

# Games for countable nondeterminism

GaLoP 2017, Uppsala

John Gowers

April 23, 2017

Game Semantics of Nondeterminism

Ordinal-Indexed Recursion

Game Semantics for Friendly Choice

# Related Work I



R. Harmer and G. McCusker.

A fully abstract game semantics for finite nondeterminism.

*In Proceedings. 14th Symposium on Logic in Computer Science (Cat. No. PR00158), pages 422–430, 1999.*



Russell S. Harmer.

Games and full abstraction for nondeterministic languages.

Technical report, 1999.



J. Laird.

Sequential algorithms for unbounded nondeterminism.

*Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science*, 319:271 – 287, 2015.

## Related Work II



Paul Blain Levy.

Infinite trace equivalence.

*Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, 151(2):170 – 198, 2008.



A. W. ROSCOE.

Unbounded non-determinism in CSP.

*Journal of Logic and Computation*, 3(2):131, 1993.



Takeshi Tsukada and C. H. Luke Ong.

Nondeterminism in game semantics via sheaves.

In *Proceedings of the 2015 30th Annual ACM/IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science (LICS)*, LICS '15, pages 220–231, Washington, DC, USA, 2015. IEEE Computer Society.

# Nondeterministic Strategies

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**Determinism** If  $sa, sb \in \sigma$ , then  $a = b$

**Totality** If  $s \in \sigma$  and  $sa \in P_A$ , then  $sab \in \sigma$  for some  $b$

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Relaxing *determinism* gives us *nondeterministic strategies*.

Problem: how can we model divergence in nondeterministic strategies?

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Divergence in a composition of strategies may arise either from a divergence in one of the strategies we are composing, or through *livelock* (infinite chattering).

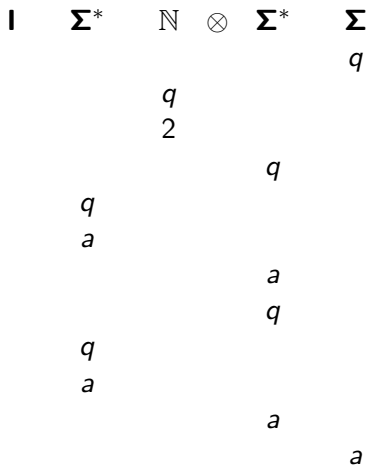
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This method only works for finite nondeterminism: if we naively relax the finite branching condition, then composition is not associative.

# Failure of associativity in the presence of infinite branching



## Solution: keep track of infinite sequences of moves

A game  $A$  is now given by a tuple  $(M_A, \lambda_A, \zeta_A, P_A)$  where

- ▶  $M_A$  is a set of moves
- ▶  $\lambda_A: M_A \rightarrow \{O, P\}$  identifies each move as an  $O$ -move or a  $P$ -move
- ▶  $P_A \subseteq \overline{M_A^*}$  is a set of legal positions
- ▶  $\zeta_A: P_A \rightarrow \{O, P\}$  designates each position as an  $O$ -position or a  $P$ -position

...subject to a few rules

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Composition is associative.

# Fair PCF

$$\overline{(\lambda x.M)N \longrightarrow M[N/x]}$$

$$\overline{\mathbf{Y}_T M \longrightarrow M(\mathbf{Y}_T M)}$$

$$\overline{\text{If0 } 0 \longrightarrow \lambda x.\lambda y.x}$$

$$\overline{\text{If0 } (\text{suc } n) \longrightarrow \lambda x.\lambda y.(yn)}$$

$$\frac{M \longrightarrow M'}{\text{suc } M \longrightarrow \text{suc } M'}$$

$$\frac{M \longrightarrow M'}{\text{If0 } M \longrightarrow \text{If0 } M'}$$

$$\frac{M \longrightarrow M'}{MN \longrightarrow M'N}$$

$$\frac{}{? \longrightarrow n} \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

# Must-testing for fair PCF

If  $M$  is a term of Fair PCF of ground type `nat`, write  $M \Downarrow$  if  $M$  has no infinite evaluation paths  $M \longrightarrow M_1 \longrightarrow M_2 \longrightarrow \dots$ .

