Introduction to ASF+SDF

Mark van den Brand, Paul Klint, Jurgen Viniu





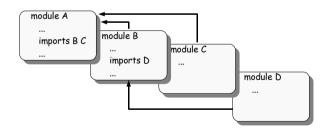




Introduction to ASF+SDF

3

Anatomy of an ASF+SDF Specification





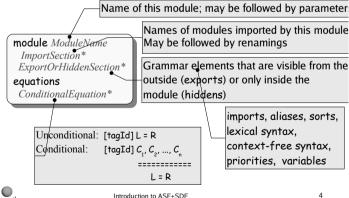
Introduction to ASF+SDF

ASF+SDF

- Goal: defining languages & manipulating programs
- SDF: Syntax definition Formalism
 - lexical syntax: keywords, comments, constants
 - context-free syntax: declarations, statements
- ASF: Algebraic Specification Formalism
 - static semantics: type checks
 - dynamic semantics: running a program

ASF+SDF Meta-environment.org
 ASF+SDF Meta-Environment User Manual:





Nota Env

Introduction to ASF+SDF

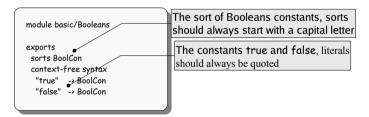
Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions



Introduction to ASE+SDE

Booleans (1)



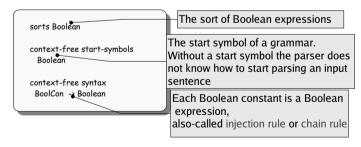
Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions



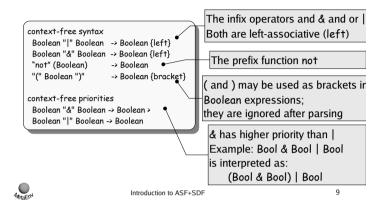
Introduction to ASF+SDF

Booleans (2)

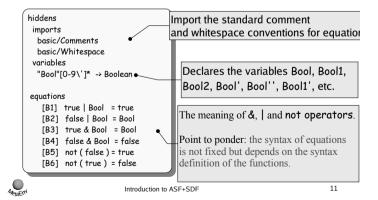




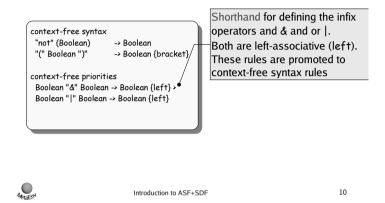
Booleans (3)



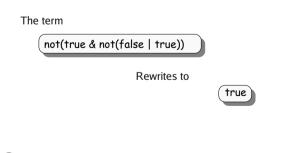
Booleans (5)



Booleans (4)

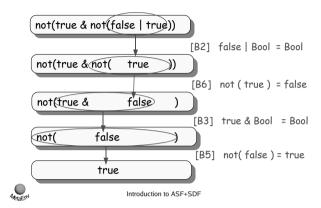


Booleans (6)



Introduction to ASF+SDF

Booleans (7)



Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions



15

13

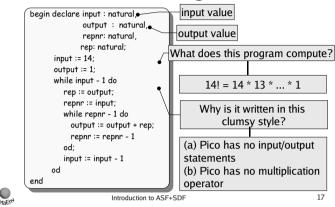
Booleans (8)

- Each module defines a language; in this case the language of Booleans (synonym: datatype)
- We can use this language definition to
 - Create a syntax-directed editor for the Boolean language and create Boolean terms
 - Apply the equations to this term and reduce it to normal form
 - Import it in another module; this makes the Boolean language available for the importing

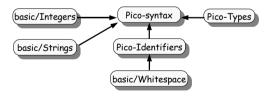
The Toy Language Pico

- Pico has two types: natural number and string
- · Variables have to be declared
- Statements: assign, if-then-else, while-do
- Expressions: natural, string, +, and ||
- + and have natural operands and the result is natural
- || has string operands and the result is string
- Tests (if while) should be of type natural

A Pico Program



Step 1: Define syntax for Pico





Plan

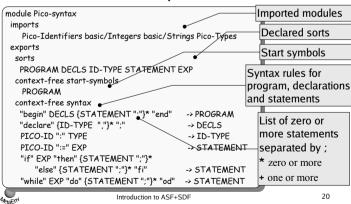
- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions



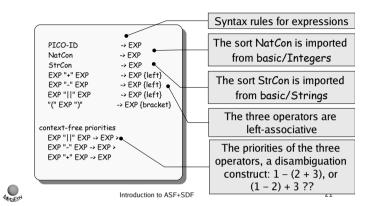
Introduction to ASF+SDF

18

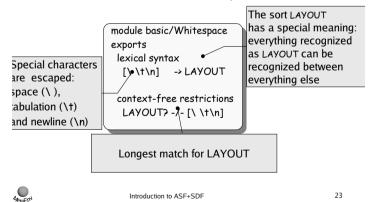
Pico-syntax, 1



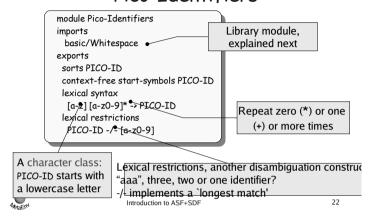
Pico-syntax, 2



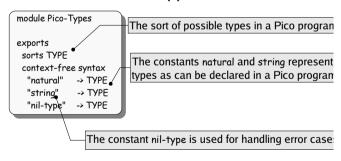
basic/Whitespace



Pico-Identifiers



Pico-Types





Pico: factorial program

Introduction to ASE+SDE

25

27

Intermezzo: Symbols (1)

An elementary symbol is:

- Literal: "abc"
- Sort (non-terminal) names: INT
- Character classes: [a-z]: one of a, b, ..., z
 - ~: complement of character class.
 - /: difference of two character classes.
 - /\: intersection of two character classes.
 - \/: union of two character classes.



Introduction to ASF+SDF

Syntax for Pico: summary

- The modules Pico-syntax, Pico-identifiers and Pico-Types define (together with the modules they import) the syntax for the Pico language
- This syntax can be used to
 - Generate a parser that can parse Pico programs
 - Generate a syntax-directed editor for Pico programs
 - Generate a parser that can parse equations containing fragments of Pico programs



Introduction to ASF+SDF

26

Intermezzo: Symbols (2)

A complex symbol is:

- Repetition:
 - S* zero or more times S; S+ one or more times S
 - {S1 S2}* zero or more times S1 separated by S2
 - {S1 S2}+ one or more times S1 separated by S2
- Optional: 5? zero or one occurrences of S
- Alternative: S | T an S or a T
- Tuple: <5,T> shorthand for "<" 5 "," T ">"
- Parameterized sorts: S[[P1, P2]]



Intermezzo: productions (functions)

- General form of a production (function):
 - S1 S2 ... Sn -> S0 Attributes
- Lexical syntax and context-free syntax are similar, but
 - Between the symbols in a production optional layout symbols may occur in the input text.
 - A context-free production is equivalent with:
 - S1 LAYOUT? S2 LAYOUT? ... LAYOUT? Sn -> S0

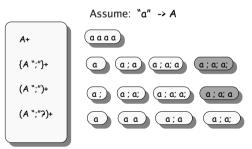


Introduction to ASF+SDF

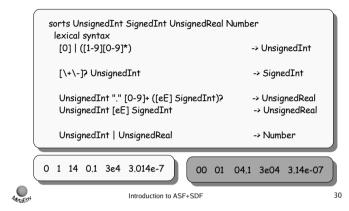
29

31

Intermezzo: lists, lists, lists, ...



Example: floating point numbers



Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions





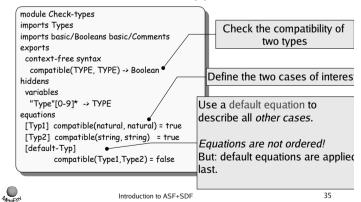
Step 2: Define typechecker for PICO

- The types are natural and string
- All variables should be declared before use
- · Lhs and Rhs of assignment should have equal type
- The test in while and if-then should be natural
- Operands of + and should be natural; result is natural

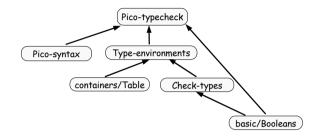


• Operands of how to be string; result string 33

Check-types

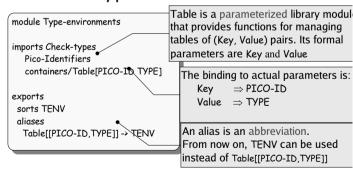


Pico typechecker: modules



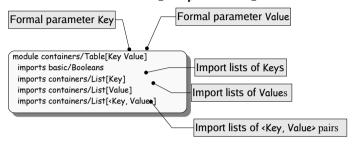
Introduction to ASF+SDF

Type-environments





Table[Key Value]



