

Structural types for algebraic theories

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Introduction

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We present a method of generating structural type theories, to provide languages with intrinsic type systems.

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The work was completely motivated by **Greg Meredith** and **Mike Stay**.

- ① **Motivation** RChain
- ② Algebraic theories
- ③ Presheaves and subobjects
- ④ Structural types
- ⑤ **Application** Namespace logic
- ⑥ The type theory

Motivation RChain

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The π -calculus [3] is a *concurrent* language: a program is not a sequence of instructions, but a multiset of parallel processes. Computation is interactive, providing a unified language for both computers and networks. The basic rule is *communication*:

$$\bar{n}a \mid n(x).p \Rightarrow p[a/x]$$

{[send on name n the name a] in parallel with [recv on n then $p(x)$]} evolves to $\{p(a)\}$.

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The ρ -calculus [5] adds *reflection*: operators which turn processes (code) into names (data) and vice versa.

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$$@ : P \Rightarrow N : *$$

Communication is the transference of a program, rather than a pointer – this “code mobility” is of great practical utility and theoretical interest.

$$\text{out}(n, q) \mid \text{in}(n, x.p) \Rightarrow p[@q/x]$$

$\{[\text{out on name } n \text{ the process } q] \text{ in parallel with } [\text{in on } n \text{ then } p(x)]\}$ evolves to $\{p(@q)\}$.

Motivation RChain

Names are both the data and the communication channels. Through reflection, names have form – this provides intrinsic structure to networks. We aim to use this structure, to think globally about the web.

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Namespace Logic [4] is a framework for this reasoning. The theory is

$$\text{NL} = \rho\text{-calculus} + \text{predicate logic} + \text{recursion}.$$

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The signature of the language is augmented with that of predicate logic: a formula φ of NL is a predicate on the structure of terms in the ρ -calculus; this is used as a type, to condition programs.

Motivation RChain

Example

In concurrent computation it is useful to determine whether a process is single-threaded:

$$\text{single.thread} := \neg[0] \wedge \neg[\neg[0] \mid \neg[0]]$$

“not the null process, and not the parallel of two non-null processes”.

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Goal

How do we construct this logic *generally*, for any language?

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How do we construct this logic *generally*, for any language?

language	algebraic theory	\mathbf{T}
logic	subobjects	$\mathcal{P} : \hat{\mathbf{T}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos.}$

Algebraic Theories

Algebraic structures are presented by a set of sorts $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{T}$, operations $\mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{O}$, and equations $\mathbf{f}_1 = \mathbf{f}_2 \in \mathcal{E}$.

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Example

A monoid is a structure of the form:

$$\mathcal{T} = \{\mathbf{M}\}$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \{\mathbf{m} : \mathbf{M}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{M} \text{ , } \mathbf{e} : \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}\}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \{\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})) \text{ [assoc],} \\ \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x} \text{ , } \mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e}) = \mathbf{x} \quad \text{[lunit] , [runit]}\}.$$

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Example

A monoid is a structure of the form:

$$\mathcal{T} = \{M\}$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \{m : M^2 \rightarrow M, e : 1 \rightarrow M\}$$

$$\mathcal{E} = \{m(m(x, y), z) = m(x, m(y, z)) \text{ [assoc]}, \\ m(e, x) = x, m(x, e) = x \quad \text{[lunit], [runit]}\}.$$

The *free cartesian category* on the presentation is the algebraic theory of monoids. Cartesian functors to a category C are “monoids in C ”.

Definition

Let X be the free cartesian category pseudomonad on \mathbf{Cat} , and let \mathbf{Cart} be the 2-category of cartesian categories. Define the 2-category of **multisorted algebraic theories** to be

$$\mathbf{AlgThy} := \int_{\mathbf{Set}} (X(-)/\mathbf{Cart})_{\mathrm{idobj}}.$$

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Hence a multisorted algebraic theory (\mathcal{T}, T, τ) is a cartesian category T equipped with an identity-on-objects cartesian functor $\tau : X(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow T$. The category of **models** of T in **context** C is $\mathbf{AlgThy}(T, C)$.

Algebraic theories: Variable binding

While cartesian categories describe traditional algebraic structure, there is an important construction which they cannot express: *variable binding*.

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To apply to programming languages, we need a theory which allows for binding operations and a definition of capture-avoiding substitution.