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Examples:

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- ▶  $\text{If } 0 \text{ ? } \Omega_{\text{nat}} \text{ } 0 \not\Downarrow$
- ▶  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}}(\lambda f.\lambda x.\text{If } 0 \text{ } x \text{ } 0 \text{ } f) \text{ ? } \Downarrow$



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$\sigma \leq_s \tau$  if

1.  $\sigma \subseteq \tau$
2. Every divergent position in  $\tau$  is divergent in  $\sigma$
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If  $F$  is a set of strategies that is directed with respect to  $\leq_s$  then  $F$  has a least upper bound given by

$$\left( \bigcup_{\sigma \in F} \sigma, \bigcap_{\sigma \in F} D_\sigma \right)$$

## Denotational semantics for $\mathbf{Y}_T$

This means that we can define a strategy  $\mathbf{Y}_A$  for  $(A \Longrightarrow A) \Longrightarrow A$  to be the least fixed point of the strategy corresponding to the  $\lambda$ -term

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However,  $\leq_s$ -limits are not preserved by composition (in either direction), so it is hard to prove computational adequacy for this denotation of  $\mathbf{Y}_T$ .

# Introduction to Ordinal-Indexed Recursion

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In languages with no nondeterminism or finite nondeterminism, we can study  $\mathbf{Y}_T$  by studying its finite approximants  $\mathbf{Y}_T^n$ , where:

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If  $Y_T M M_1 \dots M_n \Downarrow$ , then  $\mathbf{Y}_T^n M M_1 \dots M_n \Downarrow$  for some  $n$  – since branching is finite, any well-founded evaluation tree is *bounded*.

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However, in the presence of infinite branching, we may have well-founded evaluation trees that are not bounded.

For example,  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}}(\lambda f. \lambda x. \text{If } 0 \times 0 \ f)? \Downarrow$ , but  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}}^n(\lambda f. \lambda x. \text{If } 0 \times 0 \ f)? \not\Downarrow$  for all  $n$ .

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We replace  $\mathbf{Y}_T$  with a new family of constants  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  ranges over countable ordinals and a formal divergence symbol  $\Omega_T$ .  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha$  has operational semantics given by:

$$\frac{}{\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha M \longrightarrow M(\mathbf{Y}_T^\beta M)} \beta < \alpha \qquad \frac{}{\mathbf{Y}_T^0 M \longrightarrow \Omega_T}$$

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We want the choice of ordinal  $\beta$  to be ‘friendly’, so that it does not affect the behaviour of  $\Downarrow$ .

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We then give big-step semantics for the constants  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha$ :

$$\frac{\exists \beta < \alpha . M(\mathbf{Y}_T^\beta M)M_1 \cdots M_n \Downarrow}{\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha MM_1 \cdots M_n \Downarrow}$$

## An example

$$Y_{\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}}^{\omega}(\lambda f. \lambda x. \text{If } 0 \times 0 \ f) ?$$

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But how would we model  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\omega$ ? We need to add friendly choice to the language....

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How far can we go?

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Using  $\text{iter}_T$ , it is possible to define Church encodings  $\alpha_T$  for all ordinals  $\alpha < \epsilon_0$ , so we can simulate  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha$  for all  $\alpha < \epsilon_0$  in  $\text{PFC} - \mathbf{Y} + \text{iter} + \dot{\iota}$ .

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With more complicated predicates, we can encode more complicated (bounded) Gale-Stewart games in the language.



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If  $A$  is a game, then a *flexible strategy* for  $A$  is a pair  $\Sigma = (\sigma_\Sigma, F_\Sigma)$ , where  $\sigma_\Sigma$  is a strategy for  $A$  and  $F_\Sigma \subseteq \sigma_\Sigma$  is a set of positions in  $\sigma_\Sigma$  that are forced. All other positions in  $\sigma$  are optional.

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Then a *switching* for  $\Sigma$  is a strategy  $\sigma'$  for  $A$  such that  $\sigma' \subseteq \sigma_\Sigma$  and such that if  $s \in \sigma'$  and  $sab \in F_\Sigma$  then  $sab \in \sigma'$ . In this case, we write  $\sigma' \triangleleft \Sigma$ .

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Given flexible strategies  $\Sigma: A \rightarrow B$  and  $T: B \rightarrow C$ , we may form the composite:

$$T \circ \Sigma = \bigsqcup_{\substack{\sigma' \triangleleft \Sigma \\ \tau' \triangleleft T}} \tau' \circ \sigma'$$

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So all the choices of number in  $\wr$  are optional. We get a consistency result:

## Proposition

*If  $M$  is a term of PCF -  $\mathbf{Y} + ? + \wr$  of type  $\text{nat}$  such that  $M \Downarrow$ , then there are no divergent positions in  $\llbracket M \rrbracket$ .*

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Then we have least upper bounds for stably-directed sets  $X$  of flexible strategies:

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We can then construct the  $\mathbf{Y}_T^\alpha$  as the elements of the Bourbaki-Witt chain.

For suitably large  $\alpha$  (conjecturally  $\alpha = \epsilon_0$ ), we get a sound and adequate semantics for  $\mathbf{Y}_T$ .