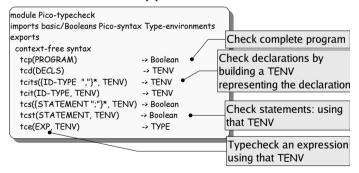


Introduction to ASF+SDF

37

39

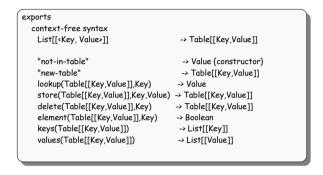
Pico-typecheck (1)





Introduction to ASF+SDF

Table[Key Value]

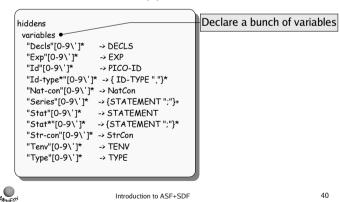


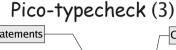
MADERY

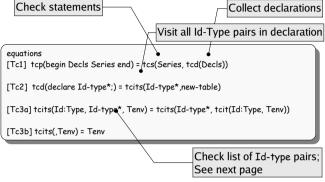
Introduction to ASF+SDF

38

Pico-typecheck (2)



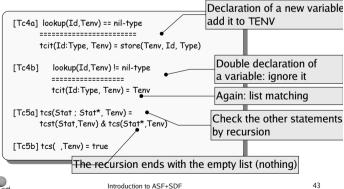




41

Pico-typecheck (5)

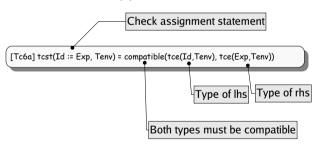
Introduction to ASF+SDF



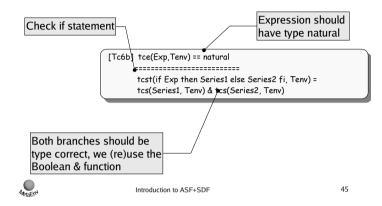
Pico-typecheck (4) Comma separates List matching: decomposes arguments of tcits a list of type { ID-TYPE ","}* into three values: the first element of the form Id:Type and the remainder of the Comma in list Id-type* ID-TYPE list [Tc3a] tcits(Id:Type, Id-type*, Tenv) = tcits(Id-type*, tcit(Id:Type, Tenv)) [Tc3b] tcits(,Tenv) = Tenv Visit all declarations and treat each declaration separately

Introduction to ASF+SDF

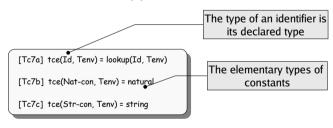
Pico-typecheck (6)



Pico-typecheck (7)

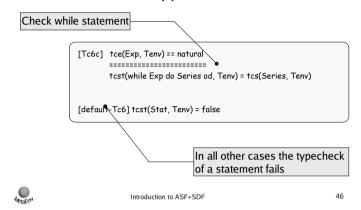


Pico-typecheck (9)

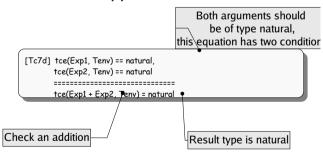


Mara Env

Pico-typecheck (8)

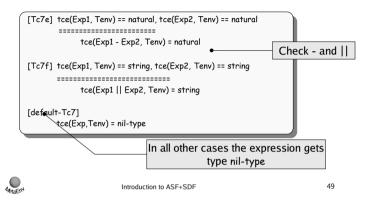


Pico-typecheck (10)





Pico-typecheck (11)



Intermezzo: equations (1)

Left-hand side may never consist of a single variable

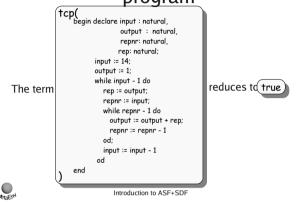
Right-hand side may not contain uninstantiated variables:

Meta Env

Introduction to ASF+SDF

51

Typechecking the factorial program



Intermezzo: equations (2)

