraction and CEGAR and higher-order recursion scheme model checkers. The modular approach [35] further extends this idea with modular analysis that guesses refinement intersection types for each top-level function. Although generally incomparable, HOLiK covers program features that MoCHi does not: MoCHi does not handle references and support for open code is limited (from experiments, and private communication with the authors).

## 6 Future Directions

Observing errors resurface deeper in the trace suggests the possibility of defining a partial order for our semantics to obtain equivalence classes for configurations and thus eliminate paths that involve known errors [30, 40]. Additionally, while  $k$  and  $l$  successfully bound infinite behaviour, a notion of bounding can be arbitrarily chosen. In fact, while we chose to directly bound the sources of infinite behaviour in method calls for simplicity of proofs and implementation, the theory does not prevent the generalisation of  $k$  and  $l$  as a monotonic cost function that bounds the semantics. It may also be worth considering the elimination of bounds entirely for the sake of unbounded verification. For this, one direction is abstract interpretation [9, 8], which amounts to defining overapproximations for values in our language



to then attempt to compute a fixpoint for the range of values that assertions may take. However, defining and using abstract domains that maintain enough precision to check higher-order behaviours, such as reentrancy, is not a simple extension of the theory. Another direction, similar to Coneqet [25], is to define a push-down system for our semantics. Particularly, the approach in [25] is based on the decidability of reachability in fresh-register pushdown automata, and would require overapproximations for methods and integers. As with abstract interpretation, this would require defining abstract domains for methods and integers. While methods could be approximated using a finite set of names, as with  $k$ -CFA [38], an extension using integer abstract domains would need refinement to tackle reentrancy attacks. Finally, MoCHi [36] shows that it is possible to use CEGAR and higher-order recursion schemes for unbounded verification of higher-order programs. However, an extension of the MoCHi approach to include references and open code is not obvious.

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## A Motivating examples

Our file lock example provides a scenario where the library makes it possible for the client to update a file without first reacquiring the lock for it. The library contains an empty private method `updateFile` that simulates file access. The library also provides a public method `openFile`, which locks the file, allows the user to update the file indirectly, and then releases the lock.

```

1 import userExec :((unit → unit) → unit)
2 int lock := 0;
3 private updateFile(x:unit) :(unit) = { () };
4 public openFile (u:unit) :(unit) = {
5   if (!lock) then ()
6   else (lock := 1;
7         let write = fun(x:unit):(unit) → (assert(!lock);updateFile());
8         in userExec(write); lock := 0) };

```

The bug here is that `openFile` creates a `write` method, which it then passes to the client, via `userExec(write)`, to use whenever they want. This provides the client indirect access to the private method `updateFile`, which it can call without first acquiring the lock. Running this example in HOLiK we obtain the following minimal trace:

```

call⟨openFile, ()⟩ · call⟨userExec, m2⟩ · ret⟨userExec, ()⟩
· ret⟨openFile, ()⟩ · call⟨m2, ()⟩

```

where  $m_2$  is the method *name* generated by the library and bound to the variable `write`. This example serves as a representative of a class of bugs caused by revealing methods to the environment, a higher-order problem, in this case involving the second-order method `userExec` revealing  $m_2$ .

Next, we simulate double deallocation using a global reference `addr` as the memory address. The library defines private methods `alloc` and `free` to simulate allocation and freeing. The empty private method `doSthg` serves as a placeholder for internal computation that does not free memory.

```

1 import getInput :(unit → int)
2 int addr := 0; // 0 means address is free
3 private alloc (u:unit) :(unit) = {
4   if not(!addr) then addr := 1 else () };
5 private free (u:unit) :(unit) = {
6   assert(!addr); addr := 0 };
7 private doSthg (i:int) :(unit) = { () };
8 public run (u:unit) :(unit) = {
9   alloc(); doSthg(getInput ()); free() };

```

The error occurs in line 9, which calls the client method `getInput`. This passes control to the client, who can now call `run` again, thus causing `free` to be called twice. Executing the example on HOLiK, we obtain the following trace:

```

call⟨run, ()⟩ · call⟨getInput, ()⟩ · call⟨run, ()⟩ · call⟨getInput, ()⟩
· ret⟨getInput, x1⟩ · ret⟨run, ()⟩ · ret⟨getInput, x2⟩

```

As with the DAO attack, this is a reentrancy bug.

Finally, we have an unsafe implementation of a flat combiner. The library defines two public methods: `enlist`, which allows the client to add procedures to be executed by the

library, and `run`, which lets the client run all procedures added so far. The higher-order global reference `list` implements a list of methods.

```

747 1 private empty(x:int) : (unit) = { () };
748 2 fun list := empty;
749 3 int cnt := 0; int running := 0;
750 4 public enlist(f:(unit → unit)) :(unit) = {
751 5   if (!running) then ()
752 6   else
753 7     cnt := !cnt + 1;
754 8     (let c = !cnt in let l = !list in
755 9       list := (fun(z:int):(unit) → if (z == c) then f() else l(z))))};
756 10 public run(x:unit) :(unit) = {
757 11   running := 1;
758 12   if (0 < !cnt) then
759 13     (!list)(!cnt);
760 14     cnt := !cnt - 1; assert(not (!cnt < 0)); run()
761 15   else (list := empty; running := 0) };
762 763

```

The bug here is also due to a reentrant call in line 13. However, this is a much tougher example as it involves a higher-order reference `list`, a recursive method `run`, and a second-order method `enlist` that reveals client names to the library. With HOLiK, we obtain the following minimal counterexample:

```

768   call⟨enlist, m1⟩ · ret⟨enlist, ()⟩ · call⟨run, ()⟩ · call⟨m1, ()⟩
769   · call⟨run, ()⟩ · call⟨m1, ()⟩ · ret⟨m1, ()⟩ · ret⟨run, ()⟩ · ret⟨m1, ()⟩
770

```

where  $m_1$  is a client name revealed to the library. In the trace above, `enlist` reveals the method  $m_1$  to the library. This name is then added to the list of procedures to execute. In `run`, the library passes control to the client by calling  $m_1$ . At this point, the client is allowed to call `run` again before the list is updated.

## 775 B Comparison with Racket Contract Verification

776 We shall consider the latest version of the tool [27] since it handles state, which we refer to as  
 777 SCV (Software Contract Verifier). A small benchmark (19 programs) based on HOLiK and  
 778 SCV benchmarks was used for testing. Programs were manually translated between HOLi and  
 779 Racket. Care was taken to translate programs whilst maintaining their semantics: contracts  
 780 enforcing an input-output relation were translated into HOLi using wrapper functions that  
 781 define the relation through an if statement. In the other direction, since contracts do not  
 782 directly access references inside a term, stateful functions were translated from HOLi to  
 783 return any references we wish to reason about.

784 Table 2 records the comparison. On one hand, HOLiK only found real errors, whereas  
 785 SCV reported several spurious errors—a third of all errors were spurious. On the other  
 786 hand, SCV was able to prove total correctness of 3 of the 7 safe files present. SCV also  
 787 scales much better than HOLiK with respect to program size, which is in exchange of  
 788 precision. The difference in time for small programs is mainly due to initialisation time.  
 789 Subtle differences in the nature of each tool can also be observed. e.g., HOLiK reports 1 real  
 790 error for `ack-simple-e`, whereas SCV reports 2 errors. The difference is because SCV takes  
 791 into account constraints for integers (e.g.  $> 0$  and  $= 0$ ). More interestingly, for `various`,  
 792 HOLiK reports 19 ways to reach assertion violations, whereas SCV reports only 6 real ways  
 793 to violate contracts. The difference is because HOLiK reports paths through the execution

Program	LoC	Traces	Time (s)	LoC	Errors	Time (s)	False Errors
ack	17	0	6.0	9	N/A	2.4	N/A
ack-simple	13	0	6.5	9	0	2.4	0
ack-simple-e	13	1	6.5	9	2	2.5	0
dao	10	0	5.0	15	1	2.6	1
dao-e	16	1	5.5	15	1	2.7	0
dao-various	85	5	22.5	122	10	3.0	5
dao2-e	85	10	23.5	122	10	2.9	0
escape	9	0	5.0	9	0	2.6	0
escape-e	9	2	5.0	10	1	2.7	0
escape2-e	10	14	6.0	10	1	2.7	0
factorial	10	0	5.0	9	0	2.2	0
mc91	12	0	5.0	9	1	2.2	1
mc91-e	12	1	5.0	8	1	2.4	0
mult	14	0	5.0	11	2	2.7	2
mult-e	14	1	5.0	11	2	2.4	0
succ	7	0	5.0	7	1	2.5	1
succ-e	7	1	5.0	7	1	2.8	0
various	116	19	14.0	108	11	6.2	5
total	459	55	140.5	500	45	49.8	15

■ **Table 2** Comparison of HOLiK (left) and SCV (right). N/A is recorded for **ack** as in our attempts SCV crashed due to unknown reasons.

tree that reach errors, whereas SCV reports a set of terms that may violate the contracts. For instance, independently safe methods  $A$  and  $B$  that may call an unsafe method  $C$  would be, from testing, reported as three valid traces ( $call\langle A \rangle \cdot call\langle C \rangle$ ,  $call\langle B \rangle \cdot call\langle C \rangle$  and  $call\langle C \rangle$ ) by HOLiK. In contrast, SCV reports a single contract violation blaming  $C$ . Finally, **ack** failed to run on SCV due to unknown errors; Racket reported an error internal to the tool. Further testing proved the file is a valid Racket program that can be executed manually.

## C ML-like References

HOLi has global higher-order references. These are enough for coding all of our examples and, moreover, allow us to prove completeness (every error has a realising client). We here present a sketch of how games can be extended with (locally created, scope extruding) ML-like references, following e.g. [22, 17]. First, the following extension to types and terms are required.

$$\theta ::= \dots \mid \mathbf{ref} \ \theta \qquad M ::= \dots \mid !M \mid \mathbf{ref} \ M \mid M = M \qquad v ::= \dots \mid r$$

The term  $!M$  allows dereferencing terms  $M$  which evaluate to references, while  $\mathbf{ref} \ v$  creates dynamically a fresh name  $r \in \mathbf{Refs}_\theta$  (if  $v : \theta$ ), and the semantic purpose is to update the store  $S \uplus \{r \mapsto v\}$  when evaluating  $\mathbf{ref} \ v$ . Note that this allows us to store references to references, etc. Finally, the construct  $M = M$  is for comparing references for name equality.