In *Abstract Syntax and Variable Binding* [1], Fiore, Turi, and Plotkin describe operads with this structure, using the insight that exponentiating by representables is context extension.

$$\Lambda^{y(1)}(n) \simeq \text{Set}^{\mathbb{F}}(\mathbb{F}(n, -) \times \mathbb{F}(1, -), \Lambda) \simeq \text{Set}^{\mathbb{F}}(\mathbb{F}(n+1, -), \Lambda) \simeq \Lambda(n+1).$$

$$\lambda : \Lambda^{y(1)} \Rightarrow \Lambda$$

Algebraic theories: Variable binding

Definition

An object $s \in T$ is **exponentiable** if for all t there is an object t^s , equipped with a map $ev_{s,t} : s \times t^s \rightarrow t$ which for every $u : a \times s \rightarrow t$ there is a unique $u^\bullet : a \rightarrow t^s$ so that $u = ev_{s,t} \circ (u^\bullet \times id_s)$.

Definition

A functor $F : T \rightarrow C$ **preserves** the exponentiable object s if $F(s)$ is exponentiable and for all t ,

$$ev_{s,t}^\bullet : F(t^s) \simeq F(t)^{F(s)} \text{ and } F(ev_{s,t}) = ev_{F(s),F(t)}.$$

We call F **exponent** if it preserves all exponentiable objects.

Algebraic theories: Variable binding

There is a pseudomonad $E : \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ for the “free cartesian category on a set of exponentiable objects” construction.

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Let \mathbf{Cart} be the 2-category of cartesian categories. Define the 2-category of **second-order algebraic theories** to be

$$\mathbf{SOAT} := \int_{\mathbf{Set}} (E(-)/\mathbf{Cart})_{\mathbf{idobj}, \mathbf{exp}}.$$

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A second-order algebraic theory (\mathcal{T}, T, τ) is a cartesian category T with an identity-on-objects cartesian exponent functor $\tau : E(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow T$. The category of **models** of T in **context** C is $\mathbf{SOAT}(T, C)$.

Algebraic theories: ρ -calculus

ρ -calculus

$$0 : 1 \rightarrow P \quad | : P \times P \rightarrow P$$

$$@ : P \rightarrow N \quad \text{out} : N \times P \rightarrow P$$

$$* : N \rightarrow P \quad \text{in} : N \times [N, P] \rightarrow P$$

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$$\text{COMM} : \text{out}(a, q) \mid \text{in}(a, x.p) = p[@q/x]$$

$$\text{EVAL} : *@(p) = p$$

$$(P, |, 0) \text{ commutative monoid}$$

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Presheaves and subobjects

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Definition

The **Yoneda embedding** $y : T \rightarrow [T^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$ sends $s \mapsto T(-, s)$ and $(f : s \rightarrow t) \mapsto (f \circ - : T(-, s) \Rightarrow T(-, t))$.

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If T is a theory, then $T(-, s)$ assigns the data

$$r \mapsto \{\text{terms } r \rightarrow s\}.$$

Presheaves and subobjects

The category of presheaves $\widehat{T} := [T^{\text{op}}, \text{Set}]$ is a *topos*, a category with rich internal logic: finite limits are given pointwise, exponentials are given by

$$[P, Q](s) = \widehat{T}(T(-, s) \times P, Q)$$

and the subobject classifier is given by

$$\Omega(s) = \{P \mid P \multimap T(-, s)\}.$$

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We can interpret subobjects as predicates, and use logical constructors.

Lemma

For any presheaf $A : T^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$, subfunctors form a Heyting algebra $\mathcal{P}(A)$. They are ordered by inclusion, with meet and join defined by pointwise intersection and union. Implication is defined:

$$(\psi \Rightarrow \varphi)(t) := \{a \in A(t) \mid \forall u : s \rightarrow t. a \cdot u \in \psi(s) \Rightarrow a \cdot u \in \varphi(s)\}.$$

Presheaves and subobjects: Quantifiers

The subobject functor is a *hyperdoctrine*:

Lemma

Let $\widehat{\mathbf{T}}$ be a topos, and $\mathcal{P} : \mathbf{T}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ be the subobject functor. For each $f : A \rightarrow B$ there is a triple adjunction $\exists_f \dashv \mathcal{P}(f) \dashv \forall_f$ which satisfies that quantification commutes with substitution and \forall_f preserves implication.

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In \mathbf{Set} , $\mathcal{P}(f)$ is preimage, \exists_f is direct image, and \forall_f is saturated image.