Rules are not ordered, so this program either executes B1, or B2, but you don't know which!

```
[B1] true & Bool = Bool
[B2] true & false = false
```

Solution: default rule is tried when all other rules fail:

```
[B1] true & Bool = Bool
[default-B1] Bool1 & Bool2 = Bool1
```

Or.. add conditions to make them mutually exclusive



Introduction to ASF+SDF

Intermezzo: equations (3)

- A conditional equation succeeds when lefthand side matches and all conditions are successfully evaluated
- An equation may have zero or more conditions:
 - equality: "=="; no uninstantiated variables may be used
 - inequality: "!="; no uninstantiated variables
 - match: ":="; rhs may not contain uninstantiated variables, lhs may contain new variables,
 - and not-mattch: The street of the second s

Typechecking Pico: summary (2)

- ASF+SDF: provides syntax and datastructures for analyzing and manipulating programs
- Does not assume anything about the language you manipulate (no heuristics)
- You can, *and have to*, "define" the static semantics of Pico
- An implementation is generated from the definition

55



- The modules Pico-typecheck, Check-types and Type-environments define (together with the modules they import) the typechecking rules for the Pico language
- They can be used to
 - Generate a stand-alone Pico typechecker
 - Add a typecheck button to a syntax-directed editor for Pico programs



Introduction to ASF+SDF

- 4

Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions



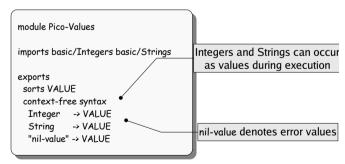
Step 3: Define evaluator for PICO

- Natural variables are initialized to 0
- String variables are initialized to ""
- Variable on lhs of assignment gets value of Rhs
- Variable evaluates to its current value
- Test in while and if-then equal to 0 => false
- Test in while and if-then not equal to 0 => true



Introduction to ASF+SDF

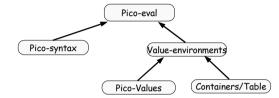
Pico-Values



Meta Env

Pico evaluator

The Pico evaluator/runner/interpreter simply "transforms" a P program to the output it generates, by stepwise reduction. This is called an "operational" semantics.



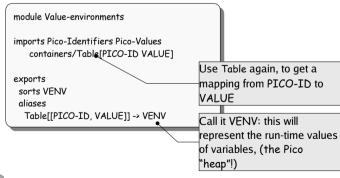
A transformation like this is similar to any other transformation, like for example a transformation from a Java class to a report of identified "code smells".



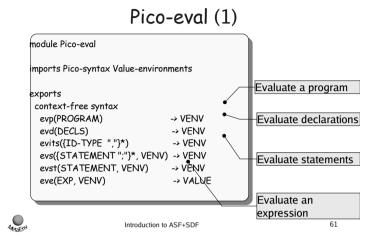
Introduction to ASF+SDF

EO

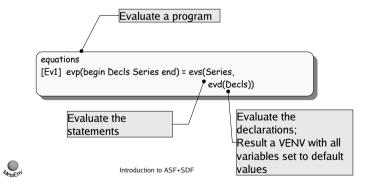
Value-environments (1)



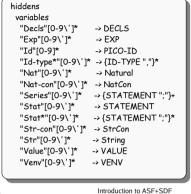




Pico-eval (3)



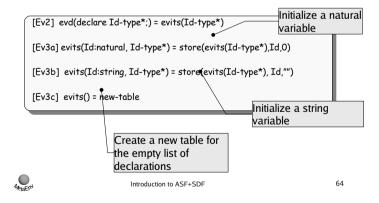
Pico-eval (2)



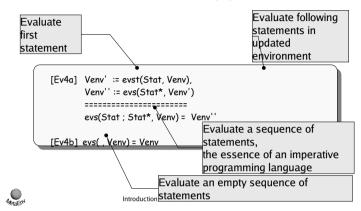
Illitoduction to ASI +3DI

62

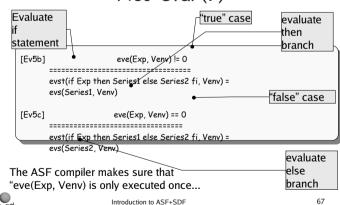
Pico-eval (4)