With terms handling general references concretely and symbolically, we extend game configurations with sets  $\mathcal{L}_p, \mathcal{L}_o \subseteq \mathbf{Refs}$  that keep track of reference names disclosed by the proponent and opponent respectively. References being passed as values means that the client can update the references belonging to the client, and viceversa. When making a move, for each reference  $r$  they own that is passed, the proponent adds  $r$  to  $\mathcal{L}_p$ . Passing of names in a move can be done either by method argument and return value, but also via the common

part of the store (i.e. via the references known to both players). Similarly, opponent passes names in their moves, which are added to  $\mathcal{L}_o$ . Concretely, when the opponent passes control, all references in  $\mathcal{L}_p$  are updated with opponent values. Symbolically, the references  $r$  are updated with distinct fresh symbolic integers  $\kappa$  if  $r \in \mathbf{Refs}_{\text{Int}}$ , distinct fresh method names if  $r \in \mathbf{Refs}_{\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2}$ , or to arbitrary reference names if  $r \in \mathbf{Refs}_{\mathbf{Refs}_\theta}$ .

## D Soundness and Completeness

We prove here that the trace semantics for libraries is sound and complete: for any error that can be reached in the trace semantics there is a client such that linking the library with the client reaches the same value/error. And viceversa. In the following sections, we prove compositionality of our modified trace semantics. We use a bisimulation argument similar to [26].

### D.1 Semantic Composition

We start by defining a notion of composition that combines the traces produced by two configurations. These are supposed to correspond to a library and a client, but for now we will only require that the configurations satisfy a set of compatibility conditions.

We say configurations  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  of *opposite polarity* (one is  $p$  if the other is  $o$ ) are compatible ( $\rho \asymp \rho'$ ) if:

- their stores are disjoint:  $\mathbf{Refs}(\rho) \cap \mathbf{Refs}(\rho') = \emptyset$
- $\rho$  closes and is closed by  $\rho'$ :  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{A}'$  and  $\mathcal{P}' = \mathcal{A}$
- undisclosed names of  $\rho$  do not occur in  $\rho'$  and vice versa:  $(\mathbf{Meths}(\rho) \setminus (\mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{P})) \cap \mathbf{Meths}(\rho') = \emptyset$
- their evaluation stacks are compatible, written  $\mathcal{E} \asymp \mathcal{E}'$ , which means:
  - $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}' = \varepsilon$ ; or
  - $\mathcal{E} = (m, l) :: \mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}' = (m, E) :: \mathcal{E}'_1$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_1 \asymp \mathcal{E}'_1$ ; or
  - $\mathcal{E} = (m, E) :: \mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}' = (m, l) :: \mathcal{E}'_1$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_1 \asymp \mathcal{E}'_1$ .

Note that compatibility of evaluation stacks expects that compatible configurations are always of opposite polarity. This reflects the fact that we compose libraries with closing clients.

With these definitions, we follow by defining different notions of composition.

Let  $\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho'_1, \rho'_2$  be game configurations. The following rules define the semantic composition of two configurations.

$$\frac{\rho_1 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \quad \rho'_2 = \rho_2}{\rho_1 \odot \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2} \text{INT}_L \quad \frac{\rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_2 \quad \rho'_1 = \rho_1}{\rho_1 \odot \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2} \text{INT}_C$$

$$\frac{\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_1 \quad \rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_2}{\rho_1 \odot \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2} \text{CALL}$$

$$\frac{\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_1 \quad \rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_2}{\rho_1 \odot \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2} \text{RET}$$



## D.2 Composite Semantics and Internal Composition

We now introduce the notion of composing game configurations *internally*, which occurs when merging two compatible game configurations into a single composite semantics configuration. We first refine the operational semantics and produce a *composite semantics*. This is necessary for our compositionality argument since there is an asymmetry between the call counters of the opponent and proponent configurations. Proponent configurations count calls internally while opponent configurations have no internal counters, and thus only count calls when playing moves. This requires that we keep track of two pairs of counters, one for each component, which may change at different rates.

With this in mind, to define the composite semantics, we extend the term configurations to obtain tuples of the following form:

$$(M, R_1, R_2, S, k_1, k_2, l_1, l_2) \text{ for which we shall write } (M, \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l})$$

where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are the library and client methods respectively, such that  $\text{dom}(R_1) \cap \text{dom}(R_2) = \emptyset$ ,  $S$  is the combined store, and  $k_1, l_1$  and  $k_2, l_2$  are counters managed by the library and client. All operators tagged with  $i$  will be operating on the  $i$ th component; e.g.  $\vec{R}[m \mapsto M]_i$  states that  $R_i[m \mapsto M]$  in  $\vec{R}$ . We also extend  $M$  by tagging all method names (written  $m^i$ ) as well as all lambda-abstractions (written  $\lambda^i$ ) with  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  to show whether they are being called from the library (1) or the client (2). We write  $M^i$  to be the term  $M$  with all its methods and lambdas tagged with  $i$ . Evaluation contexts are also extended to mark methods which are being called from the opposite polarity:

$$E ::= \dots \mid \langle E \rangle^i \mid \langle E \rangle^{\langle i, l \rangle}$$

Intuitively,  $i$  is the component that is currently at a proponent configuration in the equivalent game semantics, while  $l$  in  $\langle E \rangle^{\langle i, l \rangle}$  is the opponent counter for component  $3 - i$ . This will be used particularly when evaluating a method call  $m^i v$  when  $m \notin \text{dom}(R_i)$ . Applying these changes, we define the semantics for composite terms ( $\rightarrow_{1,2}$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} & (E[\text{assert}(i)], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \quad (i \neq 0) \\ & (E[lr], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[S(r)], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[r := v], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[], \vec{R}, S[r \mapsto v], \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[\pi_j \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[v_j], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[i_1 \oplus i_2], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[i], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \quad (i = i_1 \oplus i_2) \\ & (E[\lambda^i x. M], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[m], \vec{R}[m \mapsto \lambda x. M]_i, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \quad (m \notin \text{dom}(\vec{R})) \\ & (E[\text{if } i \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[M_j], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \quad (j = 1 \text{ iff } i \neq 0) \\ & (E[\text{let } x = v \text{ in } M], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[M\{v/x\}], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[\text{letrec } f = \lambda^i x. M \text{ in } M'], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[M'\{m/f\}], \vec{R}[m \mapsto \lambda x. M\{m/f\}]_i, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[m^i v], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[\langle M\{v/y\}^i \rangle^i], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k} +_i 1, \vec{l}) \quad (R_i(m) = \lambda y. M) \\ & (E[m^i v], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[\langle m^{3-i} v \rangle^{\langle i, l+3-i \rangle}], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_i \mapsto 0]) \quad (R_{3-i}(m) = \lambda y. M) \\ & (E[\langle v \rangle^i], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k} +_i 1, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[v^i], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & (E[\langle v \rangle^{\langle i, l \rangle}], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[v^i], \vec{R}, S, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_{3-i} \mapsto l, l_i \mapsto \text{last}(E)]) \\ & \quad \text{if } \text{last}(E) \text{ is defined,} \\ & \quad \text{and } \text{last}(E) = \hat{l} \text{ if } E = E_1[\langle E_2 \rangle^{\langle j, \hat{l} \rangle}] \text{ provided } E_2 \text{ has no tags } \langle \bullet \rangle^{\langle j', \hat{l}' \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

We continue by defining the *internal composition* of compatible configurations  $\rho_1 \asymp \rho_2$ . We define the internal composition  $\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2$  to be a configuration in our new composite semantics by pattern matching on the configuration polarity and evaluation stacks according to the following rules. For clarity, we annotate opponent and proponent configurations with  $o$  and  $p$  respectively.

### Initial Configuration:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_1 &= ([], -, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}_1, 0, 0)_o \\ \rho_2 &= ([], M_0, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{A}_2, 0, -)_p \\ \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2 &= ((\bullet)^{(1,0)}[M_0^2], R_1, R_2, S_1 \uplus S_2, 0, 0, 0, 0)\end{aligned}$$

### Interim Configuration (case OP):

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_1 &= (\mathcal{E}_1, -, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}_1, k_1, l_1)_o \\ \rho_2 &= (\mathcal{E}_2, M, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, -)_p \\ \mathcal{E}_1 &= (m, E) :: \mathcal{E}'_1 \quad \mathcal{E}_2 = (m, l_2) :: \mathcal{E}'_2 \\ \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E^1[(\bullet)^{(1,l_2)}]], R_1, R_2, S_1 \uplus S_2, k_1, k_2, l_1, l_2)\end{aligned}$$

### Interim Configuration (case PO):

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_1 &= (\mathcal{E}_1, M, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}_1, k_1, -)_p \\ \rho_2 &= (\mathcal{E}_2, -, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, l_2)_o \\ \mathcal{E}_1 &= (m, l_1) :: \mathcal{E}'_1 \quad \mathcal{E}_2 = (m, E) :: \mathcal{E}'_2 \\ \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E^2[(\bullet)^{(2,l_1)}]], R_1, R_2, S_1 \uplus S_2, k_1, k_2, l_1, l_2)\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2$  is a single evaluation context resulting from the composition of compatible stacks  $\mathcal{E}'_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}'_2$ , which we define as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon \wedge \varepsilon &= \bullet \\ ((m', E) :: \mathcal{E}'_1) \wedge ((m', l) :: \mathcal{E}'_2) &= (\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E^1[(\bullet)^{(1,l)}]] \\ ((m', l) :: \mathcal{E}'_1) \wedge ((m', E) :: \mathcal{E}'_2) &= (\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E^2[(\bullet)^{(2,l)}]]\end{aligned}$$

Notice that there is only one case for initial configurations, and that is because the game must start from an opponent-proponent configuration where stacks are empty.