In a presheaf topos $\widehat{\mathbf{T}}$ these are defined for $\varphi \multimap A$:

$$\begin{aligned}\exists_f(\varphi)(t) &= \{b \in B(t) \mid \exists u : s \rightarrow t. \exists a \in A. b \cdot u = f_s(a) \wedge a \in \varphi(s)\} \\ \forall_f(\varphi)(t) &= \{b \in B(t) \mid \forall u : s \rightarrow t. \forall a \in A. b \cdot u = f_s(a) \Rightarrow a \in \varphi(s)\}.\end{aligned}$$

Presheaves and subobjects: Sieves

Let \mathcal{T} be a category and s be an object. A **sieve** on s is a class of morphisms into s which is closed under precomposition.

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Example

Any morphism in \mathcal{T} generates a *singleton sieve*:

$$f : r \rightarrow s \quad \mapsto \quad S(f) \rightharpoonup \mathcal{T}(-, s)$$

$$S(f)(a) := \{op : a \rightarrow s \mid \exists u : a \rightarrow r. op = f \circ u\}.$$

Presheaves and subobjects: Lax structure

We henceforth use $\mathcal{P} : \widehat{\mathbf{T}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ to denote $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{f}) := \exists_{\mathbf{f}}$.

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We are interested in the lax cartesian structure of \mathcal{P} , denoted \sqcap , so that we can lift operations

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \rightarrow \mathbf{c}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}} : \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{a})) \times \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{b})) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{c})).$$

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Lemma

Let $(\mathcal{P}, \lambda) : \widehat{\mathbf{T}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ be the colax subobject functor. Define

$$\sqcap_{AB} : \mathcal{P}(A) \times \mathcal{P}(B) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(A \times B) \quad \text{by} \quad \sqcap_{AB}(U, V) = U \times V.$$

Then (\mathcal{P}, \sqcap) is lax cartesian, and $\lambda \dashv \sqcap$.

Presheaves and subobjects: Lax structure

While it is well-known that \mathcal{P} is “adjoint-lax” with respect to products, it is also adjoint-lax with respect to closed structure.

Definition

The lax structure (\mathcal{P}, \sqcap) induces a lax *closed* structure (\mathcal{P}, Λ) , given by the currying of evaluation:

$$\Lambda_{AB} : \mathcal{P}([A, B]) \rightarrow [\mathcal{P}(A), \mathcal{P}(B)]$$

$$\Lambda_{AB}(X)(S)(c) = \{ev(f, a) \mid f \in X(c), a \in S(c)\}.$$

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Puzzle

Given a function $f : [A, B] \rightarrow C$, how can we define a lifting

$$\bar{f} : [\mathcal{P}(A), \mathcal{P}(B)] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)?$$

Presheaves and subobjects: Lax structure

Definition

We say that $\mathfrak{f} \in [A, B](c)$ **respects** a functor $F : \mathcal{P}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(B)$ if every subfunctor S of A paired with $y(c)$ has direct image contained in $F(S)(c)$:

$$\mathfrak{f} \text{ respects } F := \forall S \in \mathcal{P}(A). \mathcal{P}(\mathfrak{f})(y(c) \times S) \subseteq F(S)(c).$$

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$$f \text{ respects } F := \forall S \in \mathcal{P}(A). \mathcal{P}(f)(y(c) \times S) \subseteq F(S)(c).$$

Lemma

Let $(\mathcal{P}, \Lambda) : \hat{\mathbf{T}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ be the lax closed subobject functor. Define

$$R_{AB} : [\mathcal{P}(A), \mathcal{P}(B)] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}([A, B])$$

$$R_{AB}(F)(c) = \{f \in [A, B](c) \mid f \text{ respects } F\}.$$

Then (\mathcal{P}, R) is colax closed, and $\Lambda \dashv R$.

Structural types: Lifting

Definition

Let T be a second-order algebraic theory, and let $f : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i] \rightarrow t$ be an operation.

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Let T be a second-order algebraic theory, and let $f : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i] \rightarrow t$ be an operation.

