

Syntactic Objects

Surface Syntax

if true then false else true

Surface Syntax

if true then false else true : Exp

sort
↓

Surface Syntax

if true then false else true : Exp

sort
↓

true : Exp

false : Exp

Surface Syntax

if — then — else — : $(\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \times \text{Exp}) \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

true : Exp

false : Exp

if true then false else true : Exp

Abstract Syntax

$\text{if}(- , - , -) : (\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \times \text{Exp}) \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

$\text{true} : \text{Exp}$

$\text{false} : \text{Exp}$

$\text{if}(\text{true}, \text{false}, \text{true}) : \text{Exp}$

Abstract Syntax Trees

$\text{plus} : \text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

$\text{num} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

$\text{num}[42] : \text{Exp}$

$\text{num}[4] : \text{Exp}$

$\text{plus}(\text{num}[4], \text{num}[42]) : \text{Exp}$

Abstract Syntax Trees: Variables

$\text{times} : \text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

$\text{num} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

variable $\rightarrow x : \text{Exp}$

$\text{num}[4] : \text{Exp}$

$\text{times}(x, \text{num}[4]) : \text{Exp}$

Abstract Syntax Trees: Variable Substitution

plus : $\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

times : $\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

num : $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

num[42] : Exp

num[4] : Exp

times(plus(num[4], num[42]), num[4]) : Exp

Abstract Syntax Trees: Variable Substitution

plus : $\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

times : $\text{Exp} \times \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

num : $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Exp}$

num[42] : Exp

num[4] : Exp

times(plus(num[4], num[42]), num[4]) : Exp

Abstract Syntax Trees Defined

Let S be a finite set of **sorts**, $\{O_s\}_{s \in S}$ be a sort-indexed family of operators o of sort s with arity $\text{ar}(o) = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$, and $\{\chi_s\}_{s \in S}$ be a sort-indexed family of variables x of sort s . The family $A[\chi] = A[\chi_s]_{s \in S}$ of abstract syntax trees (ASTs) of sort s is defined as follows:

- if $x \in \chi_s$, then $x \in A[\chi]_s$
- if $o \in O_s$ with $\text{ar}(o) = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ and $a_1 \in A[\chi]_{s_1}, \dots, a_n \in A[\chi]_{s_n}$, then $o(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A[\chi]_s$

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Exercise: Come up with three example ASTs.

Abstract Syntax Trees: Structural Induction

To show that a property P for every AST it suffices to show $P(a)$ holds for every $a \in A[\chi]$, which holds when:

1. (Base Case) if $x \in \chi_s$, then $P_s(x)$, and
2. (Step Case) if $o \in O_s$ with $\text{ar}(o) = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$, then if $P_{s_1}(a_1), \dots, P_{s_n}(a_n)$ all hold, then $P_s(o(a_1, \dots, a_n))$ holds.

Abstract Syntax Trees: Structural Induction

Lemma: If $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$, then $A[\mathcal{X}] \subseteq A[\mathcal{Y}]$.

Proof. By structural induction.

1. (Base Case) If $x \in \mathcal{X}_s$ which implies that $x \in A[\mathcal{X}]_s$, then by assumption $x \in \mathcal{Y}$, and hence, by definition $x \in A[\mathcal{Y}]_s$.
2. (Step Case) Suppose $o \in \mathcal{O}_s$, $\text{ar}(o) = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$, $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$. Then by induction:
 $a_1 \in A[\mathcal{X}]_{s_1} \iff a_1 \in A[\mathcal{Y}]_{s_1}, \dots, a_n \in A[\mathcal{X}]_{s_n} \iff a_n \in A[\mathcal{Y}]_{s_n}$. Then by definition
 $o(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A[\mathcal{X}]_s \iff o(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A[\mathcal{Y}]_s$.

Abstract Syntax Trees: Substitution

Variables are given their meaning through substitution.

$$\begin{aligned} & [\text{num}[42]/x](\text{plus}(x, \text{mult}(\text{num}[3], x))) \\ &= \text{plus}([\text{num}[42]/x]x, [\text{num}[42]/x]\text{mult}(\text{num}[3], x)) \\ &= \text{plus}([\text{num}[42]/x]x, \text{mult}([\text{num}[42]/x]\text{num}[3], [\text{num}[42]/x]x)) \\ &= \text{plus}(\text{num}[42], \text{mult}(\text{num}[3], \text{num}[42])) \end{aligned}$$

Abstract Syntax Trees: Substitution

Substitution $[b_1/x]b_2 \in A[\mathcal{X}]_{s_2}$ on any AST $A[\mathcal{X}]$ where x is a variable of sort s_1 , $b_1 \in A[\mathcal{X}]_{s_1}$, $b_2 \in A[\mathcal{X}, x]_{s_2}$ is defined as follows:

1. $[b_1/x]x = b_1$
2. $[b_1/x]y = y$, when $x \neq y$
3. $[b_1/x]o(a_1, \dots, a_n) = o([b_1/x]a_1, \dots, [b_1/x]a_n)$

Abstract Syntax Trees: Extension

Let \mathcal{X} be a sort-indexed family of variables. Then:

(\mathcal{X}, x) where x is a variable of sort s such that $x \notin \mathcal{X}_s$, to stand for the sort-indexed family \mathcal{Y} such that $\mathcal{Y}_s = \mathcal{X}_s \cup \{x\}$ and $\mathcal{Y}_{s'} = \mathcal{X}_{s'}$ for all $s' \neq s$.

This is also known as **adjoining**.