## D.3 Bisimilarity of Semantic and Internal Composition

We begin by defining bisimilarity for the semantic and internal composition. A set  $\mathcal{R}$  with elements of the form  $(\rho_1, \rho_2)$ , where  $\rho_1$  is a configuration of the form  $\rho'_1 \odot \rho''_1$  and  $\rho_2$  is from the composite semantics, is a *bisimulation* if for all  $(\rho_1, \rho_2) \in \mathcal{R}$ :

- if  $\rho_1 \rightarrow' \rho'_1$  then  $\rho_2 \rightarrow_{1,2}^* \rho'_2$  and  $(\rho'_1, \rho'_2) \in \mathcal{R}$ ;
- if  $\rho_2 \rightarrow_{1,2} \rho'_2$  then  $\rho_1 \rightarrow'^* \rho'_1$  and  $(\rho'_1, \rho'_2) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

We say that two game configurations  $\rho, \rho'$  are *bisimilar*, and write  $\rho \sim \rho'$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $\rho \mathcal{R} \rho'$ .

Lemma ?? states that, given game configurations, it is possible to obtain the composite semantics  $(\rightarrow_{1,2})$  from the semantic composition of the corresponding compatible configurations, and vice versa.

► **Lemma 17.** *Given game configurations  $\rho \asymp \rho'$ , it is the case that  $(\rho \odot \rho') \sim (\rho \wedge \rho')$ .*

**Proof.** We want to show that  $\mathcal{R} = \{(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2, \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \mid \rho_1 \asymp \rho_2\}$  is a bisimulation. Suppose  $(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2, \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \in \mathcal{R}$ . We begin with case analysis on the transitions available to the semantic composite. If  $(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2) \rightarrow' (\rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2)$ , then  $\rho'_1 \asymp \rho'_2$ . Now, by cases of the transitions, we prove that composite semantics can be obtained from the semantic composition.

1. If  $(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2) \rightarrow' (\rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2)$  is an  $(\text{INT}_L)$  move, then we have internal moves in the execution of  $\rho_1$  up to  $\rho'_1$ . Since the composite semantics is concrete and, by construction, equivalent to operational semantics when no methods of opposite polarity are called, we can see that  $(\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \rightarrow_{1,2} (\rho'_1 \wedge \rho_2)$ .
2. If  $(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2) \rightarrow' (\rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2)$  is a  $(\text{CALL})$  move, then we have that  $\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_1$  and  $\rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_2$ . We thus have two cases: (1)  $m$  is defined in  $R_1$  and (2) it is in  $R_2$ . In case (1), we have the following semantics for  $\rho_1$  and  $\rho_2$  where the evaluation stacks are not equal:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & ((m', E') :: \mathcal{E}_1, -, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}_1, k_1, l_1)_o \\
 & \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l_1 + 1) :: (m', E') :: \mathcal{E}_1, mv, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}'_1, k_1, -)_p \\
 & ((m', l_2) :: \mathcal{E}_2, E[mv], R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, -)_p \\
 & \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, E) :: (m', l_2) :: \mathcal{E}_2, -, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}'_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, l_0)_o
 \end{aligned}$$

We thus have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho_1 \wedge \rho_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E'^1[\langle E^2[m^2v] \rangle^{(1,l_2)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\
 \rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E'^1[\langle E^2[m^1v] \rangle^{(2,l_1+1)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_2 \mapsto 0] + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

From the composite semantics evaluating  $\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E'^1[\langle E^2[m^2v] \rangle^{(1,l_2)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\
 & \rightarrow_{1,2} ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E'^1[\langle E^2[m^1v] \rangle^{(2,l_1+1)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_2 \mapsto 0] + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $v = \hat{v}$  by determinism of the operational semantics, we have that  $(\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \rightarrow_{1,2} (\rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2)$ . In addition, we can observe that the case for equal evaluation stacks is proven by substituting the initial stacks with equal ones, which results in an empty evaluation context. Similarly, the dual case (2), where  $m$  is defined in  $R_1$ , is identical but with polarities swapped—i.e. shown by the polar complement of  $(\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \rightarrow_{1,2} (\rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2)$ .

3. If  $(\rho_1 \odot \rho_2) \rightarrow' (\rho'_1 \odot \rho'_2)$  is a  $(\text{RET})$  move, then we have that  $\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_1$  and  $\rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_2$ . As with the  $\text{CALL}$  case, if  $m \in \text{dom}(R_2)$  and stacks are not equal, we have:

$$((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}_1, -, R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}_1, k_1, l_1)_o$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)'} (\mathcal{E}_1, E[v], R_1, S_1, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{A}'_1, k_1, -)_p \\
& ((m, l_2) :: \mathcal{E}_2, v, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, -)_p \\
& \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)'} (\mathcal{E}_2, -, R_2, S_2, \mathcal{P}'_2, \mathcal{A}_2, k_2, l_2)_o
\end{aligned}$$

Here, we have two cases:  $\mathcal{E}_1 = \mathcal{E}_2$ , and otherwise. We start with the case where  $\mathcal{E}_1 \neq \mathcal{E}_2$ , since the opposite case is a simpler version of it. Again, we have the following composite configurations:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E^1[\langle v^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\
\rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2 &= ((\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^2[\langle E^1[v^1] \rangle^{(2, l'_1)}]], \\
&\quad \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, l'_1, l_2)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_1 = (m', l'_1) :: \mathcal{E}'_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2 = (m', E') :: \mathcal{E}_2$ .  
Now, from the composite semantics, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
& ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E^1[\langle v^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\
& \rightarrow_{1,2} ((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E^1[\hat{v}^1]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \text{last}((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E^1[\bullet]]), l_2) \\
& = ((\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^2[\langle E^1[\hat{v}^1] \rangle^{(2, l'_1)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, l'_1, l_2)
\end{aligned}$$

We can observe that  $\text{last}(E) = l'_1$  since  $E$  comes directly from the evaluation stack and is, thus, untagged, and the top-most counter is  $l'_1$  since

$$(\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^2[\langle E^1[\bullet] \rangle^{(2, l'_1)}]] = (\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E^1[\bullet]]$$

Finally, we have that  $k_2 = k'_2$  when returning a value since, from Lemma ??,  $k$  must always decrease back to its original value after evaluating a method call.

We thus have  $(\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \rightarrow_{1,2} (\rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2)$ . As previously, the case for empty stacks is a simpler version of this, while the dual case (2) is the polar complement of the configurations.

Having shown that external composition produces composite semantics transitions, we continue with the other direction of the argument, which aims to show that the external composition can be produced from composite semantics transitions. We now derive the corresponding semantic compositions by case analysis on the composite semantics rules.

1. If we have an untagged transition, or one where the redex involves no names of opposite polarity being called, then we have an exact correspondence with internal moves, since the composite semantics are identical to the operational semantics on closed terms.
2. If the transition involves a method called from an opposite polarity, we have a transition of the form

$$(E[m^i v], \dots, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[\langle m^{3-i} v \rangle^{(i, l_{3-i}+1)}], \dots, \vec{l}[l_i \mapsto 0] +_{3-i} 1)$$

which corresponds to evaluating the semantics on an initial configuration  $\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2$  with the following cases:

- a. for an OP configuration, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_1 &= (\mathcal{E}_1, -, R_1, S_1, k_1, l_1)_o \\
\rho_2 &= (\mathcal{E}_2, E[mv], R_2, S_2, k_2, -)_p
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_1 = (m', E') :: \mathcal{E}'_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2 = (m', l_2) :: \mathcal{E}'_2$ . Let us set  $E[m^i v] = (\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^1[\langle M^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]]$  and  $M^2 = E''[m^i v]$ , where  $m \notin R_2$ ,  $i = 2$ , and  $E''$  is untagged. We therefore have:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^1[\langle M^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[\langle m^1 v \rangle^{(2, l_1+1)}], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_2 \mapsto 0] +_1 1) \end{aligned}$$

We now want to show that semantically composing the configurations results in an equivalent transition  $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \otimes \rho'_2$ . Since this is a CALL move, we know that  $\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_1$  and  $\rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} \rho'_2$ . Evaluating those transitions, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho'_1 &= ((m, l_1 + 1) :: \mathcal{E}_1, mv, \dots, k_1, -)_o \\ \rho'_2 &= ((m, E'') :: \mathcal{E}_2, -, \dots, k_2, 0)_p \end{aligned}$$

which, when syntactically composed, form the configuration

$$((\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E''^2[\langle (mv)^1 \rangle^{(2, l_1+1)}]], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_2 \mapsto 0] +_1 1)$$

We can observe that the resulting configurations are equivalent since  $E'' = E''^2$ , which follows from  $E''[m^i v] = M^2$ . Additionally, since

$$(\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^1[\langle E''^2[\bullet] \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]] = (\mathcal{E}_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}_2)[E''^2[\langle \bullet \rangle^{(2, l_1+1)}]]$$

it suffices to show  $(mv)^1 = m^1 v$ , particularly that  $v = v^1$ . Now, since the composite semantics ensures that  $v$  will be tagged with 1 when called from a method  $m^1$ , as it reduces to  $M\{v/y\}^1$ , we have that  $v = v^1$ , meaning that the transitions are equal.

- b. for a PO configuration, the polar complement of case (a) suffices.
- c. for an initial configuration OP, we have a simpler version of case (a) where the evaluation stacks are equal, resulting in an empty evaluation context  $\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2 = \bullet$ .

