

\mathcal{L}_1

**a formal, minimal, imperative, class based
object oriented language *without* inheritance**

\mathcal{L}_1 -a formal, minimal, imperative, class based object oriented language without inheritance

\mathcal{L}_1 is a minimal object oriented language, in the style of commercially available languages. It supports

- classes which describe the behaviour of objects (\mathcal{L}_1 is *class based*),
- fields,
- methods - no overloading,
- assignment and aliasing,
- expressions as the bodies of methods (\mathcal{L}_1 is *expression oriented*, as opposed to *statement oriented*).

As for any programming language, the formal description of \mathcal{L}_1 consists of

- the syntax,
- the operational semantics,
- the type system.

Type soundness is demonstrated through a theorem.

\mathcal{L}_1 will serve as a platform for the introduction of further features. We study \mathcal{L}_1 in some detail in order to learn (or remind ourselves of) the formal treatment of programming languages.

The structure of \mathcal{L}_1 , and the syntax of \mathcal{L}_1 expressions

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{Progr} &= \textit{ClassId} \longrightarrow ((\textit{FieldId} \longrightarrow \textit{type}) \\ &\quad \times \\ &\quad (\textit{MethId} \longrightarrow \textit{meth})) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{meth} &::= \textit{type } m \text{ (} \textit{type } x \text{) } \{ e \} \\ \textit{type} &::= \textit{bool} \mid c \\ e &::= \textit{if } e \text{ then } e \text{ else } e \mid \\ &\quad e.f \mid e.f := e \mid e.m(e) \mid \textit{new } c \mid \\ &\quad x \mid \textit{this} \mid \textit{true} \mid \textit{false} \mid \textit{null} . \end{aligned}$$

with the identifier conventions

$$\begin{array}{lll} c & \in & \textit{ClassId} & \text{for class identifiers} \\ f & \in & \textit{FieldId} & \text{for field identifiers} \\ m & \in & \textit{MethId} & \text{for method identifiers} \end{array}$$

For the sake of simplicity, all methods have exactly one parameter, called x , and there is no syntax for sequences of expressions.

These simplifications allow a more succinct presentation of the operational semantics and the type system; the corresponding restrictions are not essential – why?

Note:

$A \times B$ denotes the set of tuples, so that

$$(a, b) \in A \times B \quad \text{if and only if} \quad a \in A, b \in B.$$

$A \longrightarrow B$ denotes the set of *partial* functions, so that

for $f \in A \longrightarrow B$, and $a \in A$, either $f(a) \in B$ or $f(a)$ is undefined.

An Example in \mathcal{L}_1

The following example

```
class Book{
    bool good;
    Person owner;
    bool readBy( Person x) { this.good:=true }
}

class Person{
    Book like;
    Book meet( Person x) { this.like:=x.like }
}
```

is represented through

$$\begin{aligned} P_{BP} = & \text{Book} \mapsto (\quad (\text{good} \mapsto \text{bool}, \text{owner} \mapsto \text{Person} \quad), \\ & \text{readBy} \mapsto \text{bool readBy(Person } x) \{ \text{ this.good} := \text{true} \} \quad), \\ & \text{Person} \mapsto (\quad \text{like} \mapsto \text{Book} , \\ & \text{meet} \mapsto \text{Book meet(Person } x) \{ \text{ this.like} := x.\text{like} \} \quad) . \end{aligned}$$

Questions

What are the values of

$P_{BP}(\text{Book})$,
 $P_{BP}(\text{Book}) \downarrow_1 (\text{good})$,
 $P_{BP}(\text{Book}) \downarrow_2 (\text{readBy})$,
 $P_{BP}(\text{Book}) \downarrow_2 (\text{meet})$?
 $P_{BP}(\text{readBy})$,
 $P_{BP}(\text{Book}) \downarrow_1 (\text{like})$?

The following program:

```
class B {  
    D m( E x) { true };  
    C f  
}
```

would be represented as:

$P_{ok} \equiv$

But the following program

```
class A {  
    bool f;  
    A f;  
    bool m( bool x) { true }  
}
```

even though syntactically correct in Java, *cannot* be represented in \mathcal{L}_1 .
Why?

Does the fact that class `A` cannot be represented in \mathcal{L}_1 reduce the applicability of \mathcal{L}_1 ?

Field and Method lookup functions

We define the field and method lookup functions:

$$\mathcal{F}(P, c, f) = P(c) \downarrow_1 (f)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_S(P, c) = \{ f \mid \mathcal{F}(P, c, f) \text{ is defined} \}$$

$$\mathcal{M}(P, c, m) = P(c) \downarrow_2 (m)$$

For example,

$$\mathcal{F}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{good}) = \text{bool},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_S(P_{BP}, \text{Book}) = \{ \text{good}, \text{owner} \}.$$

$$\mathcal{M}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{readBy}) = \text{bool readBy(Person x) } \{ \text{this. good} := \text{true} \}.$$

What is the value of $\mathcal{F}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{like})$, and what is $\mathcal{M}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{meet})$?

The Operational Semantics of \mathcal{L}_1

Operational semantics describe execution of expressions.

Execution takes place in the context of a program (*prog*). It *rewrites* tuples of expressions (*expr*), stack frames (*stack frame*), and heaps (*heap*) into pairs of results (*res*) and heaps.