Define the **lifting** of f to be

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(y(s_{ij})), \mathcal{P}(y(t_i))] & \xrightarrow{\quad \bar{f} \quad} & \mathcal{P}(y(t)) \\ \Pi[\lambda, id] \downarrow & & \uparrow \mathcal{P}(f) \\ \prod_{i=1}^n [\mathcal{P}(\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} y(s_{ij})), \mathcal{P}(y(t_i))] & \xrightarrow{\Pi_R} \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{P}(y([\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i])) & \xrightarrow{\quad \Pi \quad} \mathcal{P}(y(\prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i])) \end{array}$$

Structural types: Lifting

Definition

Let \mathbb{T} be a second-order algebraic theory, and let $\mathbf{f} : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathbf{s}_{ij}, \mathbf{t}_i] \rightarrow \mathbf{t}$ be an operation.

Define the **lifting** of \mathbf{f} to be

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Hence for $(F_i : \prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{s}_{ij})) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y(\mathbf{t}_i)))_{i=1}^n$,

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}}(F_1, \dots, F_n)(\mathbf{r}) = \{\mathbf{f}(u_1, \dots, u_n) : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{t} \mid \forall i. u_i \text{ respects } F_i \circ \lambda\}.$$

Structural types: Lifting

Theorem

*Let (\mathcal{T}, T, τ) be a second-order algebraic theory.
The lifting defines a colax functor*

$$\omega_T : T \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}.$$

Moreover, ω_T preserves products and exponentials by construction, giving a “colax model” of T in \mathbf{Pos} .

Structural types: Structural theory

Definition

Define

$$\omega_T(\prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i]) = \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(y(s_{ij})), \mathcal{P}(y(t_i))]$$

and for $f : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i] \rightarrow t$ define

$$\omega_T(f) = \bar{f} : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(y(s_{ij})), \mathcal{P}(y(t_i))] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y(t)).$$

Structural types: Structural theory

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$$\omega_T(f) = \bar{f} : \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} \mathcal{P}(y(s_{ij})), \mathcal{P}(y(t_i))] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(y(t)).$$

A general operation $g : \prod_{k=1}^m [\prod_{l=1}^{m_k} p_{kl}, q_k] \rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^n [\prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij}, t_i]$ is equivalent to an n -tuple of operations

$$\langle g_i^\circ : \prod_{k=1}^m [\prod_{l=1}^{m_k} p_{kl}, q_k] \times \prod_{j=1}^{n_i} s_{ij} \rightarrow t_i \rangle_n;$$

we thereby define

$$\omega_T(g) = \langle \bar{g}_1^\circ, \dots, \bar{g}_n^\circ \rangle.$$

Structural types: Structural theory

Definition

The **structural theory** of T is ω_T .

The **category of constructors** of T is the full image of ω_T , the full subcategory $\omega_T(T) \subset \mathbf{Pos}$ containing all $\omega_T(s)$.

We abbreviate $\omega_T(s) =: s_\omega$.

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Theorem

The map $(T \mapsto \omega_T)$ defines a 2-functor

$$\omega : \mathbf{SOAT} \rightarrow (\iota \downarrow \mathbf{Pos})$$

where the latter is the comma 2-category of the inclusion $\iota : \mathbf{SOAT} \rightarrow \mathbf{2Cat}_{\text{colax}}$ and the constant $\mathbf{Pos} : 1 \rightarrow \mathbf{2Cat}_{\text{colax}}$.

Structural types: ρ -calculus

Let T be the theory of the ρ -calculus. The lifted signature provides the algebraic type constructors of namespace logic.

Definition

The $\omega\rho$ -**calculus** has algebraic type constructors:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \bar{0} : 1 \rightarrow P_\omega & \bar{\mid} : P_\omega \times P_\omega & \rightarrow P_\omega \\ \bar{\otimes} : P_\omega \rightarrow N_\omega & \overline{\text{out}} : N_\omega \times P_\omega & \rightarrow P_\omega \\ \bar{*} : N_\omega \rightarrow P_\omega & \overline{\text{in}} : N_\omega \times [N_\omega, P_\omega] & \rightarrow P_\omega. \end{array}$$

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We can now construct the type of single-threaded processes:

$$\text{single.thread} := \neg[0] \wedge \neg[\neg[0] \mid \neg[0]].$$

Structural types: ρ -calculus

By lifting the binding operation $\text{in} : N \times [N, P] \rightarrow P$, we gain significant expressiveness. Just as in binds a free name variable,

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In the untyped language, the process $\text{in}(n, x.p)$ receives data over n and substitutes into $p[x]$. In the $\omega\rho$ -calculus, a term of type

$$\overline{\text{in}}(\alpha, \chi.\Phi)$$

is a process which inputs on a name in α , and receiving a name of type χ gives a process of type $\Phi(\chi)$.

