1 Pattern Matching

A new syntacic category: patterns $\mathscr{P}$:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
\mathscr{P} & = & \mathbb{N} & \text{— number} \\
 & & _ & \text{— wildcard} \\
 & & [\,\mathscr{P}^*\,] & \text{— array} \\
 & & \mathscr{C}\,\mathscr{P}^* & \text{— S-expression} \\
 & & \mathscr{X}\,@\,\mathscr{P} & \text{— named pattern}
\end{array}$$

Concrete syntax mainly repeats the abstract; in S-expression patterns extra round brackets are used to delimit the constructor's name from arguments (if any); arguments of array/S-expression patterns are delimited by commas, and extra round brackets can be used to group subpatterns. Additionally, one derived form is used: an identifier x is treated as a pattern $x@\_$.

Pattern matching expression:

$$\mathscr{E} += \text{case } \ \mathscr{E} \text{ of } \ (\mathscr{P} \times \mathscr{E})^+ \text{ esac}$$

In a concrete syntax branches of case expression are delimited by "|", and in each branch " $\rightarrow$ " is used to delimit pattern from expression.

Well-formedness of case expressions is established in an obvious manner:

$$\frac{e : \mathbf{Val} \qquad e_i : a}{\text{case } e \text{ of } p_1 \rightarrow e_1 \dots p_k \rightarrow e_k \text{ esac} : a}$$

2 Operational Semantics

There are two aspects that have to be covered in semantic description of pattern matching:

- the criterion for a scrutinee to be matched by a pattern;
- the descipline of binding support.

The latter aspect is covered by a desugaring. First, we define a mapping

$$\beta : \mathscr{P} \rightarrow \mathscr{E} \rightarrow \mathscr{X} \rightarrow \mathscr{E}$$

in a following manner:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
\beta\, n\, e & = & \lambda_.\bot \\
\beta\, _\, e & = & \lambda_.\bot \\
\beta\, ([p_0 \dots p_k])\, e & = & \\
\beta\, (C\, p_0 \dots p_k)\, e & = & (\beta\, p_0\, e[0])[\beta\, p_1\, e[1]] \dots [\beta\, p_k\, e[k]] \\
\beta\, (x@p)\, e & = & (\beta\, p\, e)[x \leftarrow e]
\end{array}$$

This function determines a proper subvalue of an expression bound by an identifier in a pattern. For example, for a pattern $[x, C\,(\_, y)]$ and scrutenee s the value of $\beta\,[x, C\,(\_, y)]\,s$ can be described by the following table:

$$
\begin{array}{lcl}
x & \to & s[0] \\
y & \to & s[1][1]
\end{array}
$$

Then, given a pattern-matching expression case e of ... we, first, bind the expression e to a fresh variable, say, s:

$$
\begin{array}{l}
\text{var } s = e; \\
\text{case } s \text{ of } \ldots
\end{array}
$$

Then, we transform each branch $p \to e$ into the following:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
p & \to \text{var} & b_1 = \beta\, p\, s\, b_1, \\
 & & \quad \ldots \\
 & & b_k = \beta\, p\, s\, b_k; \\
 & & e
\end{array}
$$

where $b_1, \ldots, b_k$ are all bindings in p.

Now, for determining the descipline of matching we need an extra relation

$$match \subseteq \mathscr{P} \times \mathscr{V}$$

between patterns and values. We define it in a following way:

$$match\,(\_, v)$$

$$match\,(n, n)$$

$$\frac{match\,(p_i, v_i)}{match\,([p_1, \ldots, p_k], [v_1, \ldots, v_k])}$$

$$\frac{match\,(p_i, v_i)}{match\,(C\,p_1, \ldots, p_k, C\,v_1, \ldots, v_k)}$$

$$\frac{match\,(p, v)}{match\,(x@p, v)}$$

Finally, the operational semantics of pattern-matching expression can be given by the following rules:

$$\frac{c \xRightarrow{e} \langle c', v\rangle \qquad v \vdash c' \xrightarrow{(p_1, e_1) \ldots (p_k, e_k)}_{\mathscr{P}} c''}{c \xRightarrow{\text{case } e \text{ of } p_1 \to e_1 \ldots p_k \to e_k \text{ esac}} c''}$$

where an additional transition " $\longrightarrow_{\mathscr{P}}$ " is defined as follows:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} match\,(p, v) \\ c \xRightarrow{e} c' \end{array}}{v \vdash c \xrightarrow{(p, e)ps}_{\mathscr{P}} c'}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \neg match\,(p, v) \\ v \vdash c \xrightarrow{ps}_{\mathscr{P}} c' \end{array}}{v \vdash c \xrightarrow{(p, e)ps}_{\mathscr{P}} c'}$$