Thus, the signature of the rewriting relation \rightsquigarrow is:

$$\rightsquigarrow : \textit{prog} \longrightarrow \textit{expr} \times \textit{stack frame} \times \textit{heap} \longrightarrow \textit{res} \times \textit{heap}$$

The stack frame is a tuple; it gives an address for *this*, and a value for *x*.

The heap maps addresses to objects.

Objects may contain fields whose value is an address - thus we can represent aliasing.

The result of an execution is either a value, or an exception.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| <i>stack frame</i> | = | <i>addr</i> × <i>val</i> |
| <i>heap</i> | = | <i>addr</i> → <i>object</i> |
| <i>val</i> | = | { <i>true</i> , <i>false</i> , <i>null</i> } ∪ <i>addr</i> |
| <i>object</i> | = | <i>ClassId</i> × (<i>FieldId</i> → <i>val</i>) |
| <i>addr</i> | = | { ι_i <i>i</i> a natural number } |
| <i>dev</i> | = | { <i>nullPtrExc</i> , <i>stuckErr</i> } |
| <i>res</i> | = | <i>dev</i> ∪ <i>val</i> |

Values are the source language values (*i.e.* *true* , *false* and *null*), or addresses.

Addresses may point to objects, but *not* to other addresses, or primitive values. Thus, in \mathcal{L}_1 , as in Java, pointers are implicit – no pointers to pointers.

Deviations (*dev*) indicate abnormal termination due to null-pointer de-referencing, or an evaluation being stuck. As we shall show, well-typed expressions are never stuck, although they may throw null pointer exceptions.

Example stack frame and heap

The following stack frame, ϕ_0 , and heap, χ_0 , correspond to some execution of P_{BP} :

$$\phi_0 = (\iota_3, \iota_4)$$

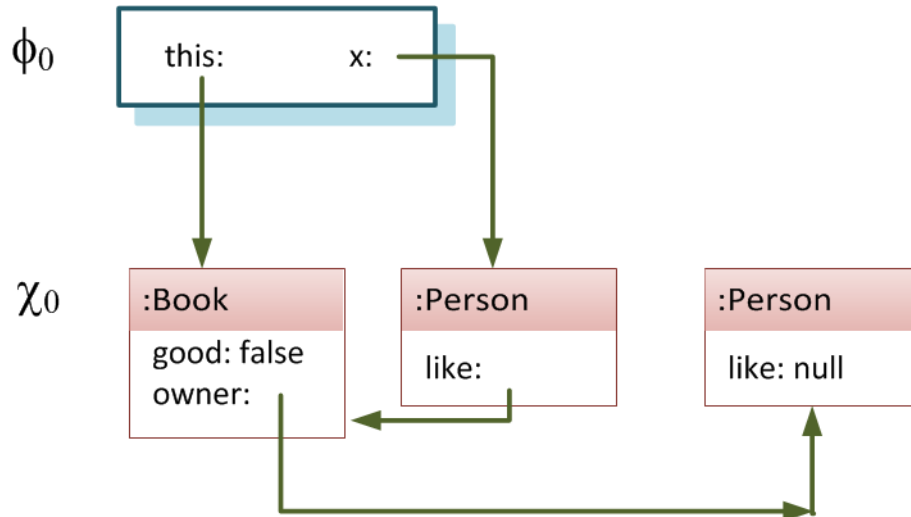
$$\chi_0(\iota_3) = (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5))$$

$$\chi_0(\iota_4) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \iota_3))$$

$$\chi_0(\iota_5) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \text{null}))$$

Visual representation of χ_0 and ϕ_0

$\phi_0 = (\iota_3, \iota_4)$
 $\chi_0(\iota_3) = (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5))$
 $\chi_0(\iota_4) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \iota_3))$
 $\chi_0(\iota_5) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \text{null}))$

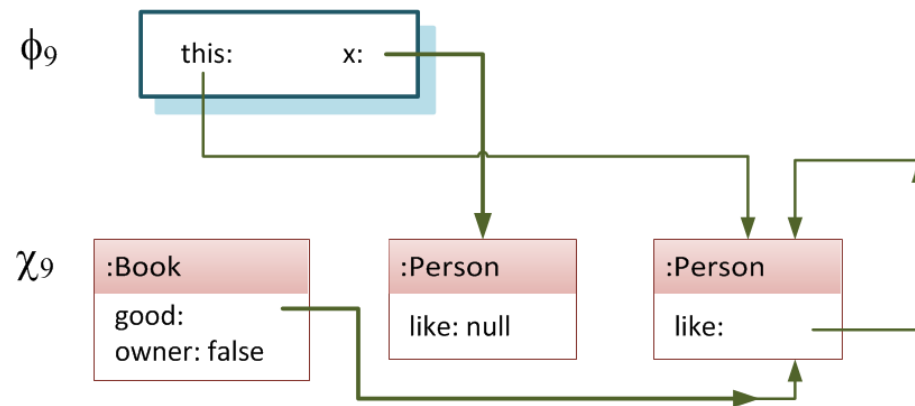


According to our definition, the tuple (true , ι_3) is *not* a stack frame, but the tuple (ι_3 , true) is.

Also, a mapping χ^{bad} , where $\chi^{bad}(\iota_3) = \text{true}$, is *not* a heap.

Exercise

Write out formally the heap χ_9 and frame ϕ_9 which correspond to the following diagram.



Operations on the heap

We would expect the operational semantics to give:

$$x.like.good, \phi_0, \chi_0 \xrightarrow{P_{BP}} false, \chi_0$$

In order to define the operational semantics we need to define operations on objects and heaps.