3. If the transition involves a tagged value and is of the form

$$\begin{aligned} & (E[\langle v \rangle^{(i, l)}], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \\ & \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[v^i], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}[l_{3-i} \mapsto l, l_i \mapsto \text{last}(E)]) \end{aligned}$$

then we want to show an equivalence to a RET move in the semantic composite. As with case (2), we start by defining this transition as the syntactic composite transition  $(\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2) \rightarrow_{1,2} (\rho'_1 \wedge \rho'_2)$ . Then, by case analysis on  $\rho_1 \wedge \rho_2$ :

a. for an OP configuration, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_1 &= (\mathcal{E}_1, -, R_1, S_1, k_1, l_1)_o \\ \rho_2 &= (\mathcal{E}_2, v, R_2, S_2, k_2, -)_p \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_1 = (m, E') :: \mathcal{E}'_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2 = (m, l_2) :: \mathcal{E}'_2$ . Let  $E[v] = (\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^1[\langle v^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}]]$ . We thus have:

$$(E[\langle v^2 \rangle^{(1, l_2)}], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \vec{l}) \rightarrow_{1,2} (E[v^1], \vec{R}, S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, \text{last}(E), l_2)$$

We then show that semantic composition produces an equivalent transition  $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2 \rightarrow' \rho'_1 \otimes \rho'_2$ . Given we have a RET move, we know that  $\rho_1 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_1$  and  $\rho_2 \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} \rho'_2$ , such that:

$$\rho'_1 = (\mathcal{E}'_1, E'[v], \dots, k_1, -)_p$$

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$$\rho'_2 = (\mathcal{E}'_2, -, \dots, k_2, l_2)_o$$

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where  $\mathcal{E}'_1 = (m', l'_1) :: \mathcal{E}''_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}'_2 = (m', E') :: \mathcal{E}''_2$ . Internally composing these resulting configurations, we have:

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$$((\mathcal{E}''_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}''_2)[E''[(\llbracket E'^1[v^1] \rrbracket)^{\langle 2, l'_1 \rangle}], \vec{R}', S_1 \cup S_2, \vec{k}, l'_1, l_2)$$

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Since  $(\mathcal{E}''_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}''_2)[E''[(\llbracket \bullet \rrbracket)^{\langle 2, l'_1 \rangle}]] = (\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[\bullet]$ , we have that  $(\mathcal{E}'_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}'_2)[E'^1[v^1]]$ , from which we have  $(\mathcal{E}''_1 \wedge \mathcal{E}''_2)[E''[(\llbracket E'^1[v^1] \rrbracket)^{\langle 2, l'_1 \rangle}]] = E[v^1]$ , and that  $last(E) = l'_1$  since  $E'_1$  is untagged. Thus, the transition produces the composition.

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- b. for a PO configuration, we have the polar complement of (a) as previously.
- c. for an initial OP configuration, we again have a simplification of (a), where the evaluation stacks are equal and the resulting evaluation context is empty.

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With this, we are done showing the equivalence of transitions. Lastly, we can observe that  $\rho$  is final iff  $\rho'$  is final since they are both leaf nodes generated by equivalent terminal rules. We therefore have  $(\rho \odot \rho') \sim (\rho \wedge \rho')$ . ◀

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## D.4 Syntactic Composition and Compositionality

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To prove compositionality of the modified trace semantics, we want to show that syntactic composition can be obtained from semantic counterpart and vice versa. We have bisimilarity between semantic and internal composition, we only need to show that internal composition is related to syntactic composition under some notion of equivalence.

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### Lemma 10

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For any library  $L$  and compatible good client  $C$ ,  $\llbracket L; C \rrbracket$  fails if and only if there exist  $(\tau_1, \rho_1) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$  and  $(\tau_2, \rho_2) \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  such that  $\tau_1 = \tau_2$  and  $\rho_1 = (\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], \dots)$ .

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**Proof.** We have a case for each direction.

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(1  $\implies$  2):

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1. Consider  $L; C$  that reaches  $\chi$ .
2. By inspection of the composite semantics, we have that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \wedge \llbracket C \rrbracket$  reaches  $\chi$ .
3. By bisimilarity (Lemma ??) we have that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \odot \llbracket C \rrbracket$  reaches  $\chi$ .
4. By definition of semantic composition, we know there are traces  $\tau \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$  and  $\tau^\perp \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  such that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \xrightarrow{\tau} \chi$ .

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(2  $\implies$  1):

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1. Consider traces  $\tau \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$  and  $\tau^\perp \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  such that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \xrightarrow{\tau} \chi$ .
2. By definition of semantic composition we have that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \odot \llbracket C \rrbracket$  reaches  $\chi$ .
3. By bisimilarity (Lemma ??) we have that  $\llbracket L \rrbracket \wedge \llbracket C \rrbracket$  reaches  $\chi$ .
4. By inspection of the composite semantics, we know  $L; C$  reaches  $\chi$ .

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◀

```

1  global cnt := 0
2  global meth := 0
3  global refi := mi           # for each mi ∈ P
4  global refi := defval       # for each mi ∈ P'
5  global valθ := defval     # for each θ ∈ Θv
6
7  public mi = λx.             # for each mi ∈ A
8      cnt++; meth:=i; valθ1:=x; oracle()
9
10 mi = λx.                    # for each mi ∈ A'
11     cnt++; meth:=i; valθ1:=x; oracle()
12
13 oracle = λ().
14     match (!cnt) with        # number of P-moves played so far (max |τ|/2)
15     | i →
16         # if i > 0 and i-th P-move of τ is cr mj(v), with mj : θ1 → θ2, then
17         # - if cr = ret then d = 0 and θ = θ2
18         # - if cr = call then d = j and θ = θ1
19         # diverge if the last P-move played is different from cr mj(v)
20         if not (!meth = d and !valθ  $\hat{=}_{\theta}$  v) then diverge
21         else for mi in fresh(!valθ) do refi := mi
22
23         # if (i + 1)-th O-move of τ is cr' mk(u), with mk : θ1 → θ2, then
24         # - if cr' = ret then c = 0
25         # - if cr' = call then c = k
26         if c then let x = (!refk)u in      # call mk(u)
27             cnt++; meth:=0; valθ2:=x; oracle(); !valθ2
28         else valθ2:=u                      # return u
29
30 main = oracle()

```

■ **Figure 5** The client  $C_{\tau, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}}$ .

## D.5 Definability

In this section we show that every trace  $\tau$  in the semantics of a library  $L$  has a corresponding good client that realises the same trace in its semantics.

Let  $L$  be a library with public names  $\mathcal{P}$  and abstract names  $\mathcal{A}$ . Given a trace  $\tau$  produced by  $L$ , with  $\mathcal{P}'$  and  $\mathcal{A}'$  respectively the public and abstract names introduced in  $\tau$ , we set:

$$\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}' \cup \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{A}'$$

$$\Theta_v = \{\theta \mid \exists m \in \mathcal{N}. m : \theta' \wedge \theta \text{ a syntactic subtype of } \theta'\}$$

$$\Theta_m = \{\theta \in \Theta \mid \theta \text{ a method type}\}$$

Note that the above sets are finite, since  $\tau, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}$  are finite. We assume a fixed enumeration of  $\mathcal{N} = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n\}$ . Moreover, for each type  $\theta$ , we let **defval**<sub>θ</sub> be a default value, and **diverge**<sub>θ</sub> a term that on evaluation diverges by infinite recursion. We then construct a client  $C_{\tau, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}}$  as in Figure 5.

The code is structured as follows.

1. We start off by defining global references:



- 1108 – *cnt* counts the number of  $P$  (Library) moves played so far;
- 1109 – *meth* stores an index that records the move made by  $P$ : if the move was a return then
- 1110 *meth* stores 0; if it was call to  $m_i$  then *meth* stores  $i$ ;
- 1111 – each  $ref_i$  will store the method  $m_i \in \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{P}'$ , either since the beginning (if  $m_i \in \mathcal{P}$ ),
- 1112 or once  $P$  plays it (if  $m_i \in \mathcal{P}'$ );
- 1113 – each  $val_\theta$  will be used for storing the value played by  $P$  in their last move.

1114 In the latter case above, there is a light abuse of syntax as  $\theta$  can be a product type, of  
 1115 which HOLi does not have references. But we can in fact simulate references of arbitrary  
 1116 type by several HOLi references.

- 1117 2. For each  $m_i : \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \in \mathcal{A}$ , we define a public method  $m_i$  that simulates the behaviour  
 1118 of  $O$  whenever  $m_i$  is called in  $\tau$ :

- 1119 – it starts by increasing *cnt*, as a call to  $m_i$  corresponds to a  $P$ -move being played;
- 1120 – it continues by storing  $i$  and  $x$  in *meth* and  $val_{\theta_1}$  respectively;
- 1121 – it calls the private method *oracle*, which is tasked with simulating the rest of  $\tau$  and
- 1122 storing the value that  $m_i$  will return in  $val_{\theta_2}$ ;
- 1123 – it returns the value in  $val_{\theta_2}$ .

- 1124 3. For each  $m_i : \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_2 \in \mathcal{A}'$  we produce a method just like above, but keep it private (for  
 1125 the time being).

- 1126 4. The method *oracle* performs the bulk of the computations, by checking that the last  
 1127 move played by  $P$  was the expected one and selecting the next move to play (and playing  
 1128 it if it is a call).

- 1129 – The oracle is called after each  $P$ -move is played, so it starts with increasing *cnt*.
- 1130 – It then performs a case analysis on the value of *cnt*, which above we denote collectively
- 1131 by assuming the value is  $i$  – this notation hides the fact that we have one case for each
- 1132 of the finitely many values of  $i$ .

1133 For each such  $i$ , the oracle first checks if the previous  $P$ -move (if there was one), was  
 1134 the expected one. If the move was a call, it checks whether the called method was  
 1135 the expected one (via an appropriate value of  $d$ ), and also whether the value was the  
 1136 expected one. Value comparisons ( $\hat{=}_\theta$ ) only compare the integer components of  $\theta$ , since  
 1137 we cannot compare method names. If this check is successful, the oracle extracts from  
 1138  $u$  any method names played fresh by  $P$  and stores them in the corresponding  $ref_i$ .

1139 Next, the oracle prepares the next move. If, for the given  $i$ , the next move is a call,  
 1140 then the oracle issues the call, stores the return value of that call, increases *cnt* and  
 1141 recurs to itself – when the issued call returns, it would be through a  $P$ -move. If, on the  
 1142 other hand, the next move is a return, the oracle simply stores the value to be returned  
 1143 in the respective *val* reference – this would allow to the respective  $m_i$  to return that  
 1144 value.

- 1145 5. The **main** method simply calls the oracle.

1146 Let us begin with useful definitions. First, let us consider the game semantics for HOLi  
 1147 with all call counters removed since they do not affect computation. Let  $L$  be a library with  
 1148 public names  $\mathcal{P}$  and abstract names  $\mathcal{A}$  that produces a trace  $\tau$ . Let  $C_{\tau, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}}$  be the client  
 1149 constructed from  $\tau$ , which we shall shorthand as  $C_\tau$  assuming the correct name sets have  
 1150 been provided. Finally, let us annotate every move in  $\tau$  with subscripts  $O$  and  $P$  for its  
 1151 polarity, starting from  $O$  since libraries are always called first.

