COSE312: Compilers

Lecture 11 — Denotational Semantics

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2023 Spring

Denotational Semantics

- In denotational semantics, we are interested in the mathematical meaning of a program.
- Also called compositional semantics: The meaning of an expression is defined with the meanings of its immediate subexpressions.
- Denotational semantics for **While**:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
a & \rightarrow & n \mid x \mid a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1 \star a_2 \mid a_1 - a_2 \\
b & \rightarrow & \texttt{true} \mid \texttt{false} \mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 \leq a_2 \mid \neg b \mid b_1 \land b_2 \\
c & \rightarrow & x := a \mid \texttt{skip} \mid c_1; c_2 \mid \texttt{if}\ b\ c_1\ c_2 \mid \texttt{while}\ b\ c
\end{array}
$$

Denotational Semantics of Expressions

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\mathcal{A}[\![\, a \,]\!] & : & \textbf{State} \to \mathbb{Z} \\
\mathcal{A}[\![\, n \,]\!](s) & = & n \\
\mathcal{A}[\![\, x \,]\!](s) & = & s(x) \\
\mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 + a_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \,]\!](s) + \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_2 \,]\!](s) \\
\mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \star a_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \,]\!](s) \times \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_2 \,]\!](s) \\
\mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 - a_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \,]\!](s) - \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_2 \,]\!](s)
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\mathcal{B}[\![\, b \,]\!] & : & \textbf{State} \to \mathbf{T} \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, \texttt{true} \,]\!](s) & = & \mathit{true} \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, \texttt{false} \,]\!](s) & = & \mathit{false} \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, a_1 = a_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \,]\!](s) = \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_2 \,]\!](s) \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, a_1 \leq a_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_1 \,]\!](s) \leq \mathcal{A}[\![\, a_2 \,]\!](s) \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, \neg b \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{B}[\![\, b \,]\!](s) = \mathit{false} \\
\mathcal{B}[\![\, b_1 \wedge b_2 \,]\!](s) & = & \mathcal{B}[\![\, b_1 \,]\!](s) \wedge \mathcal{B}[\![\, b_2 \,]\!](s)
\end{array}
$$

Denotational Semantics of Commands

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\mathcal{C}[\![\ c\ ]\!] & : & \mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State} \\
\mathcal{C}[\![\ x := a\ ]\!](s) & = & s[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[\![\ a\ ]\!](s)] \\
\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{skip}\ ]\!] & = & \textsf{id} \\
\mathcal{C}[\![\ c_1; c_2\ ]\!] & = & \mathcal{C}[\![\ c_2\ ]\!] \circ \mathcal{C}[\![\ c_1\ ]\!] \\
\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{if}\ b\ c_1\ c_2\ ]\!] & = & \textsf{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![\ b\ ]\!], \mathcal{C}[\![\ c_1\ ]\!], \mathcal{C}[\![\ c_2\ ]\!]) \\
\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!] & = & \mathit{fix} F
\end{array}
$$

where

$$\textsf{cond}(f, g, h) = \lambda s. \begin{cases} g(s) & \cdots f(s) = \mathit{true} \\ h(s) & \cdots f(s) = \mathit{false} \end{cases}$$

$$F(g) = \textsf{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![\ b\ ]\!], g \circ \mathcal{C}[\![\ c\ ]\!], \textsf{id})$$

Denotational Semantics of Loops

The meaning of the while loop is the mathematical object (i.e. partial function in $\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State}$) that satisfies the equation:

$$\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!] = \mathbf{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![\ b\ ]\!], \mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!] \circ \mathcal{C}[\![\ c\ ]\!], \mathbf{id}).$$

Rewrite the equation:

$$\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!] = F(\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!])$$

where

$$F(g) = \mathbf{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![\ b\ ]\!], g \circ \mathcal{C}[\![\ c\ ]\!], \mathbf{id}).$$

The meaning of the while loop is defined as the least fixed point of F:

$$\mathcal{C}[\![\ \texttt{while}\ b\ c\ ]\!] = \mathit{fix} F$$

where $\mathit{fix} F$ denotes the *least fixed point* of F.

Example

$$\texttt{while}\ \neg(x = 0)\ \texttt{skip}$$

- F
- $\mathit{fix}\, F$

Questions

- Does the least fixed point $\mathit{fix}F$ exist?
- Is $\mathit{fix}F$ unique?
- How to compute $\mathit{fix}F$?