Field access, objects and heap update functions

For object o , heap χ , value v , address ι , identifier f , define:

- $o(f) = o \downarrow_2 (f)$
- $o[f \mapsto v]$ gives a new object, so that
 $o[f \mapsto v] \downarrow_1 = o \downarrow_1$, and
 $o[f \mapsto v](f) = v$, and $o[f \mapsto v](f') = o(f')$ if $f' \neq f$,
- $\chi[\iota \mapsto o]$ gives a new heap so that
 $\chi[\iota \mapsto o](\iota) = o$, and $\chi[\iota \mapsto o](\iota') = \chi(\iota')$ if $\iota' \neq \iota$.

Field access, objects and heap update functions - 2

We also define the following shorthands

- $\chi(\iota, f) = \chi(\iota) \downarrow_2 (f)$
- $\chi[\iota, f \mapsto v] = \chi[\iota \mapsto (\chi(\iota)[f \mapsto v])]$.
- $\phi(\text{this}) = \phi \downarrow_1$, and $\phi(x) = \phi \downarrow_2$

$\chi(\iota, f)$, and $\chi[\iota, f \mapsto v]$ describe field access and the update of an object in the heap. And $\phi(\text{this})$ and $\phi(x)$ give the current receiver and argument.

Note: there is no operation which changes the class of an object.

Remember our heap χ_0 from earlier, where

$$\chi_0(\iota_3) = (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5))$$

$$\chi_0(\iota_4) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \iota_3))$$

$$\chi_0(\iota_5) = (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \text{null}))$$

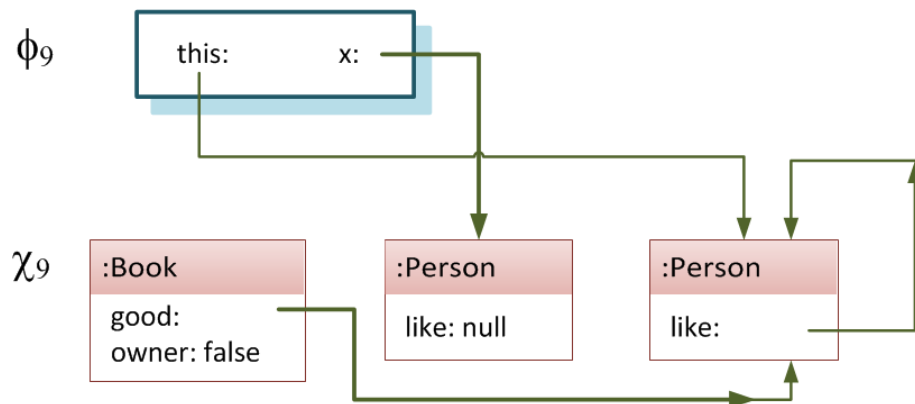
Then, application of the operations defined earlier give following results:

- $\chi_0(\iota_3, \text{good}) = \text{false}$,
- $\chi_0(\iota_3, \text{like})$ is undefined
- $(\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5))[\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}] = (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5))$
- $\chi_0[\iota_3, \text{good} \mapsto \text{true}] = \chi_1$, where
$$\begin{aligned}\chi_1(\iota_3) &= (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_5)) \\ \chi_1(\iota_4) &= (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \iota_3)) \\ \chi_1(\iota_5) &= (\text{Person}, (\text{like} \mapsto \text{null}))\end{aligned}$$

Exercise -1

The diagram below describes heap χ_9 and frame ϕ_9 . Modify the heap in the diagram so that it describes

$$\chi_{10} = \chi_9[\phi_9(x), \text{good} \mapsto \phi_9(\text{this})],$$



Write some expression, whose execution in the context of ϕ_9 , χ_9 would modify the heap so that it becomes χ_{10} .

Exercise -2

How would we express the requirement that all persons should own any books they like?

Inference Rules

We will describe the type system and the operational semantics in terms of *inference rules*. Inference rules have a name, a (possibly empty) set of premisses, and one conclusion:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{rule_name} \\ \text{premiss}_1 \\ \dots \\ \text{premiss}_n \end{array}}{\text{conclusion}}$$

Which can be read as "if you can establish *premiss*₁, ... *premiss*_n, then you can establish *conclusion*".

Such inference rules can be used to give an *axiomatic definition* for sets, or relations. For example, the following gives an axiomatic definition of the set of **natural numbers**, and the function **add**:

| | |
|--|--|
| $\frac{\text{zero}}{\text{Z is a natural number}}$ | $\frac{\text{n is a natural number}}{\text{S(n) is a natural number}} \quad \text{succ}$ |
| $\frac{}{\text{add(Z,n)=n}} \quad \text{addZero}$ | $\frac{\text{add(n,m) = k}}{\text{add(S(n),m)= S(k)}} \quad \text{addSucc}$ |

We can **prove** that

$$\forall n, m : \text{ n, m are natural numbers } \implies \text{ add(n,m) = add(m,n). }$$

Note: we do *not* write the above as an inference rule! The above is a theorem – not an axiom.

Exercise-1

Write out the derivation which demonstrates that $S(S(Z))$ is a natural number.

Exercise-2

Write out the derivation which describes the calculation of $add(S(S(Z)), S(Z))$.