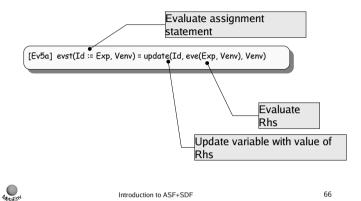
Pico-eval (5)



Pico-eval (7)



Pico-eval (6)

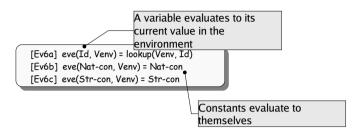


Pico-eval (8) Evaluate "false" case: while while ends statemen [Ev5d] eve(Exp, Venv) == 0evst(while Exp do Series od, Venv) = Venv "true" case: while [Ev5e] eve(Exp, Venv) != 0, contin Evaluate body once Venv' := evs(Series, Venv) evst(while Exp do Series od, Venv) = eyst (while Exp do Series od Veny') Evaluate while statement in updated environment

68

Introduction to ASF+SDF

Pico-eval (9)

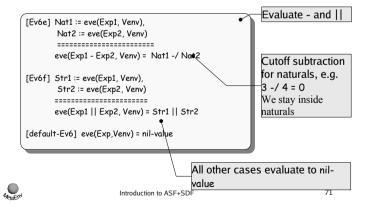




Introduction to ASF+SDF

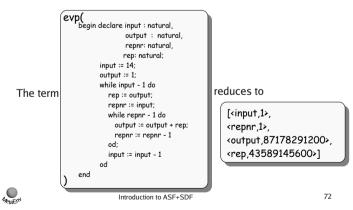
60

Pico-eval (11)



Pico-eval (10) Evaluate left operand Evaluate right operand [Ev6d] Nat1 := eve(Exp1, Venv), Nat2 := eve(Exp2, Venv) eve(Exp1 + Exp2, Venv) = Nat1 + Nat2 Add the resulting values, /Funny: two different "+" Evaluate reuses the definition signs, that look the same! addition One is "Integer", one is "EXP of Integer arithmetic from the library module basic/Integers Introduction to ASE+SDE

Evaluating the factorial program



Evaluating Pico: summary

- The modules Pico-eval, Pico-values, and Valueenvironments define (together with the modules they import) the evaluation rules for the Pico language
- They can be used to
 - Generate a stand-alone Pico evaluator
 - Add an evaluation button to a syntax-directed editor for Pico programs



Introduction to ASF+SDF

73

75

Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions

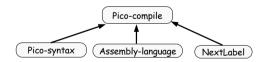
Evaluating Pico: summary (2)

- ASF+SDF is used to define a rather complex transformation
- No assumptions about the transformation, it is just a convenient language for manipulating trees
- But.. there is more!



Introduction to ASF+SDF

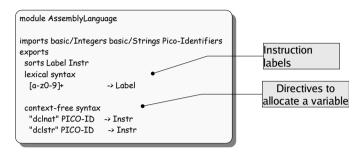
Pico compiler



A more standard example of a transformation: input Pico; output Assembly for a stack based instruction set (similar to Java bytecode)



AssemblyLanguage (1)

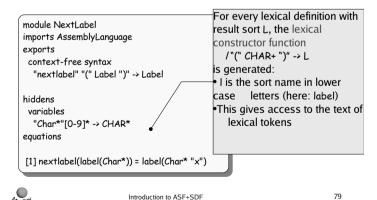




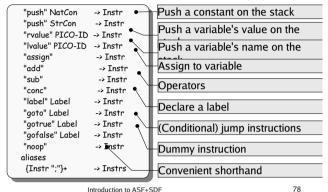
Introduction to ASF+SDF

77

NextLabel



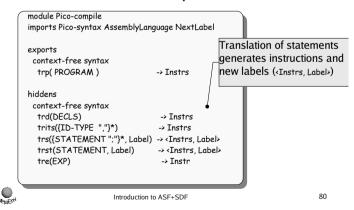
AssemblyLanguage (2)



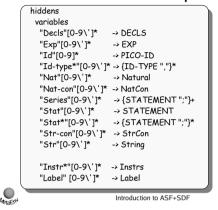


Introduction to ASF+SDF

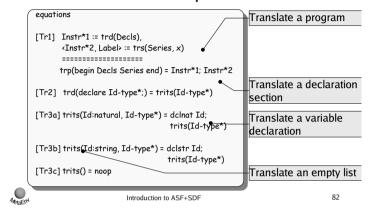
Pico-compile (1)



