

Normal Paths as Function Sub-Types

by Sven Nilsen, 2017

Here I represent a new insight that unites logical equivalence of paths with sub-types of functions defined using paths. This makes function sub-types similar to variable sub-types. This new notation has strengths and weaknesses different from both paths and their equivalent equations.

In path semantics one can define sub-types of variables by using functions. Such sub-types makes sense only when the existential path returns `true`:

$$\begin{aligned}a &: [g] b \\ b &: [\exists g] \text{true} \\ \\ g &: A \rightarrow B \\ \exists g &: B \rightarrow \text{bool}\end{aligned}$$

The new idea is that sub-types of functions can be defined using paths:

$$\begin{aligned}f &: [[g]] h \\ \\ f &: A \times A \rightarrow A \\ g &: A \rightarrow B \\ h &: B \times B \rightarrow B\end{aligned}$$

This is the same as writing:

$$\begin{aligned}f[g] &\Leftrightarrow h \\ g(f(a, b)) &= h(g(a, b))\end{aligned}$$

In asymmetric notation:

$$f : [[g_{i \rightarrow n}]] h$$

Just like for normal sub-types, there is an existential path that returns `true` if the path set is non-empty:

$$\begin{aligned}h &: [\exists[g]] \text{true} \\ \\ \exists[g] &\Leftrightarrow \exists[g \times g \rightarrow g]\end{aligned}$$

The `∃[g]` notation is used because the brackets makes it easy to use path semantical notation for symmetric and asymmetric paths. `∃g` would lead to confusion since it is used for existential path of `g`.

There is still motivation to use the notation of logical equivalence of functions in proofs. One does not need to write double brackets `f[g] ⇔ h` and path sets `f[g] ⇔ {h₀, h₁}` are useful for describing partial functions in terms of function spaces.