Fixed Point Theory

Theorem

Let $f : D \to D$ be a continuous function on a CPO D. Then f has a (unique) least fixed point, $\mathit{fix}(f)$, and

$$\mathit{fix}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} f^n(\bot).$$

The denotational semantics is well-defined if

- $\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State}$ is a CPO, and
- $F : (\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State}) \to (\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State})$ is a continuous function.

Plan

- Complete Partial Order
- Continuous Functions
- Least Fixed Point

Partially Ordered Set

Definition (Partial Order)

We say a binary relation $\sqsubseteq$ is a partial order on a set D iff $\sqsubseteq$ is

- reflexive: $\forall p \in D.\ p \sqsubseteq p$
- transitive: $\forall p, q, r \in D.\ p \sqsubseteq q \ \wedge \ q \sqsubseteq r \implies p \sqsubseteq r$
- anti-symmetric: $\forall p, q \in D.\ p \sqsubseteq q \ \wedge \ q \sqsubseteq p \implies p = q$

We call such a pair $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ partially ordered set, or poset.

Lemma

If a partially ordered set $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ has a least element d, then d is unique.

Exercise 1

Let S be a non-empty set. Prove that $(\mathcal{P}(S), \subseteq)$ is a partially ordered set.

Exercise 2

Let $X \hookrightarrow Y$ be the set of all partial functions from a set X to a set Y, and define $f \sqsubseteq g$ iff

$$\mathsf{Dom}(f) \subseteq \mathsf{Dom}(g) \ \wedge \ \forall x \in \mathsf{Dom}(f).\ f(x) = g(x).$$

Prove that $(X \hookrightarrow Y, \sqsubseteq)$ is a partially ordered set.

Least Upper Bound

Definition (Least Upper Bound)

Let $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ be a partially ordered set and let Y be a subset of D. An upper bound of Y is an element d of D such that

$$\forall d' \in Y.\ d' \sqsubseteq d.$$

An upper bound d of Y is a least upper bound if and only if $d \sqsubseteq d'$ for every upper bound d' of Y. The least upper bound of Y is denoted by $\bigsqcup Y$. The least upper bound (lub, join) of a and b is written as $a \sqcup b$.

Lemma

If Y has a least upper bound d, then d is unique.

Greatest Lower Bound

Definition (Greatest Lower Bound)

Let $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ be a partially ordered set and let Y be a subset of D. A lower bound of Y is an element d of D such that

$$\forall d' \in Y.\ d \sqsubseteq d'.$$

An lower bound d of Y is a greatest lower bound if and only if $d' \sqsubseteq d$ for every lower bound d' of Y. The greatest lower bound of Y is denoted by $\sqcap Y$. The greatest lower bound (glb, meet) of a and b is written as $a \sqcap b$.

Chain

Definition (Chain)

Let $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ be a poset and Y a subset of D. Y is called a chain if Y is totally ordered:

$$\forall y_1, y_2 \in Y. y_1 \sqsubseteq y_2 \text{ or } y_2 \sqsubseteq y_1.$$

Example

Consider the poset $(\mathcal{P}(\{a, b, c\}), \subseteq)$.

- $Y_1 = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{a, c\}\}$
- $Y_2 = \{\emptyset, \{a\}, \{c\}, \{a, c\}\}$

Complete Partial Order (CPO)

Definition (CPO)

A poset $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ is a CPO, if every chain $Y \subseteq D$ has $\bigsqcup Y \in D$.

Lemma

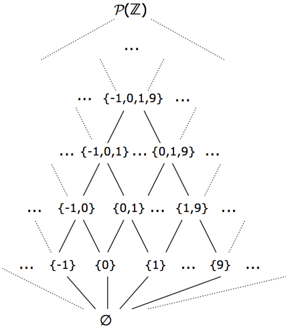
If $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ is a CPO, then it has a least element $\bot$ given by $\bot = \bigsqcup \emptyset$.

* We denote the least element and the greatest element in a poset as $\bot$ and $\top$, respectively, if they exist.

Examples

Example

Let S be a non-empty set. Then, $(\mathcal{P}(S), \subseteq)$ is a CPO. The lub $\bigsqcup Y$ for Y is $\bigcup Y$. The least element is $\emptyset$.



Examples

Example

The poset $(X \hookrightarrow Y, \sqsubseteq)$ of all partial functions from a set X to a set Y, equipped with the partial order

$$\mathsf{Dom}(f) \subseteq \mathsf{Dom}(g) \ \wedge \ \forall x \in \mathsf{Dom}(f).\ f(x) = g(x)$$

is a CPO (but not a complete lattice). The lub of a chain Y is the partial function f with $\mathsf{Dom}(f) = \bigcup_{f_i \in Y} \mathsf{Dom}(f_i)$ and

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_n(x) & \cdots x \in \mathsf{Dom}(f_i) \text{ for some } f_i \in Y \\ \mathbf{undef} & \cdots \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The least element $\bot = \lambda x.\mathbf{undef}$.