1152 ► **Definition 18** (Client O-configurations). Let library trace  $\tau$  be of the form  $\tau_1\tau_2$ , where  $\tau_1$  is  
 1153 the portion of  $\tau$  that has been played so far. We define the set of opponent configurations  
 1154  $\mathbf{Conf}_{\tau_2}$  that play the remainder trace  $\tau_2$  of trace  $\tau$  to be

$$1155 \quad (\mathcal{E}_{\tau_1}, R, S_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{P}_{\tau_1}, \mathcal{A}_{\tau_1}) \in \mathbf{Conf}_{\tau_2}$$

1156 where

- 1157 ■  $R$  is the initial repository obtained from client  $C_\tau$ ;
- 1158 ■  $S_{\tau_1}$  has the same domain as the initial store  $S$  obtained from client  $C_\tau$  and defines values  
 1159  $\mathbf{cnt} \mapsto \text{len}(\tau_1)/2$  and  $\mathbf{ref}_i \mapsto m_i$  for all  $m_i$  revealed in  $\tau_1$ ;
- 1160 ■  $\mathcal{P}_{\tau_1} = \mathcal{A} \uplus \{m_i n \in \mathcal{A}' \mid m_i \in \tau_1\}$ , for  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}'$  as defined initially in  $C_\tau$ ;
- 1161 ■  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau_1} = \mathcal{P} \uplus \{m_i n \in \mathcal{P}' \mid m_i \in \tau_1\}$ , for  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}'$  as defined initially in  $C_\tau$ ;
- 1162 ■ and  $\mathcal{E}_{\tau_1} = f(\lceil \tau_1 \rceil)$  where  $\lceil \tau \rceil$  removes all closed calls in  $\tau$  as defined in

$$1163 \quad \lceil \tau \rceil = \begin{cases} \lceil \tau' \tau''' \rceil & \text{if } \tau \text{ is of the form } \tau' \text{call}(m, v) \tau'' \text{ret}(m, v) \tau''' \\ \tau & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1164 and

$$\begin{aligned} 1165 \quad f(\tau' \text{call}(m, v)_o) &= \\ 1166 \quad (\text{let } x = \bullet \text{ in } \mathbf{cnt}++; \mathbf{meth} := 0; \mathbf{val}_{\theta_2} := x; \mathbf{oracle}(); !\mathbf{val}_{\theta_2}, m) &:: f(\tau') \\ 1167 \quad f(\text{call}(m, v)_o) &= \\ 1168 \quad (\text{let } x = \bullet \text{ in } \mathbf{cnt}++; \mathbf{meth} := 0; \mathbf{val}_{\theta_2} := x; \mathbf{oracle}(); !\mathbf{val}_{\theta_2}, m) &:: [] \\ 1169 \quad f(\tau' \text{call}(m, v)_p) &= m :: f(\tau') \\ 1170 \quad f(\text{call}(m, v)_p) &= m :: [] \end{aligned}$$

1172 ► **Lemma 19.** Let library trace  $\tau_L$  be of the form  $\tau_1\tau_2$ , such that  $\tau_1$  is a prefix of  $\tau_L$ . For all  
 1173 configurations  $\mathbb{C}_{\tau_2} \in \mathbf{Conf}_{\tau_2}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}_{\tau_2}$  produces  $\tau_2$ .

1174 **Proof.** Let  $\tau_L$  be a library trace of the form  $\tau_p\tau$ . We prove that  $\mathbb{C}_\tau$  produces  $\tau$  for all  
 1175  $\mathbb{C}_\tau \in \mathbf{Conf}_\tau$  by induction on the length of  $\tau$ .

1176 **Base Cases:**

- 1177 ■ if  $\tau = \text{call}(m, v)$ , then we know  $\mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, mv, \dots)_p$  produces a valid OQ move  
 1178 since  $m$  must have been revealed as an initial public name or in  $\tau_p$  for it to appear as a  
 1179 call at this point in the trace.
- 1180 ■ if  $\tau = \text{ret}(m, v)$ , then we know  $\mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', v, \dots)_p$ , where  $\mathcal{E}_{\tau_p} = \text{call}(m, v') :: \mathcal{E}'$ , produces  
 1181 a valid OA move since  $m$  must appear at the top of the evaluation stack for a return to  
 1182 appear at this point in the trace.

1183 We thus have base cases for *odd length suffixes*.

1184 **Inductive Cases:**

- 1185 ■ if  $\tau = \text{call}(m, v) \text{call}(m', v') \tau'$ , then we have the OQ move

$$1186 \quad \mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, mv, \dots)_p \rightarrow (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, \mathbf{oracle}(); !\mathbf{val}_{\theta_2}, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\dots, E[m'v'], \dots)_p$$

1187 where  $E$  is  $(E'); !\text{val}_{\theta_2}$  and  $E'$  is defined from line 26 to line 28 in the client code, which  
 1188 correctly updates the store. So far,  $\mathbb{C}_\tau$  produces the same trace up to the next move. We  
 1189 then have the PQ move

$$1190 \quad (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, E[m'v'], \dots)_p \rightarrow ((E, m') :: m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, \dots)_o$$

1191 which produces the next valid move. At this point, we can observe that  $((E, m') :: m ::$   
 1192  $\mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, \dots)_o \in \text{Conf}'_\tau$ , so we know  $\tau'$  is produced by the inductive hypothesis. Thus,  $\tau$  is  
 1193 produced.

1194 ■ if  $\tau = \text{call}(m, v)\text{ret}(m', v')\tau'$ , since we have a return move as the second move this time,  
 1195 we have the OQ move

$$1196 \quad \mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, mv, \dots)_p \rightarrow (m :: \mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, \text{val}_{\theta_2} := v'; !\text{val}_{\theta_2}, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\dots, v', \dots)_p$$

1197 which produces the first move. We then have the PA move

$$1198 \quad (\mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}, v', \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', \dots)_o$$

1199 which produces the second move since  $\mathcal{E}_{\tau_p}$  must be of the form  $m' :: \mathcal{E}'$ . As before, since  
 1200 the store has been correctly updated by internal moves,  $(\mathcal{E}', \dots)_o \in \text{Conf}'_\tau$ , so we know  
 1201  $\tau'$  is produced by the inductive hypothesis. Thus,  $\tau$  is produced.

1202 ■ if  $\tau = \text{ret}(m, v)\text{call}(m', v')\tau'$ , then it must be the case that  $\mathcal{E}_\tau = (\text{let } x = \bullet \text{ in cnt} +$   
 1203  $+, \text{meth} := 0; \text{val}_{\theta_2} := x; \text{oracle}(), m) :: \mathcal{E}'$ . We have the OA move

$$1204 \quad \mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', \text{let } x = v \text{ in } \dots, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', \text{oracle}(); !\text{val}_{\theta_2}, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', E[m'v'], \dots)_p$$

1205 where  $E$  is the context for `oracle`, which produces the first move. From here we have  
 1206 OQ move

$$1207 \quad (\mathcal{E}', E[m'v'], \dots)_p \rightarrow ((E, m') :: \mathcal{E}', \dots)_o$$

1208 which produces the second move. Since the store is correctly updated internally, we know  
 1209  $((E, m') :: \mathcal{E}', \dots)_o \in \text{Config}'_\tau$ , so  $\mathbb{C}_{\tau'}$  produces  $\tau'$  by the inductive hypothesis. Thus,  $\tau$   
 1210 is produced.

1211 ■ if  $\tau = \text{ret}(m, v)\text{ret}(m', v')\tau'$ , we have the OA move

$$1212 \quad \mathbb{C}_\tau \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', \text{let } x = v \text{ in } \dots, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', !\text{val}_{\theta_2}, \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}', v', \dots)_p$$

1213 which produces the first move. From here, we have PA move

$$1214 \quad (\mathcal{E}', v', \dots)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}'', \dots)$$

1215 since  $\mathcal{E}'$  must have been of the form  $m' :: \mathcal{E}''$  for a return to  $m'$  to appear on the trace.  
 1216 Since the internal moves correctly update the store, we know that  $(\mathcal{E}'', \dots) \in \text{Config}'_\tau$ ,  
 1217 so  $\mathbb{C}_{\tau'}$  produces  $\tau'$  by the inductive hypothesis. Thus  $\tau$  is produced.

1218 If  $\tau'$  is empty, these serve as base cases for *even length suffixes*. With all cases proven (odd  
 1219 and even base cases, and the inductive cases), we have that  $\tau$  is always possible to produce  
 1220 with any  $\mathbb{C}_\tau \in \text{Conf}_\tau$ . ◀

**Theorem 11 (Definability)**

Let  $L$  be a library and  $(\tau, \rho) \in \llbracket L \rrbracket$ . There is a good client compatible with  $L$  such that  $(\tau, \rho') \in \llbracket C \rrbracket$  for some  $\rho'$ .

**Proof.** Given a library  $L$  and trace produced  $\tau$ , we construct client  $C_\tau$ . Since  $C_\tau$  has a main method, we begin from a proponent configuration  $(\text{oracle}(), [], R, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P})_p$ . Since the library cannot return without being called first, we know the next move is a call, so  $\tau$  is of the form  $\text{call}(m, v)\tau'$ . Thus, we have the following transitions

$$([], \text{oracle}(), R, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P})_p \rightarrow ([[], E[mv], R, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{P})_p \rightarrow ((E, m) :: [], R, \mathcal{A}', \mathcal{P})_o$$

From this point, if  $\tau'$  is empty, we have shown that  $\tau$  can be produced by  $C_\tau$ . If  $\tau'$  is not empty, we have a trace  $\tau$  with suffix  $\tau'$  and prefix  $\text{call}(m, v)$ . By Lemma ??, we know that  $\tau'$  can be produced by any configuration in  $\text{Config}_{\tau'}$ . Since  $((E, m) :: [], R, \mathcal{A}', \mathcal{P})_o \in \text{Config}_{\tau'}$ , we know that  $((E, m) :: [], R, \mathcal{A}', \mathcal{P})_o$  is able to produce  $\tau'$ . We thus have that  $C_\tau$  can produce  $\tau$ .  $\blacktriangleleft$

**D.6 Extensional Equivalence of O-Refreshing Moves****Lemma 15 (O-Refreshing)**

Given a concrete configuration  $\rho$ , the following are equivalent:

1.  $\rho$  fails using any kinds of transitions
2.  $\rho$  fails using only  $O$ -refreshing transitions

**Proof.** Let us consider two games starting from  $\rho$ : (A) is allowed to play any kind of moves, while (B) is only allowed to play  $O$ -refreshing moves. We thus want to show that (A) and (B) are both allowed to reach an assertion violation.