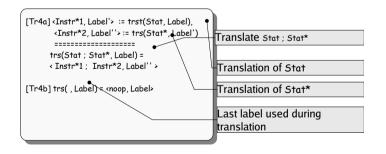
Pico-compile (2)



Pico-compile (3)

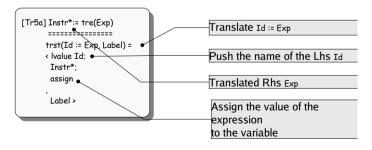


Pico-compile (4)



Introduction to ASF+SDF

Pico-compile (5)



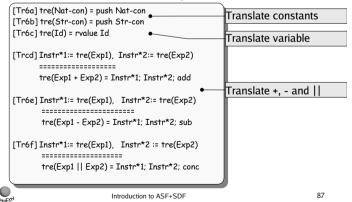


83

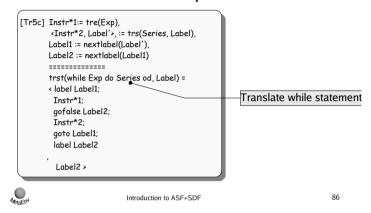
Pico-compile (6)

```
[Tr5b] Instr*:= tre(Exp)
       <Instr*1, Label'>:= trs(Series1, Label),
       <Instr*2, Label''>:= trs(Series2, Label').
      Label1 := nextlabel(Label'').
                                                      Translate if statement
      Label2 := nextlabel(Label1)
      -----
      trst(if Exp then Series1 else Series2 fi, Label) =
      < Instr*;
       gofalse Label1;
       Instr*1;
       goto Label2;
       label Label1;
       Instr*2:
       label Label2
       Label2 >
                                                                              85
                           Introduction to ASF+SDF
```

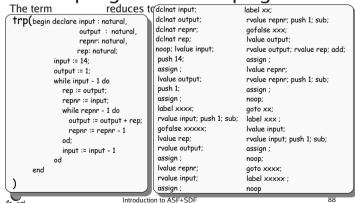
Pico-compile (8)



Pico-compile (7)



Compiling the factorial program



Compiling Pico: summary

- The modules Pico-compile, AssemblyLanguage, and NextLabel define (together with the modules they import) the compilation rules for the Pico language
- They can be used to
 - Generate a stand-alone Pico compiler
 - Add an compilation button to a syntax-directed editor for Pico programs

MetaEnv

MADERN

Introduction to ASF+SDF

Plan

- Booleans
- Steps towards a Pico environment
 - Step 1: define syntax
 - Step 2: define a typechecker
 - Step 3: define an evaluator
 - Step 4: define a compiler
- Traversal functions

Introduction to ASF+SDF

Compiling Pico: summary

Just another transformation by ASF+SDF



Introduction to ASF+SDF

00

Traversal Functions (1)

- Many functions have the characteristic that they traverse the tree *recursively* and only do something interesting at a few nodes
- Example: count the identifiers in a program
- Using a recursive (inductive) definition:
 - # of equations is equal to number of syntax rules
 - think about Cobol or Java with hundreds of rules
- Traversal functions automate recursion



Traversal Functions (2)

There are two important aspects of traversal functions:

- the kind of traversal
 - accumulate a value during traversal
 - transform the tree during traversal
- the order of traversal
 - top-down versus bottom-up
 - left-to-right versus right-to-left (we only have the first)
 - break or continue after a visit

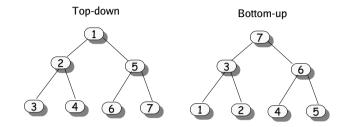


Introduction to ASF+SDF

Three kinds of traversals

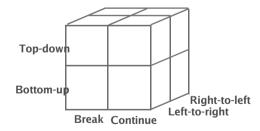
- Accumulator: traversal(accu)
 - accumulate a value during traversal
- Transformer: traversal(trafo)
 - perform local transformations
- Accumulating transformer: traversal(accu, trafo)
 - accumulate and transform