Exercise-3

Write inference rules which describe $fib(n)$, where

$fib(Z) = S(Z)$, and

$fib(S(Z)) = S(Z)$, and

$fib(S(S(n))) = add(fib(S(n)), fib(n))$

Exercise-4

Write out the calculation of $fib(S(S(Z)))$, using the inference rules from Exercise-3.

Operational Semantics - Rules

val

$v \in val$

$v, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi$

this

$this, (\iota, v), \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi$

par

$x, (\iota, v), \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi$

cond₁

$e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{true}, \chi''$

$e_1, \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'$

if e then e₁ else e₂, $\phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'$

cond₂

$e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{false}, \chi''$

$e_2, \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'$

if e then e₁ else e₂, $\phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'$

$$\text{fld} \quad \frac{e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi'}{e.f, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \chi'(\iota, f), \chi'}$$

fldAss

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi'' \\ e', \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi''' \\ \chi' = \chi'''[\iota, f \mapsto v] \end{array}}{e.f := e', \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'}$$

$$\text{new} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{l} \mathcal{F}s(P, c) = \{f_1, \dots, f_r\} \\ \forall l \in 1, \dots, r : v_l \text{ initial for } \mathcal{F}(P, c, f_l) \\ \iota \text{ is new in } \chi \\ \chi' = \chi[\iota \mapsto (c, (f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_r \mapsto v_r))] \end{array}}{\text{new } c, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi'}$$

null

$$\frac{e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{null}, \chi'}{\begin{array}{l} e.f := e', \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{nullPtrExc}, \chi' \\ e.f, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{nullPtrExc}, \chi' \\ e.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{nullPtrExc}, \chi' \end{array}}$$

The initial value for `bool` is `false` , the initial value for any class `c` is `null`.

methCall

$$\begin{array}{l}
 e_0, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi_0 \\
 e_1, \phi, \chi_0 \rightsquigarrow_P v_1, \chi_1 \\
 \chi_1(\iota) \downarrow_1 = c \\
 \mathcal{M}(P, c, m) = t\ m(t_1\ x)\ \{ e \} \\
 e, (\iota, v_1), \chi_1 \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi' \\
 \hline
 e_0.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi'
 \end{array}$$

- Notes:

The operational semantics is not affected by static types.

There is no rule that changes a complete object; rules can only update fields.

- Questions:

Why do we need rule val?

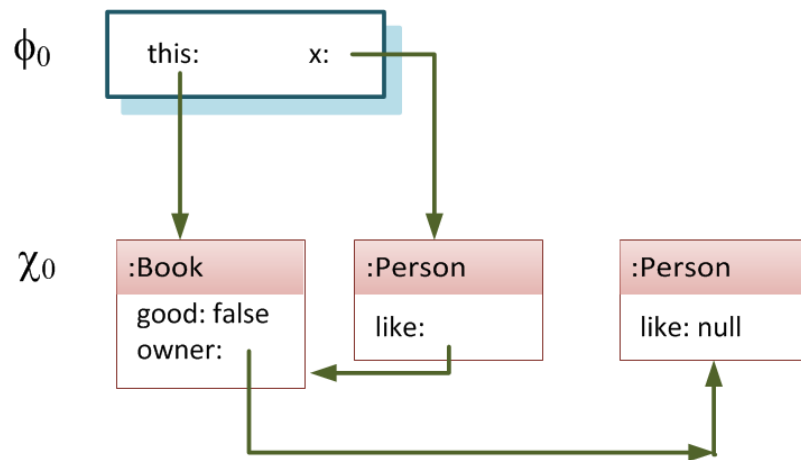
What determines the order of execution?

Exercise-5:

Write out the derivation for executing $\text{this.like} := \text{x.like}, \phi_3, \chi_0$,
where $\phi_3 = (\iota_5, \iota_4)$

Exercise-6:

Write out the derivation for executing `this.owner.meet(x)`, ϕ_0, χ_0 .



Questions

- Does the following proposition hold?

$\forall P, \chi, e, \phi: \quad \exists \chi', r \text{ with } e, \phi, \chi \sim_{\mathcal{P}}^{\rightarrow} r, \chi'$

- What about program start, i.e., the `main` method?
- What happens to unreachable objects?

Questions - 2

What about expressions like:

$\text{this.meet}(x), \phi_0, \chi_0 \rightsquigarrow_{P_{BP}} \text{????}$

or, like

$\text{this.owner.like.owner.good}, \phi_0, \chi_0 \rightsquigarrow_{P_{BP}} \text{????}$

We need to add operational semantics rules in order to describe "stuck execution" (corresponding to the Smalltalk "object does not understand message" exception), and exception propagation:

Stuck Execution

$$\frac{e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi' \quad v \neq \text{true} \text{ and } v \neq \text{false}}{\text{if } e \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{stuckErr}, \chi'}$$

$$\frac{e_0, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi_0 \quad v \neq \text{null} \quad \chi_0(v) \text{ is undefined}}{e_0.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{stuckErr}, \chi_0}$$

$$\frac{e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v, \chi' \quad \chi'(v) \text{ is undefined}}{e.f, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{stuckErr}, \chi' \quad e.f := e', \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{stuckErr}, \chi'}$$

$$\frac{e_0, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi_0 \quad e_1, \phi, \chi_0 \rightsquigarrow_P v_1, \chi_1 \quad \chi_1(\iota) \downarrow_1 = c \quad \mathcal{M}(P, c, m) \text{ is undefined}}{e_0.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{stuckErr}, \chi_1}$$