**(2)  $\implies$  (1):**

We know that (A) is allowed to play all the moves that (B) can play since (A) can play any moves, including  $O$ -refreshing moves. Thus, this direction holds.

**(1)  $\implies$  (2):**

Since we start from the same  $\rho$  in (A) and (B), by Lemma ??, we know  $\rho$  fails in (B) if it fails in (A). Given we know (A) fails by assumption, this direction holds.  $\blacktriangleleft$

The above result requires the following lemma, which in turn requires some definitions. First, we call a name *phantom* if it is an opponent name created by refreshing a proponent name through an  $O$ -refreshing transition that has some equivalent original name in the non-refreshing semantics. We assume a method to identify phantom names by keeping track of them with regard to the non-refreshing semantics as computation progresses. We thus say that a configuration  $\rho$  that is reached through  $O$ -refreshing transitions has a corresponding phantom names dictionary  $\Phi$  that maps all phantom names  $m$  in  $\rho$  to their proponent-owned original names  $\hat{m}$  in  $\Phi(\rho)$ . Let us also define a set  $\mathcal{A}_\Phi \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  for all the phantom names in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

► **Lemma 20.** *Given a configuration  $\rho$  with corresponding phantom names  $\Phi$ , it is the case that  $\rho$  fails through  $O$ -refreshing transitions if  $\Phi(\rho)$  fails.*

**Proof.** Let (A) be a standard semantics where any moves are allowed. Let (B) be a semantics where only  $O$ -refreshing transitions are allowed. Suppose (B) starts from a configuration  $\rho$  and has phantom names  $\Phi$ . We show this by induction on the number of steps to reach  $\rho$ . Let us consider proponent moves first, so  $\rho = (\mathcal{E}, M, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A})_\rho$ . Suppose  $\Phi(\rho) \rightarrow \tau(\dots, \text{assert}(0), \dots)$  in (A), by case analysis on  $M$ , we have the following.

1.  $M$  is not of the form  $E[mv]$  or is of the form  $E[mv]$  where  $m \in \mathcal{P}$ :  
 Let  $\Phi(\rho) \rightarrow \hat{\rho}'$  via (A) semantics. Since  $\rho$  is a proponent configuration, and the language features no name comparison, we know that the semantics are not affected by opponent names. Thus, we know  $\hat{\rho}' = \Phi(\rho')$ , so  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  via (B). By the inductive hypothesis on  $\hat{\rho}'$  and  $\rho'$ , we know (A) and (B) both fail.
2.  $M$  is of the form  $E[mv]$  and  $m \in (\mathcal{A} \setminus \mathcal{A}_\Phi)$  ( $m$  is not a phantom name):  
 Let  $\Phi(\rho) \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, \hat{v})} \hat{\rho}'$  in (A). It must be the case  $\hat{\rho}' \xrightarrow{cr(\hat{m}', \hat{v}')} \hat{\rho}''$  for some call or return  $cr$ , since  $\hat{\rho}'$  cannot fail without passing control to the proponent.  
 With (B), we know  $\rho \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, v)} \rho' \xrightarrow{cr(m', v')} \rho''$ . Extending  $\Phi$ , we get  $\Phi' = \Phi[m'_i \mapsto \hat{m}'_i]$  for every  $m'_i, \hat{m}'_i \in v', \hat{v}'$ . Thus, we have  $\Phi'(\rho'') = \hat{\rho}''$ . By the inductive hypothesis on  $\rho''$ ,  $\hat{\rho}''$  and  $\Phi'$ , we know (A) and (B) fail.
3.  $M$  is of the form  $E[mv]$  where  $m \in \mathcal{A}_\Phi$  ( $m$  is a phantom name):  
 Let  $\Phi(m) = \hat{m}$ . We have two cases on  $\hat{m}$ :
  - a. If  $\hat{m} \in \mathcal{A}$ , then we have the same situation as before.
  - b. If  $\hat{m} \in \mathcal{P}$ , then we know  $\hat{\rho} \rightarrow (\dots, \hat{E}[(R(\hat{m}))\hat{v}], \dots)$  in (A). In (B), we have  $\rho \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, v)} \rho'$ . Since  $\hat{m}$  must have been revealed to the opponent at some point in order for it to have been refreshed by (B), we have  $\rho' \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m, v)} (\dots, E[R(\hat{m})v'], \dots)$ . Extending  $\Phi$  to account for the indirect call of  $\hat{m}$ , we have  $\Phi' = \Phi[m_i \mapsto \hat{m}_i]$  for every  $m_i \in v'$  and  $\hat{m}_i \in \Phi(v)$ . Thus, we have  $\Phi'(\dots, E[R(\hat{m})v'], \dots) = (\dots, \hat{E}[(R(\hat{m}))\hat{v}], \dots)$ , so by the inductive hypothesis on them, we know (B) fails.

For the opponent moves, the cases are captured for every move  $\hat{\rho} \xrightarrow{cr(m, \hat{v})} \hat{\rho}'$  in (A) and every move  $\rho \xrightarrow{cr(m, v)} \rho'$  in (B) by extending  $\Phi$  to be  $\Phi' = \Phi[m_i \mapsto \hat{m}_i]$  for every name  $m_i \in v$  and  $\hat{m}_i \in \hat{v}$  introduced in the move. With this, by the inductive hypothesis on  $\rho'$ ,  $\hat{\rho}'$  and  $\Phi'$ , we know (B) fails in all the opponent cases. With this, we know (B) fails if (A) fails under  $\Phi$ .

## E Soundness of Symbolic Games

In this section we look into more detail into soundness of our symbolic semantics.

**Lemma 14** *Let  $\rho, \rho'$  be a concrete and symbolic configuration respectively, and let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a model such that  $\rho =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho'$ . Then,  $\rho \sim_{\mathcal{M}} \rho'$ .*

**Proof.** We want show that  $\mathcal{R} = \{(\rho, \mathcal{M}, \rho_s) \mid \rho =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho_s\}$  is a bisimulation. First, we show that if  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$ , being  $O$ -refreshing, then  $\rho_s \rightarrow_s \rho'_s$  such that  $(\rho', \mathcal{M}', \rho'_s)$  is in  $\mathcal{R}$  for some  $\mathcal{M}' \supseteq \mathcal{M}$ . By cases on the transition  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$ :

1. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is one of the return moves, then we have the following possible transitions:

1299 a. If  $(\mathcal{E}, E[\text{assert}(0)], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \not\vdash$ , then we have the corresponding symbolic final  
1300 configuration:

$$1301 (\mathcal{E}, E'[\text{assert}(0)], R, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, \sigma, pc, k)_p$$

1302 From the assumptions, we know that  $\mathcal{M} \models pc \wedge \sigma^\circ$ . It is also the case that  $E'\{\mathcal{M}\}$  is  
1303 equivalent to  $E$ , and  $\rho'$  and  $\rho'_s$  are equivalent terminal configurations.

1304 b. If  $(\emptyset, v, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \not\vdash$ , the proof is similar to (a).

1305 2. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (INT) move, we have that  $\rho_s \rightarrow_s \rho'_s$  such that  $\rho' \sim \rho'_s$  by soundness of the  
1306 symbolic execution (Lemma ??).

1307 3. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is a (PQ) move, then we have the following transition

$$1308 (\mathcal{E}, E[mv], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l_0, R', S, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, k)_o$$

1309 with its corresponding symbolic equivalent

$$1310 (\mathcal{E}', E'[mv'], \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v')} ((m, E') :: \mathcal{E}', l_0, \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_o$$

1311 From the assumptions, we know  $\mathcal{M}(v') = v$ . In addition, since  $E'[mv'] = E[mv]$  under  
1312  $\mathcal{M}$ , we have that  $(m, E') :: \mathcal{E}' = (m, E) :: \mathcal{E}$ , and similarly for other components, so  
1313  $\rho' =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho'_s$ , meaning  $(\rho', \mathcal{M}, \rho'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1314 4. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is a (PA) move, then we have the following transition

$$1315 ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, v, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, l, R', S, \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}, k)_o$$

1316 with its corresponding symbolic equivalent

$$1317 ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}', v', \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v')} (\mathcal{E}', l, \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_o$$

1318 From the assumptions, we know  $\mathcal{M}(v') = v$ . Since the original stacks are equivalent under  
1319  $\mathcal{M}$ , we have that  $\mathcal{E} =_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{E}'$ , and similarly for other components, so  $\rho' =_{\mathcal{M}} \rho'_s$ , meaning  
1320  $(\rho', \mathcal{M}, \rho'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1321 5. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (OQ) move,  $O$ -refreshing, then we have the following transition

$$1322 (\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, mv, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p$$

1323 with its corresponding symbolic equivalent

$$1324 (\mathcal{E}', l, \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v')} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}', mv', \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_p$$

1325 Let us choose  $\mathcal{M}' = \mathcal{M}[v' \mapsto v]$ . Since the original stacks are equivalent under  $\mathcal{M}$ , we  
1326 have that  $((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}) =_{\mathcal{M}} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}')$ , and similarly for other components, so  
1327  $\rho' =_{\mathcal{M}'} \rho'_s$ , meaning  $(\rho', \mathcal{M}', \rho'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1328 6. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (OA) move,  $O$ -refreshing, then we have the following transition

$$1329 ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p$$

1330 with its corresponding symbolic equivalent

$$1331 ((m, E') :: \mathcal{E}', l, \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v')} (\mathcal{E}', E'[v'], \dots, \sigma, pc, k)_p$$