Top-down versus Bottom-up



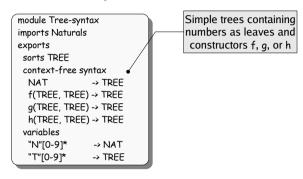
Introduction to ASE+SDE

Traversal Cube: visiting behaviour





Simple Trees

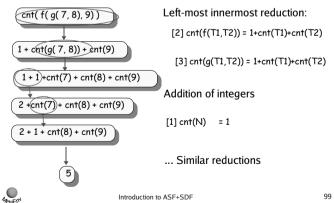


MetaEn

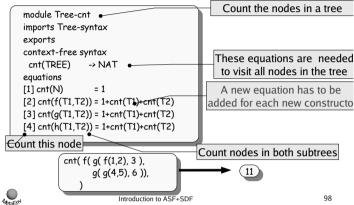
Introduction to ASF+SDF

97

Example



Count nodes (classical)



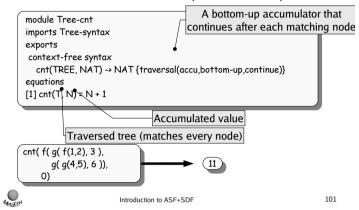
Using Accumulators

- Goal: traverse term and accumulate a value
- fun(Tree, Accu) -> Accu {traversal(accu, ...)}
- Tree: term to be traversed (always the first argument)
- Accu: value to be accumulated (always second argument)
- Important: the sorts of second argument and result are always equal.
- Optional: extra arguments
- fun(Tree, Accu, A1, ...) -> Accu {traversal(...)}

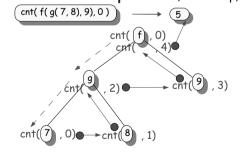


Introduction to ASF+SDF

Count nodes (traversals)



Example: accu, bottom-up, continue



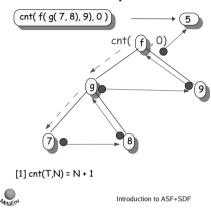
[1] cnt(T, N) = N + 1



Introduction to ASF+SDF

103

Example: accu,bottom-up,continue

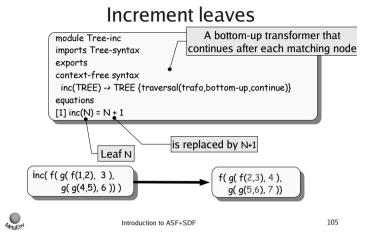


102

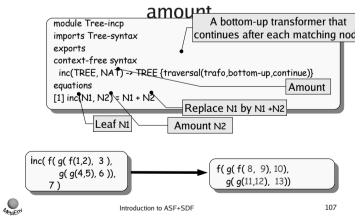
Using Transformers

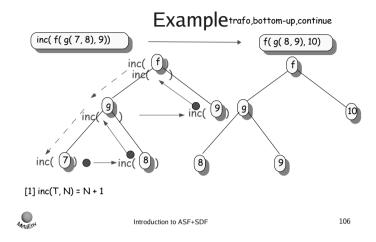
- fun(Tree) -> Tree {traversal(trafo, ...)}
- Tree: term to be traversed (always the first argument)
- Important: the sorts of the first argument and result are always equal.
- Optional: extra arguments
- fun(Tree, A1, A2, ...) -> Tree {traversal(...)}

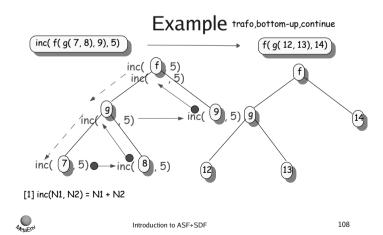




Increment leaves with explicit







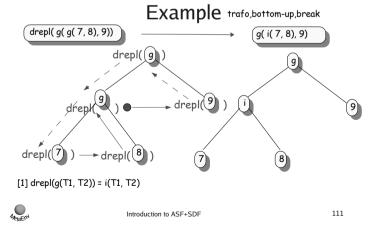
Term Replacement

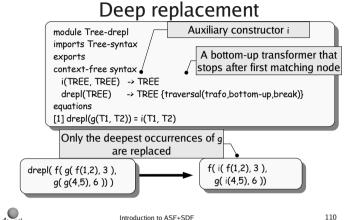
- Deep replacement: replace only occurrences close to the leaves
- Shallow replacement: replace only occurrences close to the root
- Full replacement: replace all occurrences