Lattices

Ordered sets with richer structures.

Definition (Lattice)

A lattice $(D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap)$ is a poset where the lub and glb always exist:

$$\forall a, b \in D.\ a \sqcup b \in D \land a \sqcap b \in D.$$

Definition (Complete Lattice)

A complete lattice $(D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \bot, \top)$ is a poset such that every subset $Y \subseteq D$ has $\bigsqcup Y \in D$ and $\sqcap Y \in D$, and D has a least element $\bot = \bigsqcup \emptyset = \sqcap D$ and a greatest element $\top = \sqcap \emptyset = \bigsqcup D$.

* A complete lattice is a CPO.

Derived Ordered Structures

When $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1, \sqcup_1, \sqcap_1, \bot_1, \top_1)$ and $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2, \sqcup_2, \sqcap_2, \bot_2, \top_2)$ are complete lattices (resp., CPO), so are the following ordered sets:

- Lifting: $(D_1 \cup \{\bot\}, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \bot, \top)$
  - $\bot \notin D_1$ is a new element
  - $a \sqsubseteq b \iff a = \bot \vee a \sqsubseteq_1 b$
  - $\bot \sqcup a = a \sqcup \bot = a$ and otherwise $a \sqcup b = a \sqcup_1 b$ (similar for $\sqcap$)
  - $\top = \top_1$
- Cartesian product: $(D_1 \times D_2, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \bot, \top)$.
- Pointwise lifting: $(S \to D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \bot, \top)$ (S is a set)
  - $a \sqsubseteq b \iff \forall s \in S.\ a(s) \sqsubseteq_1 b(s)$
  - $\forall s \in S.\ (a \sqcup b)(s) \iff a(s) \sqcup_1 b(s)$
  - $\forall s \in S.\ \bot(s) = \bot_1$

Monotone Functions

Definition (Monotone Functions)

A function $f : D \to E$ between posets is *monotone* iff

$$\forall d, d' \in D.\ d \sqsubseteq d' \implies f(d) \sqsubseteq f(d').$$

Example

Consider $(\mathcal{P}(\{a,b,c\}),\subseteq)$ and $(\mathcal{P}(\{d,e\}),\subseteq)$ and two functions $f_1, f_2 : \mathcal{P}(\{a,b,c\}) \to \mathcal{P}(\{d,e\})$

X	$\{a,b,c\}$	$\{a,b\}$	$\{a,c\}$	$\{b,c\}$	$\{a\}$	$\{b\}$	$\{c\}$	$\emptyset$
$f_1(X)$	$\{d,e\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{d,e\}$	$\{d,e\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{e\}$	$\emptyset$

X	$\{a,b,c\}$	$\{a,b\}$	$\{a,c\}$	$\{b,c\}$	$\{a\}$	$\{b\}$	$\{c\}$	$\emptyset$
$f_2(X)$	$\{d\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{e\}$	$\{d\}$	$\{e\}$	$\{e\}$	$\{e\}$

Exercise

Determine which of the following functionals of

$$\mathbf{(State \hookrightarrow State) \to (State \hookrightarrow State)}$$

are monotone:

1. $F_0(g) = g$.
2. $F_1(g) = \begin{cases} g_1 & \cdots g = g_2 \\ g_2 & \cdots \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$ where $g_1 \neq g_2$.
3. $F_2(g) = \lambda s. \begin{cases} g(s) & \cdots s(x) \neq 0 \\ s & \cdots s(x) = 0 \end{cases}$

Properties of Monotone Functions

Lemma

Let $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1)$, $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2)$, and $(D_3, \sqsubseteq_3)$ be CPOs. Let $f : D_1 \to D_2$ and $g : D_2 \to D_3$ be monotone functions. Then, $g \circ f : D_1 \to D_3$ is a monotone function.