Exception Propagation

$$\begin{array}{c}
 e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
 \text{or } (e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{true}, \chi'' \text{ and } e_1, \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi') \\
 \text{or } (e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \text{false}, \chi'' \text{ and } e_2, \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi') \\
 \hline
 \text{if } e \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi'
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
 \hline
 e.f, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
 e.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
 e.f := e', \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi'
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi'' \\
 e', \phi, \chi'' \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
 \hline
 e.f := e', \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi'
 \end{array}$$

where $dv \in dev$

$$\begin{array}{c}
e_0, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi_0 \\
\chi_0(\iota) \text{ is defined} \\
e_1, \phi, \chi_0 \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi_1 \\
\hline
e_0.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi_1
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
e_0, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P \iota, \chi_0 \\
e_1, \phi_0, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P v_1, \chi_1 \\
\chi_1(\iota) \downarrow_1 = c \\
\mathcal{M}(P, c, m) = t m(t_1 x) \{ e \} \\
e, (\iota, v), \chi_1 \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi' \\
\hline
e_0.m(e_1), \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P dv, \chi'
\end{array}$$

Thus, we obtain the execution:

$\text{this.meet}(x), \phi_0, \chi_0 \xrightarrow{P_{BP}} \text{stuckErr}, \chi_0$

and, also:

$\text{this.owner.like.owner.good}, \phi_0, \chi_0 \xrightarrow{P_{BP}} \text{nullPtrExc}, \chi_0$

Questions

- Does the following proposition hold?

$\forall P, \chi, e, \phi: \exists \chi', r \text{ with } e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r, \chi'$

Note

- We will often ignore rules for stuck execution, null-pointer exception, or error propagation

Some properties of the operational semantics

Execution of expressions has the following properties

- it preserves the classes of all objects,
- it preserves the existence of any fields in an object.

Lemma For any program P , and any expression e , if

$$e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi'$$

then

- $\chi(\iota)$ is defined $\implies \chi(\iota) \downarrow_1 = \chi'(\iota) \downarrow_1$
- $\chi(\iota)(f)$ is defined $\implies \chi'(\iota)(f)$ is defined

Proof by structural induction over the derivation $e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi'$.

Determinism of the operational semantics

Lemma For any program P , expression e , if

$$e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi' \quad \text{and} \quad e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r'', \chi''$$

then

$$r' = r'', \text{ and } \chi' = \chi''$$

up to renaming of addresses.

Proof Idea First define what "equality up to renaming of addresses" means.

The rest by structural induction over the derivation $e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi'$.

Renaming of Addresses - example

Consider execution of `new Book.readBy(this)` :

Possibly:

`new Book.readBy(this)` , $\phi_0, \chi_0 \sim_{P_{BP}}^{\rightarrow} \text{true}, \chi_1$

and also:

`new Book.readBy(this)` , $\phi_0, \chi_0 \sim_{P_{BP}}^{\rightarrow} \text{true}, \chi_2$

where

$\chi_1 = \chi_0[\iota_{10} \mapsto (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \text{null}))]$

and

$\chi_2 = \chi_0[\iota_{20} \mapsto (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \text{null}))]$

Here, χ_1 and χ_2 are "the same up to renaming of addresses".

Renaming of Addresses - definition

Define "equality up to renaming addresses", through *renaming* function:

$\alpha : \text{addr} \longrightarrow \text{addr}$. α is partial, and bijective "up to undefinedness".

- Equality of values up to renaming defined by

$$\frac{}{\iota =_{\alpha} \alpha(\iota)} \quad \frac{}{\text{true} =_{\alpha} \text{true}} \quad \frac{}{\text{false} =_{\alpha} \text{false}}$$

- extended onto objects,

$$\frac{v_i =_{\alpha} v'_i \quad i \in 1, \dots, n}{(c, (f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_n \mapsto v_n)) =_{\alpha} (c, (f_1 \mapsto v'_1, \dots, f_n \mapsto v'_n))}$$

- and extended onto stack frames and heaps.

$$\frac{\chi(\iota) =_{\alpha} \chi'(\alpha(\iota)) \quad \forall \iota}{\chi =_{\alpha} \chi'} \qquad \frac{\iota =_{\alpha} \iota', \text{ and } v =_{\alpha} v'}{(\iota, v) =_{\alpha} (\iota', v')}$$

- α' extends α , iff $\alpha(\iota)$ defined $\implies \alpha(\iota) = \alpha'(\iota)$

For the earlier example, where

$$\chi_1 = \chi_0[\iota_{10} \mapsto (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \text{null}))]$$

$$\chi_2 = \chi_0[\iota_{20} \mapsto (\text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}, \text{owner} \mapsto \text{null}))]$$

we have that

$$\chi_1 =_{\alpha_0} \chi_2 ,$$

where $\alpha_0(\iota_{10}) = \iota_{20}$, and for all $\iota \neq \iota_{10}$ with $\chi_1(\iota)$ is defined : $\alpha_0(\iota) = \iota$.

We can now reformulate the previous lemma as follows:

Lemma - 2nd version For any program P , expression e ,
If

$$e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi' \quad \text{and} \quad e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r'', \chi''$$

Then

$$r' =_{\alpha} r'' \text{ and } \chi' =_{\alpha} \chi'' \text{ for some } \alpha.$$

Lemma - 3rd version For any program P , expression e , and bijection α
If

$$e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{P} r', \chi', \text{ and } e, \phi'', \chi'' \xrightarrow{P} r''', \chi''', \quad \text{and} \\ \phi =_{\alpha} \phi'', \text{ and } \chi =_{\alpha} \chi'',$$

Then

$$r' =_{\alpha'} r''', \text{ and } \chi' =_{\alpha'} \chi''', \text{ for some } \alpha', \text{ which extends } \alpha.$$

Discussion: Compare the 2nd and 3rd version of lemma.