1332 Let us choose  $\mathcal{M}' = \mathcal{M}[v' \mapsto v]$ . Since the original stacks are equivalent under  $\mathcal{M}$ , we  
1333 have that  $\mathcal{E} =_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{E}'$ . Additionally, since  $\mathcal{M}'$  extends  $\mathcal{M}$ , we know that  $E[v] = E'[v']$  under  
1334  $\mathcal{M}'$ , and similarly for the remaining components, so  $\rho' =_{\mathcal{M}'} \rho'_s$ , meaning  $(\rho', \mathcal{M}', \rho'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1335 The opposite direction is treated with similarly. ◀

1336 ► **Lemma 21** (Soundness of symbolic execution). *For any concrete configuration  $\eta =$*   
 1337  *$(M, R, S, k)$  and symbolic configuration  $\eta' = (M', R', \sigma, pc, k)$ , given an assignment  $\mathcal{M} \models$*   
 1338  *$pc \wedge \sigma^\circ$  such that  $M =_{\mathcal{M}} M'$ , it is the case that  $\eta \sim \eta'$ .*

1339 **Proof.** Let  $\mathcal{R} = \{(\eta, \mathcal{M}, \eta_s) \mid \eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s\}$  for any concrete configuration  $\eta$  and symbolic  
 1340 configuration  $\eta_s$ . We want to show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a bisimulation. We now show that  $\eta_s \rightarrow \eta'_s$  if  
 1341  $\eta \rightarrow \eta'$ . By cases on  $\eta \rightarrow \eta'$ :

1342 1. If we have a terminal rule, then we have the following cases.

1343 a. for  $(E[\text{assert}(0)], R, S, k) \not\rightarrow$  we have the equivalent final configuration

$$1344 (E'[\text{assert}(0)], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1345 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta'$ , and  $\eta' =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta'_s$  since they are equivalent terminal configurations, it is  
 1346 the case that  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1347 b. for  $(v, R, S, k) \not\rightarrow$  we have a similar proof to (a).

1348 2. If  $(E[\text{assert}(i)], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[()], R, S, k)$  where  $(i \neq 0)$ , then we have the equivalent  
 1349 symbolic transition

$$1350 (E'[\text{assert}(i)], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[()], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1351 By assumption, we know  $E =_{\mathcal{M}} E'$  and  $R =_{\mathcal{M}} R'$ , and similarly for other components,  
 1352 so  $\eta' =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta'_s$ . As such, we know  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1353 3. If  $(E[!r], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[S(r)], R, S, k)$ , then we have the equivalent symbolic transition

$$1354 (E'[!r], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[\sigma(r)], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1355 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $S =_{\mathcal{M}} \sigma$ , meaning that  $\sigma(r)\{\mathcal{M}\} = S(r)$ . Thus,  
 1356  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1357 4. If  $(E[r := v], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[()], R, S[r \mapsto v], k)$ , then we have the equivalent symbolic  
 1358 transition

$$1359 (E'[r := v'], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[()], R', \sigma[r \mapsto \sigma(v')], pc, k)$$

1360 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $S =_{\mathcal{M}} \sigma$  and  $v' =_{\mathcal{M}} v$ , meaning that  $\sigma[r \mapsto v']\{\mathcal{M}\} =$   
 1361  $S[r \mapsto v]$ . Thus,  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1362 5. If  $(E[\pi_j \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[v_j], R, S, k)$ , then we have the equivalent symbolic trans-  
 1363 ition

$$1364 (E'[\pi_j \langle v'_1, v'_2 \rangle], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[v'_j], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1365 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle =_{\mathcal{M}} \langle v'_1, v'_2 \rangle$ , so  $v'_j\{\mathcal{M}\} = v_j$ . Thus,  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1366 6. If  $(E[i_1 \oplus i_2], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[i], R, S, k)$  where  $i = i_1 \oplus i_2$ , prove as above.

1367 7. If  $(E[\lambda x.M], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[m], R[m \mapsto \lambda x.M], S, k)$ , then we have the equivalent symbolic  
 1368 transition

$$1369 (E'[\lambda x.M'], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[m], R'[m \mapsto \lambda x.M'], \sigma, pc, k)$$

1370 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $E[m] =_{\mathcal{M}} E[m']$ , so  $v'_j\{\mathcal{M}\} = v_j$ . Additionally, we know  
 1371  $M = M'\{\mathcal{M}\}$ , so  $R'[m \mapsto \lambda x.M'] =_{\mathcal{M}} R[m \mapsto \lambda x.M]$ . Thus,  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .



1372 8. If  $(E[\text{if } 0 \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M_0], R, S, k)$ , then we have the equivalent  
1373 symbolic transition

$$1374 \quad (E'[\text{if } 0 \text{ then } M'_1 \text{ else } M'_0], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[M'_0], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1375 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $E[M_0] =_{\mathcal{M}} E[M'_0]$ . Thus,  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1376 9. If  $(E[\text{if } i \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M_1], R, S, k)$  where  $i \neq 0$ , prove as above.

1377 10. If  $(E[\text{let } x = v \text{ in } M], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[M\{v/x\}], R, S, k)$ , then we have the equivalent  
1378 symbolic transition

$$1379 \quad (E'[\text{let } x = v' \text{ in } M'], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[M'\{v'/x\}], R', \sigma, pc, k)$$

1380 Since  $\eta =_{\mathcal{M}} \eta_s$ , we know that  $E[M] =_{\mathcal{M}} E[M']$  and  $v'\{\mathcal{M}\} = v$ , so  $E[M\{v/x\}] =_{\mathcal{M}}$   
1381  $E[M'\{v'/x\}]$ . Thus,  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1382 11. If  $(E[\text{letrec } f = \lambda x.M' \text{ in } M], R, S, k)$

$$\rightarrow (E[M\{m/f\}], R[m \mapsto \lambda x.M'\{m/f\}], S, k)$$

1383 prove by combining cases (7) and (10).

1384 12. If  $(E[mv], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[\langle M\{v/y\} \rangle], R, S, k+1)$ , prove like (10).

1385 13. If  $(E[\langle v \rangle], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[v], R, S, k-1)$ , then we have the equivalent symbolic transition

$$1386 \quad (E'[\langle v' \rangle], R', \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E'[v'], R', \sigma, pc, k-1)$$

1387 Since  $v =_{\mathcal{M}} v'$ , it is the case that  $(\eta', \mathcal{M}, \eta'_s) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

1388 In the opposite direction, all cases are treated similarly to the ones above, but we now  
1389 additionally have symbolic branching cases not directly covered by the previous cases.

1390 1. If  $(E[\text{assert}(\kappa)], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E[\text{assert}(0)], \sigma, pc \wedge (\sigma(\kappa) = 0))$ , then there exists  $\mathcal{M}$   
1391 such that  $E[\text{assert}(\kappa)]$  evaluates to  $E[\text{assert}(0)]$ , which requires it to satisfy  $(\sigma(\kappa) = 0)$ .  
1392 As such, we know  $\mathcal{M} \models \sigma(\kappa) = 0$ , meaning that  $0 =_{\mathcal{M}} \kappa$ . We thus have the following  
1393 equivalent concrete configuration

$$1394 \quad (E'[\text{assert}(0)], R', S, k) \not\rightarrow$$

1395 which holds since  $\eta'$  and  $\eta'_s$  are equivalent terminal configurations.

1396 2. If  $(E[\text{assert}(\kappa)], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E[\langle \rangle], \sigma, pc \wedge (\sigma(\kappa) \neq 0))$ , prove as above.

1397 3. If  $(E[v_1 \oplus v_2], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E[\kappa], R, \sigma[\kappa \mapsto \sigma(v_1) \oplus \sigma(v_2)], pc, k)$ , then we have the  
1398 following equivalent concrete transition

$$1399 \quad (E'[i_1 \oplus i_2], R', S, k) \rightarrow (E'[i], R', S, k)$$

1400 From the assumption, we know  $i_1 \oplus i_2 =_{\mathcal{M}} \sigma(v_1) \oplus \sigma(v_2)$ , so by choosing  $\mathcal{M}' = \mathcal{M}[\kappa \mapsto i]$ ,  
1401 we have that  $\eta'$  and  $\eta'_s$  are equivalent under  $\mathcal{M}$ . As such, this case holds.

1402 4. If  $(E[\text{if } \kappa \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E[M_0], R, \sigma, pc \wedge (\sigma(\kappa) = 0), k)$ , then there  
1403 must exist a model  $\mathcal{M} \models \kappa = 0$ . We thus have the following equivalent concrete transition

$$1404 \quad (E'[\text{if } 0 \text{ then } M'_1 \text{ else } M'_0], R', S, k) \rightarrow (E'[M'_0], R', S, k)$$

1405 From the assumption, we know  $M_0 =_{\mathcal{M}} M'_0$ , so  $\eta'$  and  $\eta'_s$  are equivalent under  $\mathcal{M}$ . As  
1406 such, this case holds.

1407 5. If  $(E[\text{if } \kappa \text{ then } M_1 \text{ else } M_0], R, \sigma, pc, k) \rightarrow (E[M_1], R, \sigma, pc \wedge (\sigma(\kappa) \neq 0), k)$ , prove as  
1408 above.

1409

## 1410 **F** Correctness of call counters

1411 We prove our game semantics can be bounded, that is, games on independent components  
 1412 will always terminate if we bound the call counters. More precisely, Lemma 8 states that our  
 1413 game semantics is strongly normalising when call counters are bounded, meaning that every  
 1414 transition sequence produced from a given configuration is finite. To do this, we will first  
 1415 define classes for ordering of moves.