Properties of Monotone Functions

Lemma

Let $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1)$ *and* $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2)$ *be CPOs. Let* $f : D_1 \to D_2$ *be a monotone function. If* Y *is a chain in* D_1*, then* $f(Y) = \{f(d) \mid d \in Y\}$ *is a chain in* D_2*. Furthermore,*

$$\bigsqcup f(Y) \sqsubseteq f(\bigsqcup Y).$$

Continuous Functions

Definition (Continuous Functions)

A function $f : D_1 \to D_2$ defined on CPOs $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1)$ and $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2)$ is continuous if it is monotone and it preserves least upper bounds of chains:

$$\bigsqcup f(Y) = f(\bigsqcup Y)$$

for all non-empty chains Y in D_1. If $f(\bigsqcup Y) = \bigsqcup f(Y)$ holds for the empty chain (that is, $\bot = f(\bot)$), then we say that f is strict.

Properties of Continuous Functions

Lemma

Let $f : D_1 \to D_2$ be a monotone function defined on posets $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1)$ and $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2)$ and D_1 is a finite set. Then, f is continuous.

Properties of Continuous Functions

Lemma

Let $(D_1, \sqsubseteq_1)$, $(D_2, \sqsubseteq_2)$, and $(D_3, \sqsubseteq_3)$ be CPOs. Let $f : D_1 \to D_2$ and $g : D_2 \to D_3$ be continuous functions. Then, $g \circ f : D_1 \to D_3$ is a continuous function.

Least Fixed Points

Definition (Fixed Point)

Let $(D, \sqsubseteq)$ be a poset. A *fixed point* of a function $f : D \to D$ is an element $d \in D$ such that $f(d) = d$. We write $\mathit{fix}(f)$ for the *least fixed point* of f, if it exists, such that

- $f(\mathit{fix}(f)) = \mathit{fix}(f)$
- $\forall d \in D.\ f(d) = d \implies \mathit{fix}(f) \sqsubseteq d$

* More notations:

- x is a fixed point of f if $f(x) = x$. Let $\mathbf{fp}(f) = \{x \mid f(x) = x\}$ be the set of fixed points.
- x is a pre-fixed point of f if $x \sqsubseteq f(x)$.
- x is a post-fixed point of f if $x \sqsupseteq f(x)$.
- $\mathbf{lfp}(f)$: the least fixed point
- $\mathbf{gfp}(f)$: the greatest fixed point

Fixed Point Theorem

Theorem (Kleene Fixed Point)

Let $f : D \to D$ *be a continuous function on a CPO* D*. Then* f *has a least fixed point,* $\mathit{fix}(f)$*, and*

$$\mathit{fix}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} f^n(\bot)$$

where $f^n(\bot) = \begin{cases} \bot & n = 0 \\ f(f^{n-1}(\bot)) & n > 0 \end{cases}$

Proof

We show the claims of the theorem by showing that $\bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)$ exists and it is indeed equivalent to $\mathit{fix}(f)$. First note that $\bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)$ exists because $f^0(\bot) \sqsubseteq f^1(\bot) \sqsubseteq f^2(\bot) \sqsubseteq \ldots$ is a chain. We show by induction that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. f^n(\bot) \sqsubseteq f^{n+1}(\bot)$:

- $\bot \sqsubseteq f(\bot)$ ($\bot$ is the least element)
- $f^n(\bot) \sqsubseteq f^{n+1}(\bot) \implies f^{n+1}(\bot) \sqsubseteq f^{n+2}(\bot)$ (monotonicity of f)

Now, we show that $\mathit{fix}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)$ in two steps:

- We show that $\bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)$ is a fixed point of f:

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(\bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)) &= \bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f(f^n(\bot)) && \text{continuity of } f \\
&= \bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^{n+1}(\bot) \\
&= \bigsqcup_{n\geq 0} f^n(\bot)
\end{aligned}
$$

Proofs

- We show that $\bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} f^n(\bot)$ is smaller than all the other fixed points. Suppose d is a fixed point, i.e., $f(d) = d$. Then,

  $$\bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} f^n(\bot) \sqsubseteq d$$

  since $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. f^n(\bot) \sqsubseteq d$:

  $$f^0(\bot) = \bot \sqsubseteq d, \qquad f^n(\bot) \sqsubseteq d \implies f^{n+1}(\bot) \sqsubseteq f(d) = d.$$

Therefore, we conclude

$$\mathit{fix}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} f^n(\bot).$$

Well-definedness of the Semantics

The function F

$$F(g) = \textbf{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![b]\!], g \circ \mathcal{C}[\![c]\!], \textbf{id})$$

is continuous.

Lemma

Let $g_0 : \mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State}, p : \mathbf{State} \to \mathbf{T}$*, and define*

$$F(g) = \textbf{cond}(p, g, g_0).$$

Then, F *is continuous.*

Lemma

Let $g_0 : \mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State}$*, and define*

$$F(g) = g \circ g_0.$$

Then F *is continuous.*