The Type System of \mathcal{L}_1

The type system assigns types to \mathcal{L}_1 -expressions.

In the context of P_{BP} , we expect `new Person.meet(new Person)` to have type `Book`, and `new Person.meet(new Book)` to be type incorrect. Therefore, typing takes a program P into account.

Also, we expect `this.like` to have type `Book` in the body of `meet` in class `Person`, and `x.like` to have type `Book` in the body of `readBy` in class `Book`. Therefore, typing takes the type of `this` and `x` into account, expressed through environment Γ .

Thus, typing is a judgement of the form:

$$P, \Gamma \vdash e : t$$

i.e. , in context of P and Γ , expression e has type t .

Environments

Environments, Γ , map the parameter, x , to a type, and the receiver, $this$, to a class. We define lookup, $\Gamma(id)$:

$$\text{for } \Gamma = t\ x, c\ this: \quad \Gamma(id) = \begin{cases} t & \text{if } id = x \\ c & \text{if } id = this \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For example, consider environments Γ_1 , Γ_2 , Γ_3 , Γ_4 , and Γ_5 , where

$\Gamma_1 = \text{bool } x, \text{Person } this,$

$\Gamma_2 = \text{Person } x, \text{bool } this,$

$\Gamma_3 = \text{Person } x, \text{Person } this,$

$\Gamma_4 = \text{bool } x, B\ this,$

$\Gamma_5 = C\ x, B\ this.$

Then, $\Gamma_1(x) = \text{bool}$, $\Gamma_2(x) = \text{Person}$, and $\Gamma_1(\text{like})$ is undefined .

Before defining the inference rules for typing, we introduce the predicates $IsCls(P, c)$ asserting that c is a class, and $IsTyp(P, t)$ asserting that t is a type.

$$\begin{aligned} IsCls(P, t) &\equiv P(t) \text{ is defined .} \\ IsTyp(P, t) &\equiv IsCls(P, t) \text{ or } t = \text{bool.} \end{aligned}$$

Then, for the programs P_{BP} and P_{ok} from slides 6 and 7, we have:

$$IsCls(P_{BP}, \text{Book}), \quad \neg IsCls(P_{ok}, \text{Book}), \quad IsCls(P_{ok}, B), \quad \neg IsCls(P_{BP}, B).$$

Types of Expressions

litVarThis

$$\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{bool} \\ P, \Gamma \vdash \text{false} : \text{bool} \\ P, \Gamma \vdash x : \Gamma(x) \\ P, \Gamma \vdash \text{this} : \Gamma(\text{this}) \end{array}$$

fld

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash e : c \\ \mathcal{F}(P, c, f) = t \end{array}}{P, \Gamma \vdash e.f : t}$$

newNull

$$\frac{IsCls(P, c)}{\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash \text{null} : c \\ P, \Gamma \vdash \text{new } c : c \end{array}}$$

fldAss

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash e.f : t \\ P, \Gamma \vdash e' : t \end{array}}{P, \Gamma \vdash e.f := e' : t}$$

cond

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash e : \text{bool} \\ P, \Gamma \vdash e_1 : t \\ P, \Gamma \vdash e_2 : t \end{array}}{P, \Gamma \vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2 : t}$$

methCall

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} P, \Gamma \vdash e_0 : c \\ P, \Gamma \vdash e_1 : t_1 \\ \mathcal{M}(P, c, m) = t \text{ m}(t_1 \text{ x}) \{ e \} \end{array}}{P, \Gamma \vdash e_0.m(e_1) : t}$$

Examples

$P_{BP}, \Gamma_3 \vdash \text{this.like} := x.\text{like} : \text{Book}$

$P_{BP}, \Gamma_1 \not\vdash \text{this.like} := x.\text{like} : \text{Book}$

$P_{ok}, \Gamma_3 \not\vdash \text{this.like} := x.\text{like} : \text{Book}$

$P_{ok}, \Gamma_{\dots} \vdash \text{new B.m}(\text{new E}) : ???$

Write out the typing of $\text{this.good} := x.\text{like.good}$ in P_{BP} and Γ_6 ,
where $\Gamma_6 = \text{Book this, Person x}$.

Properties of the Type System

- Do the two properties from below hold? If not, can you weaken the properties so that they hold?
 - $P, \Gamma \vdash e : t$ and $P, \Gamma \vdash e : t' \implies t = t'$
 - $P, \Gamma \vdash e : t$ and $P, \Gamma \vdash e' : t \implies e = e'$
- What does it mean for an expression e , and P, Γ , if: $\exists t$ with $P, \Gamma \vdash e : t$?
- Do we need to require that $\Gamma(\text{this})$ is a class, or that $\Gamma(x)$ is a type?
- The type system has fewer rules than the operational semantics (6 vs 9+9). Why are the fewer rules sufficient?