1416 For any transition sequence  $\rho_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho_i \rightarrow \dots$  and each  $i > 0$ , we have the following  
 1417 two classes of configurations:

- 1418 (A) either  $|\rho_i| < |\rho_{i-1}|$ , or
- 1419 (B) there exists  $j < i - 1$  such that  $|\rho_i| < |\rho_j|$

1420 where  $|\rho| = (k_0 - k, |M|, l_0 - l)$  is the *size* of  $\rho$ , and  $|\rho| < |\rho'|$  is defined by the lexicographic  
 1421 ordering of the triple  $(k_0 - k, |M|, l_0 - l)$ , with bounds  $k_0$  and  $l_0$  such that  $k \leq k_0$  and  $l \leq l_0$   
 1422 for semantic transitions to be applicable. If not present in the configuration, we look at  
 1423 the evaluation stack  $\mathcal{E}$  to find the top-most missing component. In other words, opponent  
 1424 configurations will have size  $(k_0 - k, |M|, l_0 - l)$  where  $E$  is the top-most one in  $\mathcal{E}$ , whereas  
 1425 proponent configurations will have size  $(k_0 - k, |M|, l_0 - l)$  where  $l$  is the top-most one in  $\mathcal{E}$ .

### 1426 **Theorem 8**

1427 *For any concrete game configuration  $\rho$  with bounds  $k_0$  and  $l_0$  for their corresponding counters*  
 1428  *$k$  and  $l$ , the semantics of  $\rho$  is strongly normalising.*

1429 **Proof.** We approach the proof two steps: (1) classify all possible transitions  $\rho$  can make, thus  
 1430 classifying all reachable configurations, and (2) prove that the classes form a terminating  
 1431 sequence. For (1), considering all moves available to  $\rho$ , we have the following cases.

- 1432 1. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (INT) move, we have two possibilities.
  - 1433 a. For a transition  $(E[\langle v \rangle], R, S, k) \rightarrow (E[v], R, S, k+1)$ , where  $k+1 \leq k_0$ , we have a class
  - 1434 (B) configuration since there must be a  $(E[mv], R, S, k)$  such that  $(E[mv], R, S, k) \rightarrow^*$
  - 1435  $(E[v], R, S, k)$  which is lexicographically ordered since  $|v| < |mv|$ .
  - 1436 b. Every other transition sequence is class (A) since they reduce the size of the term.
- 1437 2. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is a (PQ) move, we have that  $\rho'$  is a class (A) configuration since  $(k, |E|, l_0) <$   
 1438  $(k, |E[mv]|, l_0 - l)$  by lexicographic ordering.
- 1439 3. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (OA) move, we have a transition

$$1440 \quad ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, \dots, k)_o \xrightarrow{ret(m, v)} (\mathcal{E}, E[v], \dots, k)_p$$

1441 which must be a result of the prior proponent question

$$1442 \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[mv], \dots, k)_p \xrightarrow{call(m, v)} ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l_0, \dots, k)_o$$

1443 where  $\mathcal{E}$  has an  $l'$  on top. We thus have the following sequence

$$1444 \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[mv], \dots, k)_p \rightarrow^* (\mathcal{E}, E[v], \dots, k)_o$$

1445 where  $(k, |E[v]|, l) < (k, |E[mv]|, l')$ , so  $\rho'$  is a class (B) configuration.

1446 4. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is an (OQ) move, we have the transition

$$1447 \quad (\mathcal{E}, l, \dots, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, mv, \dots, k)_p$$

$$1448 \quad \rightarrow ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, \llbracket M\{v/x\} \rrbracket, \dots, k+1)$$

$$1449$$

1450 Ignoring the configuration in between, we take

$$1451 \quad (\mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l+1) :: \mathcal{E}, \llbracket M\{v/x\} \rrbracket, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k+1)_p$$

1452 to be our new transition. We thus have that  $\rho'$  is a class (A) configuration since  
 1453  $(k_0 - (k+1), |\llbracket M\{v/x\} \rrbracket|, l_0 - (l+1)) < (k_0 - k, |E|, l_0 - l)$  by lexicographic ordering.

1454 5. If  $\rho \rightarrow \rho'$  is a (PA) move, we have the transition

$$1455 \quad ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, v, \dots, k)_p \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, l, \dots, k)_o$$

1456 which must be the result of a prior opponent question

$$1457 \quad (\mathcal{E}, l+1, \dots, k)_o \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, \llbracket M\{v/x\} \rrbracket, \dots, k+1)_p$$

$$1458 \quad \rightarrow^* ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, \llbracket v \rrbracket, \dots, k+1)_p$$

$$1459 \quad \rightarrow ((m, l) :: \mathcal{E}, v, \dots, k)_p$$

$$1460 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, l, \dots, k)_o$$

$$1461$$

1462 where  $E'$  is the topmost evaluation context in  $\mathcal{E}$ . We thus have that  $(k_0 - k, E', l_0 - l) <$   
 1463  $(k_0 - k, E', l_0 - (l+1))$ , so  $\rho'$  is a class (B) configuration.

1464 Now, for part (2), let us assume there is an infinite sequence

$$1465 \quad \rho_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho_j \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho_i \rightarrow \dots$$

1466 Since all reachable configurations fall into either (A) or (B) class, we know that the sequence  
 1467 must comprise only (A) and (B) configurations. In this infinite sequence, we know that all  
 1468 sequences of (A) configurations are in descending size, so (A) sequences cannot be infinite.  
 1469 We also observe that (B) configurations are padded with (A) sequences. For instance, if  
 1470  $\rho_i$  is a (B) configuration, and  $\rho_j$  is its matching configuration, there may have nested (B)  
 1471 configurations between  $\rho_j$  and  $\rho_i$ , as well as (A) sequences padding these.

1472 Additionally, these (B) configurations can only occur as a return to a call, so we know  
 1473 they only occur together with the introduction of evaluation boxes  $\llbracket \bullet \rrbracket$ . Since these brackets  
 1474 occur in pairs and are introduced in a nested fashion, we know  $\mathcal{E}$  can only contain evaluation  
 1475 contexts with well-bracketed evaluation boxes, meaning that there cannot be interleaved  
 1476 sequences of (B) configurations where their target configurations intersect. More specifically,  
 1477 the sequence

$$1478 \quad \rho_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho_j \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho'_j \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho_i \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \rho'_i \rightarrow \dots$$

1479 where  $\rho'_i$  matches  $\rho'_j$  and  $\rho_i$  matches  $\rho_j$  is not possible.

1480 Now, ignoring all (A) and nested (B) sequences, we are left with an infinite stream of  
 1481 top-level (B) sequences which are also in descending order. Since starting size is finite, we  
 1482 cannot have an infinite stream of (B) sequences. Thus, the assumption does not hold, so our  
 1483 semantics is strongly normalising. ◀

1484 ► **Lemma 22** (Call counters preserved after application). *Given the following sequences of*  
 1485 *game moves:*

- 1486 (1)  $(\mathcal{E}, E[M], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$   
 1487 (2)  $((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$   
 1488

1489 where in both (1) and (2) we apply  $\rightarrow$  until we reach the first occurrence of  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $E[\langle \bullet \rangle]$  in  
 1490 the sequence of moves, and  $\rightarrow$  is the reflexive transitive closure of game transitions ( $\rightarrow$ ), it  
 1491 must be the case that  $k = k'$  in both (1) and (2).

1492 **Proof.** Suppose we have the following transition sequences

- 1493 (1)  $(\mathcal{E}, E[M], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$   
 1494 (2)  $((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$   
 1495

1496 By induction on the length of the transition sequence (1) and mutually on the length of (2),  
 1497 we have the following cases, where we say  $IH_p$  and  $IH_o$  for the inductive hypotheses of (1)  
 1498 and (2) respectively:

1499 **Base cases:**

- 1500 ■ **Case (1):** If  $M = v$ , then  $(\mathcal{E}, E[v], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p$  is a zero-step transition. This case  
 1501 holds since  $k = k'$ .  
 1502 ■ **Case (2):** If the opponent returns, then we have a one-step transition

$$1503 \quad ((m, E) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o$$

$$1504 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{ret}(m,v)} (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p$$

1506 This case holds since  $k = k$ .

1507 **Inductive cases (1):**

- 1508 ■ if the sequence contains only internal moves, i.e. no call to the opponent is made, then we  
 1509 have the following transition sequence by the assumption in (1) that a value is reached.

$$1510 \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[M], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$$

1512 By the inductive hypothesis  $IH_p$ , we know that  $k = k'$ .

- 1513 ■ if the sequence of internal moves gets stuck, i.e. a call to the opponent is made, then we  
 1514 have the following transition sequence where  $m \notin \text{dom}(R')$ .

$$1515 \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[M], R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_p \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[E'[mv]], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$$

$$1516 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m,v)} ((m, E[E'[\bullet]]) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R', S', \mathcal{P}'', \mathcal{A}', k')_o$$

1518 where  $\mathcal{E}$  is of the form  $(m, l) :: \mathcal{E}'$ . By our assumption in (1) and (2), we know that the  
 1519 configuration must eventually lead to a value  $v$ . As such, the following transition must  
 1520 eventually occur.

$$1521 \quad ((m, E[E[\bullet]]) :: \mathcal{E}, l, R', S', \mathcal{P}'', \mathcal{A}', k')_o$$

$$1522 \quad \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[E[v]], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k')_p$$

1524 By the inductive hypothesis  $IH_o$ , we know that  $k' = k''$ . In addition, by our assumption  
 1525 that a value must be reached, it is the case that the following transition occurs.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 1526 \quad (\mathcal{E}, E[E[v]], R', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}', k'')_p \\
 1527 \quad \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, E[v], R'', S'', \mathcal{P}'', \mathcal{A}'', k''')_p \\
 1528
 \end{array}$$

1529 By the inductive hypothesis  $IH_p$ , we know that  $k = k'''$ .

1530 **Inductive cases (2):**

1531 ■ if a call to the proponent is made, then we have the following transition.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 1532 \quad (\mathcal{E}', l, R, S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}, k)_o \\
 1533 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{call}(m', v)} ((m', l+1) :: \mathcal{E}', m'v, R', S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p \\
 1534
 \end{array}$$

1535 from the assumption that a value must be reached, we know that the following transition  
 1536 occurs.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 1537 \quad ((m', l+1) :: \mathcal{E}', m'v, R', S, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{A}', k)_p \\
 1538 \quad \rightarrow ((m', l+1) :: \mathcal{E}', v, R'', S', \mathcal{P}', \mathcal{A}'', k')_p \\
 1539
 \end{array}$$

1540 From the inductive hypothesis  $IH_p$ , we know that  $k = k'$ .

1541