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One can use typed input to design *structural queries*: programs which search not by external attributes, but by the actual structure of code.

Structural types: Colaxity

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The lifting of the composite doesn't “see” the type-level binding for constructors, while the composite of the liftings does. Nevertheless, the information is retained by the colax structure.

Application Namespace Logic

Starting from the practical end of things, whether we consider MAC addresses, IP addresses, domain names or URL's it is clear that distributed computing is practiced, today, using names. Moreover, it is essential to the programs that administer as well as to the ones that compute over this distributed computing infrastructure that these names have structure.

Thus, when we look to theory, especially a theory like the π -calculus, of computing based on interaction over named channels, to help us with this practice some story must be told about how the structure of these names contributes to interaction and computation over (channels named by) them. [4]

Application Namespace Logic

We have built all of the tools used in namespace logic, except for one: *fixed point type constructors*.

Definition

Let \mathbb{T} be a second-order algebraic theory, and let $\omega_{\mathbb{T}} : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ be the structural theory of \mathbb{T} . Let $\Phi : s_{\omega} \rightarrow t_{\omega}$ be a morphism in the category of constructors of \mathbb{T} . Because each s_{ω} is complete and cocomplete, the limit and colimit of Φ exist, denoted

$$\lim \Phi = \bigwedge_{\varphi \in s_{\omega}} \Phi(\varphi) \quad \text{and} \quad \bigvee_{\varphi \in s_{\omega}} \Phi(\varphi).$$

In the case that $s = t$, denote the *greatest fixed point* and *least fixed point* as special limits and colimits:

$$\nu X. \Phi(X) := \bigwedge_{\varphi \leq \Phi(\varphi)} \Phi(\varphi) \quad \text{and} \quad \mu X. \Phi(X) := \bigvee_{\Phi(\varphi) \leq \varphi} \Phi(\varphi).$$

Application Namespace Logic

Example

Two important properties of a distributed system are *liveness* and *safety*. Suppose we have a namespace α of all names trusted by processes in S .

Liveness : S can always communicate on α .

Safety : S can never communicate on $\neg\alpha$.

Application Namespace Logic

Example

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Liveness : S can always communicate on α .

Safety : S can never communicate on $\neg\alpha$.

We can express these conditions as a recursive structural type.

$$\text{sole.in}(\alpha) := \nu X. [\overline{\text{in}}(\alpha, N.X) \mid P] \wedge \neg[\overline{\text{in}}(\neg[\alpha], N.P) \mid P]$$

In effect, this is a *compile-time firewall*: a process satisfies this predicate if and only if it can always input on a name in α , and it can never input on a name in $\neg\alpha$.

The type theory

Kinds The sorts $s \in \mathcal{T}$, products in \mathcal{T} and exponents by $t \in \mathcal{T}$.

Types The objects of $\omega_{\mathcal{T}}$ derived by the following constructors.

Lifted operations	$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \{\bar{f} : s_{\omega} \rightarrow t_{\omega}\}$
Predicate logic	$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}} \{\wedge_s, \vee_s : s_{\omega}^2 \rightarrow s_{\omega}\}$ $\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}} \{\Rightarrow_s : s_{\omega}^{\text{op}} \times s_{\omega} \rightarrow s_{\omega}\}$
Fixed points	$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}} \{\nu_s, \mu_s : [s_{\omega}, s_{\omega}] \rightarrow s_{\omega}\}$
Limits and Colimits	$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \{\lim_{st}, \text{colim}_{st} : [s_{\omega}, t_{\omega}] \rightarrow t_{\omega}\}$

Terms The following inference is the introduction rule for terms in $\omega_{\mathcal{T}}$; the polymorphism of operations with respect to their liftings is automatic from the construction of $\omega_{\mathcal{T}}$.

$$\frac{\Xi, \vec{\chi}_i : \vec{s}_{\omega} \vdash \Phi : t_{\omega}^i \quad \Xi \mid \Gamma, \vec{x}_i : \vec{\chi}_i \vdash u_i : \Phi_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)}{\Xi \mid \Gamma \vdash f(u_1, \dots, u_n) : \bar{f}(\vec{\chi}_1.\Phi_1, \dots, \vec{\chi}_n.\Phi_n) :: t_{\omega}}$$






Thanks for listening.

Structural types for algebraic theories

C. Williams, May 2020

[github:cbw124/stat.pdf](https://github.com/cbw124/stat.pdf)

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