Well-formed programs

We define the following two predicates:

$$ClassWF(P, c) \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall f : \mathcal{F}(P, c, f) = t \implies IsTyp(P, t) \\ \text{and} \\ \forall m : \mathcal{M}(P, c, m) = t \text{ m}(t_1 x) \{ e \} \implies \\ \quad (IsTyp(P, t), \text{ and} \\ \quad IsTyp(P, t_1), \text{ and} \\ \quad P, t_1 x, c \text{ this} \vdash e : t). \end{array} \right.$$

$$ProgWF(P) \equiv \forall c \in dom(P) : ClassWF(P, c).$$

Examples

1. For fields,

(a) $\mathcal{F}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{good}) = \text{bool}$, and $IsTyp(P_{BP}, \text{bool})$.

(b) $\mathcal{F}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{owner}) = \text{Person}$, and $IsTyp(P_{BP}, \text{Person})$.

Therefore $\forall f : \mathcal{F}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, f) = t_0 \implies IsTyp(P, t_0)$

2. For methods,

(a) $\mathcal{M}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, \text{readBy}) = \text{bool readBy(Person x) \{ this.good:= true \}}$

(b) $IsTyp(P_{BP}, \text{bool}), IsTyp(P_{BP}, \text{Person})$

(c) $P_{BP}, \text{Person } x, \text{Book this} \vdash \text{this.good} := \text{true} : \text{bool}$

Therefore, $\forall m : \mathcal{M}(P_{BP}, \text{Book}, m) = t \ m(t_1 \ x) \ \{ e \}$
 $\implies \text{IsTyp}(P, t), \text{IsTyp}(P, t_1), P, t_1 \ x, \text{Book this} \vdash e :$

3. Therefore, from 1, 2, and def on $\text{ClsWF}(P_{-}, -)$ we obtain $\text{ClsWF}(P_{BP}, \text{Book})$.

4. In a similar manner to 1-3,

we can also establish that $\text{ClsWF}(P_{BP}, \text{Person})$.

5. With 3 and 4, we obtain $\text{ProgWF}(P_{BP})$.

On the other hand, $\text{ProgWF}(P_{ok})$ does *not* hold.

Soundness of the Type System of \mathcal{L}_1

The type system is sound in the sense that a converging well-typed expression returns either a value of the same type as the expression, or a `nullPtrExc`, but does not get stuck.

Furthermore, in both cases, the resulting heap “agrees” with the program and the environment, *i.e.* its consistency is preserved.

Agreement

We introduce agreement notions between programs, heaps, and values:

The judgment $P, \chi \vdash v \triangleleft t$ expresses that the value v from heap χ “agrees” with the type t as defined in program P :

We first define weak agreement:

$$\frac{}{P, \chi \vdash \text{true} <:\text{bool}} \quad \frac{}{P, \chi \vdash \text{false} <:\text{bool}} \quad \frac{IsCls(P, t)}{P, \chi \vdash \text{null} <:t} \quad \frac{IsCls(P, c) \quad \chi(\iota) \downarrow_1 = c}{P, \chi \vdash \iota <:c}$$

Based on the weak agreement, we define strong agreement:

$$P, \chi \vdash v \triangleleft t \equiv \begin{cases} P, \chi \vdash v <:t, \\ \text{and} \\ \forall f : (\mathcal{F}(P, t, f) = t' \implies P, \chi \vdash \chi(v, f) <:t') \\ \\ P, \chi \vdash v <:t, \end{cases} \begin{matrix} \text{if } v \in addr \\ \\ \\ \text{if } v \notin addr \end{matrix}$$

Note: The requirements $P, \chi \vdash \iota <:t$ and $\iota \in addr$ imply $IsCls(P, t)$.

For example, remember our earlier program with:

```
class Book{ bool good, Person owner ... }   class Person{ Book like ... }
```

Take a heap χ_8 defined as

```
 $\chi_8(\iota_3) = ( \text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_6) )$   
 $\chi_8(\iota_4) = ( \text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_3) )$   
 $\chi_8(\iota_5) = ( \text{Book}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{false}, \text{owner} \mapsto \iota_6, \text{like} \mapsto \text{true}) )$   
 $\chi_8(\iota_6) = ( \text{Person}, (\text{good} \mapsto \text{true}) )$ 
```

Which of the following assertions hold?

| | |
|---|---|
| $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \text{null} < : \text{Person}$ | $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \text{null} \triangleleft \text{Person}$ |
| $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_3 < : \text{Book}$ | $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_3 \triangleleft \text{Book}$ |
| $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_4 < : \text{Book}$ | $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_4 \triangleleft \text{Book}$ |
| $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_5 < : \text{Book}$ | $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_5 \triangleleft \text{Book}$ |
| $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_6 < : \text{Person}$ | $P_{BP}, \chi_8 \vdash \iota_6 \triangleleft \text{Person}$ |

The judgment $P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi \diamond$ expresses that all addresses in the heap χ point to objects that agree with their class, and that the receiver and argument on the stack frame ϕ agree with their type as declared in Γ :

$$P, \Gamma \vdash (\iota, v), \chi \diamond \equiv \begin{cases} P, \chi \vdash \iota \triangleleft \Gamma(\text{this}), \text{ and} \\ P, \chi \vdash v \triangleleft \Gamma(x), \text{ and} \\ \forall \iota' : \chi(\iota') \downarrow_1 = c \implies P, \chi \vdash \iota' \triangleleft c \end{cases}$$

Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} &P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi \diamond \text{ and } \chi(\iota) \downarrow_1 = c \text{ and } f \in \mathcal{F}_s(P, c) \\ &\implies \\ &P, \chi \vdash \chi(\iota, f) \triangleleft \mathcal{F}(P, c, f) \end{aligned}$$

Again, remember our earlier program with:

```
class Book{ bool good, Person owner ... }   class Person{ Book like ... }
```

and take

```

 $\phi_0$       =  ( $\iota_3, \iota_4$ )
 $\chi_0(\iota_3)$  =  ( Book, (good  $\mapsto$  false ,  owner  $\mapsto \iota_5$ ) )
 $\chi_0(\iota_4)$  =  ( Person, (like  $\mapsto \iota_3$ ) )
 $\chi_0(\iota_5)$  =  ( Person, (like  $\mapsto$  null) )

```

Then, we have:

```

 $P_{BP}, \chi_0 \vdash \iota_3 \triangleleft \text{Book}$     $P_{BP}, \chi_0 \vdash \iota_4 \triangleleft \text{Person}$     $P_{BP}, \chi_0 \vdash \iota_5 \triangleleft \text{Person}$ 

```

and therefore,

```

 $P_{BP}, \text{Person } x, \text{Book this} \vdash \phi_0, \chi_0 \diamond$ 
 $P_{BP}, \text{Person } x, \text{Person this} \not\vdash \phi_0, \chi_0 \diamond$ 

```

On the other hand, the heap χ_8 is so “broken”, that for all possible Γ s, and ϕ s, $P_{BP}, \Gamma \not\vdash \phi, \chi_8 \diamond$

Type Soundness

Theorem For a program P , an environment Γ , an expression e , a heap χ , a stack frame ϕ , a type t , and a result r , if

$$\text{ProgWF}(P), \quad \text{and} \quad P, \Gamma \vdash e : t, \quad \text{and} \\ P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi \diamond, \quad \text{and} \quad e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{p} r, \chi',$$

then

- $r \in \text{val}$, and $P, \chi' \vdash r \triangleleft t$, and $P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi' \diamond$,

or

- $r = \text{nullPtrExc}$, and $P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi' \diamond$.

Remarks What about non-terminating execution? Why do we care about $P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi' \diamond$?

Proof by structural induction over the derivation $e, \phi, \chi \xrightarrow{p} r, \chi'$.

Discussion: Object Initialization revisited - after Michal Srb

Propose an operational semantics rule for object initialization, `new c`, which does not take the definition of the class `c` into account.

What are the implications of this?

Can we change some more of the language design to mitigate these implications? What do current programming languages propose?

Object Initialization revisited - after Michal Srb - part II

space for student's deliberations

Strong, static, typing is conservative

The theorem provides a sufficient but not necessary condition.

Consider, for example, the execution of the expressions:

`x.like := x; x.like.like`

(we use the semicolon, because we now know how to encode it in \mathcal{L}_1).

Execution of the above expression in heap χ_0 will not be "stuck", and will return the address ι_4 . It could be run on Smalltalk, or Python, etc.

Nevertheless, the above expression is ill-typed in the context of P_{BP} , and for all possible Γ 's.

Strong, static typing does not attempt to anticipate such situations.

Summary

We have defined the following:

- the syntax of \mathcal{L}_1 expressions, and the structure of \mathcal{L}_1 programs,
 - execution, $e, \phi, \chi \rightsquigarrow_P r, \chi'$,
 - typing, $P, \Gamma \vdash e : t$,
 - well-formed program, $ProgWF(P)$,
 - value conforming to type, $P, \chi \vdash v \triangleleft t$,
 - frame and heap conforming to program and environment $P, \Gamma \vdash \phi, \chi \diamond$,
- and have demonstrated soundness of the type system.

Many languages/features can be understood in terms of such concepts.

\mathcal{L}_1 is a minimal oo language reflecting common intuitions about programming and execution. There are smaller, more abstract, object-based calculi (Abadi-Cardelli, and Mitchell-Fischer, Igarashi-Pierce-Wadler).

Extensions of \mathcal{L}_1 -like languages have been used, *e.g.* in:

- proving soundness of Java (Drossopoulou, Eisenbach, Khurshid, Valkeyvych (ECOOP'97, TAPOS'99), Syme (1998), vonOheimB, Nipkow, (POPL'98))
- mixins (Felleisen, Flatt, Khrishnamurthi POPL'98, and Ancona, Zucca ECOOP'99), traits (Smith, Drossopoulou, ECOOP'05)
- dependent classes (Jolly, Drossopoulou, Anderson, Ostermann, FTfJP 2004), Tribe (Clarke, Drossopoulou, Wrigstad, Noble, AOSD'07)
- objects changing class (Drossopoulou, Damiani, Dezani, Giannini, ECOOP'01)
- binary compatibility (Drossopoulou, TIC'00, Drossopoulou, Eisenbach, Wragg LICS'99, OOPSLA'98)
- mapping oo languages onto typed intermediate languages (League, Shao, Trifonov ICFP'99, TIC'00)
- alias restrictions (Clarke, Noble, Potter, OOPSLA'98, Clarke, Drossopoulou OOPSLA'02, Cameron, Drossopoulou, Noble, Smith, OOPSLA'07)
- aspect oriented programming (Mark Skipper'01)
- Garbage collecting Actors (Clebsch & Drossopoulou OOPSLA'13)
- Garbage collecting Objects in Actor-based Languages (Clebsch et al OOPSLA'17, Franco et al ESOP'18)