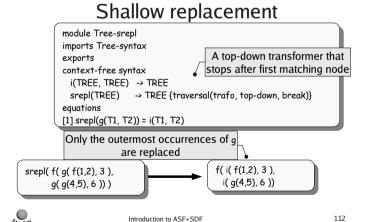


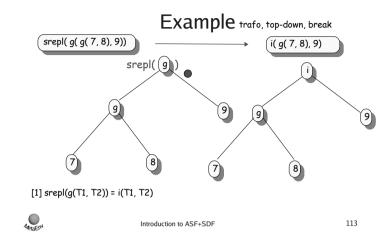


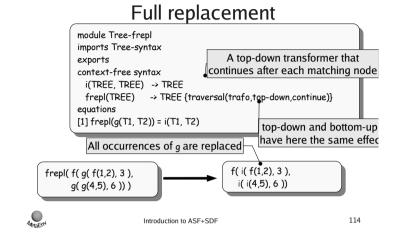
Introduction to ASF+SDF

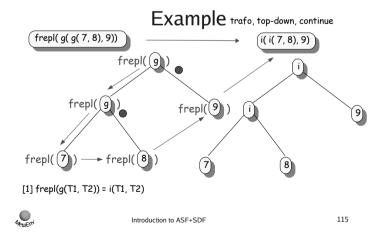


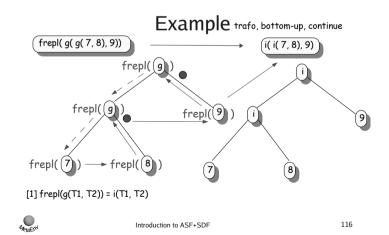












A real example: Cobol transformation

- Cobol 75 has two forms of conditional:
 - "IF" Expr "THEN" Stats "END-IF"?
 - "IF" Expr "THEN" stats "ELSE" Stats "END-IF"?
- These are identical (*dangling else* problem):



117

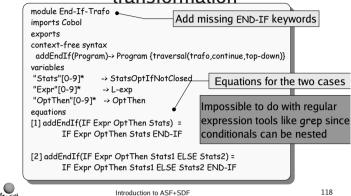


A funny Pico typechecker

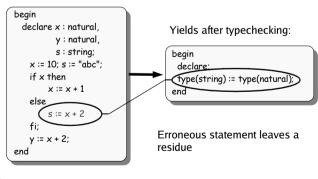
- Replace all variables by their declared type:
 - $x + 3 \Rightarrow type(natural) + type(natural)$
- Simplify type correct expressions:
 - type(natural) + type(natural) ⇒ type(natural)
- Remove all type correct statements:
 - type(natural) := type(natural)
- A type correct program reduces to empty



A real example: Cobol transformation



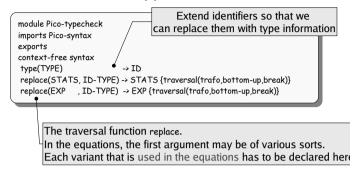
Example





Introduction to ASF+SDF

Pico-typecheck (1)





Introduction to ASF+SDF

121

Pico-typecheck (3)

```
[7] Stat*1; if type(natural) then Stat*2 else Stat*3 fi ; Stat*4

= Stat*1; Stat*2; Stat*3; Stat*4

[8] Stat*1; while type(natural) do Stat*2 od; Stat*3

= Stat*1; Stat*2; Stat*3

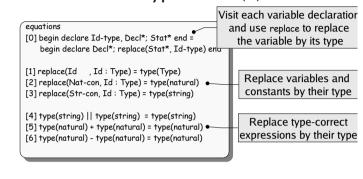
[9] Stat*1; type(Type) := type(Type); Stat*2

= Stat*1; Stat*2

Remove type-correct expressions and statements
```



Pico-typecheck (2)





Introduction to ASF+SDF

122

Traversal functions ...

- ... automate common kinds of tree traversals
- ... reduce number of required equations significantly
- ... lead to easier to understand specifications
- ... can be implemented efficiently
- ... have been applied in a lot of applications



Further reading

- M.G.J. van den Brand and P. Klint, ASF+SDF Meta-Environment User Manual www.cwi.nl/projects/MetaEnv/meta/doc/manual/user-manual.html
- M.G.J. van den Brand, P. Klint and J. Vinju, Term rewriting with traversal functions, ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology, **12**(2):152-190, 2003
- www.cwi.nl/projects/MetaEnv



Introduction to ASF+SDF