

Fully Abstract Models of the Lazy Lambda Calculus

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Abstract

Much of what is known about the model theory and proof theory of the λ -calculus is *sensible* in nature, i.e. only *head normal forms* are semantically meaningful. However, most functional languages are *lazy*, i.e. programs are evaluated in normal order to *weak head normal forms*. In this paper, we seek to develop a theory of *lazy* or *strongly sensible* λ -calculus that corresponds to practice. A pure lazy language $\lambda\ell$ is defined in which the only computational observable is convergence to abstraction. $\lambda\ell$ is not fully abstract w.r.t. D , the initial solution of the domain equation $D \cong [D \rightarrow D]_{\perp}$ — the canonical model; however, $\lambda\ell_p$ which is $\lambda\ell$ augmented with a *parallel convergence* construct P is. Two more languages $\lambda\ell_c$ ($\lambda\ell$ with *convergence testing*) and $\lambda\ell_w$ ($\lambda\ell$ with *projections*) with expressive powers between those of $\lambda\ell$ and $\lambda\ell_p$ are introduced and their full abstraction properties w.r.t. D are studied. A general method for constructing fully abstract models for a class of lazy languages, including $\lambda\ell_c$ and $\lambda\ell_w$, is illustrated. A new formal system $\lambda\beta C$ ($\lambda\beta$ -calculus with convergence testing C) is introduced and its properties investigated.

1 Introduction

The commonly accepted basis for functional programming is the λ -calculus; and it is folklore that λ -calculus is the prototypical functional language in purified form. There is, nonetheless, a fundamental mismatch between theory and practice:

- Much of what is known about the model theory and proof theory of the λ -calculus is *sensible* in nature, i.e. all unsolvables [Bar84] are identified. Crucially, $\lambda x.\perp = \perp$ where \perp represents any divergent term (or program).
- In practice, however, most implementations of functional languages are *lazy* [HM76], i.e. programs are reduced in *normal order* to *weak head normal forms* (whnf) [PJ87], corresponding to a *call-by-name* semantics. Consequently, $\lambda x.\perp \neq \perp$, because all abstractions, being in whnf, are deemed to be legitimate and meaningful programs.

In this paper, we seek to develop a theory of *lazy* functional programming that corresponds to practice.

1.1 Applicative Bisimulation

We turn the pure, untyped λ -calculus into a paradigmatic functional language by admitting closed λ -terms as *programs* and (closed) abstractions as *values*. The lazy evaluation mechanism is then captured by a binary reduction relation $\Downarrow \subseteq \Lambda^o \times \Lambda^o$ (Λ^o is the collection of all closed λ -terms) defined inductively as:

$$\frac{\overline{\lambda x.P \Downarrow \lambda x.P} \quad M \Downarrow \lambda x.P \quad P[x := Q] \Downarrow N}{MQ \Downarrow N}$$

We read $M \Downarrow N$ as “ M reduces lazily to principal whnf N ”. NOTATION

$$\begin{aligned} M \Downarrow &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists N. M \Downarrow N && \text{“}M \text{ converges”} \\ M \Uparrow &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg [M \Downarrow] && \text{“}M \text{ diverges”}. \end{aligned}$$

The reduction \Downarrow is *deterministic*. $\langle \Lambda^o, \Downarrow \rangle$ is known as the *pure lazy language*.

Under the reduction strategy \Downarrow , the possible “results” are of a particularly simple, indeed *atomic* kind. A term M either converges to an abstraction (and according to this strategy, we have no clue as to the structure “under” the abstraction); or it diverges. In contrast to simply typed λ -calculi with ground constants, say Plotkin’s PCF language [Plo77], the computational “observables” in our case is *convergence to abstraction*. As it stands, the relation \Downarrow is too “shallow” to furnish enough information about the behaviour of the system.

Inspired by the work of Milner and Park on concurrency, Abramsky [Abr88] introduced an operational preorder on λ -terms called *applicative bisimulation* providing a tool which enables much deeper comparisons between the operational contents of terms to be made by using \Downarrow as the basic “building blocks”.

We prescribe a recursive specification of the applicative bisimulation preorder $M \sqsubseteq^B N$:

$$\begin{aligned}
M &\sqsubseteq^B N \iff \\
M &\Downarrow \lambda x.P \Rightarrow \{ N \Downarrow \lambda x.Q \quad \& \\
\forall R \in \Lambda^\circ. P[x := R] &\sqsubseteq^B Q[x := R] \}.
\end{aligned}$$

\sqsubseteq^B may be defined as the conjunction of a family of inductively defined preorders $\{\sqsubseteq_k^B : k \in \omega\}$ on Λ° :

- $\forall M, N. M \sqsubseteq_0^B N$.
- $M \sqsubseteq_{k+1}^B N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \Downarrow \lambda x.P \Rightarrow \{ N \Downarrow \lambda x.Q \quad \& \\ \forall R \in \Lambda^\circ. P[x := R] \sqsubseteq_k^B Q[x := R] \}.$
- $M \sqsubseteq^B N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall k \in \omega. M \sqsubseteq_k^B N.$

The definition is then extended to all λ -terms by considering closures: for $M \in \Lambda$, $M \sqsubseteq^B N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \sigma : \text{Var} \rightarrow \Lambda^\circ. M_\sigma \sqsubseteq^B N_\sigma$. We abbreviate $M \sqsubseteq^B N$ & $N \sqsubseteq^B M$ as $M \sim^B N$.

It is easy to see that for all $M, N \in \Lambda^\circ$,

$$M \sqsubseteq^B N \iff \forall \vec{P} \subseteq \Lambda^\circ. M \vec{P} \Downarrow \iff N \vec{P} \Downarrow;$$

where \vec{P} denotes a sequence of λ -terms.

We define an (in)equational theory $\lambda\ell \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\Lambda^\circ, \sqsubseteq, =)$ which we call *Abramsky lazy λ -theory* where:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda\ell \vdash M &\sqsubseteq N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \sqsubseteq^B N, \\
\lambda\ell \vdash M &= N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} M \sim^B N.
\end{aligned}$$

1.2 Properties of $\lambda\ell$

The applicative bisimulation relation can be described as a “Morris-style contextual (pre)congruence” [Mor68]. Define a binary relation $\sqsubseteq^{C[]}$ on Λ° :

$$M \sqsubseteq^{C[]} N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall C[]. C[M] \Downarrow \Rightarrow C[N] \Downarrow;$$

where $C[]$ ranges over closed contexts. $\sqsubseteq^{C[]}$ is extended to Λ in the same way as \sqsubseteq^B .

Since the computational behaviour of a program in our framework can only be described by observing convergence, the preorder $\sqsubseteq^{C[]}$ is just the usual notion of *operational precongruence* (for which more anon). Computationally, operational precongruence enunciates the *safety* criterion for the replacement of one program fragment by another. That is to say, if $M \sqsubseteq^{C[]} N$, then we can safely replace any occurrence of M (as a subterm) in any program by N . Abramsky in *op. cit.* used the powerful machinery of the *Stone duality* between *domains* and their *logics of observable properties* to prove that applicative bisimulation is characterized by *observability under all contexts*; more precisely,

PROPOSITION 1.2.1 $\sqsubseteq^B = \sqsubseteq^{C[]}$. □

As a corollary, the pure lazy language satisfies the property of *operational extensionality* [Blo88], i.e. if two terms agree on all sequences of definable arguments, then they are operationally congruent.

In [Ong88, Chap 2], we studied the class of *fully lazy λ -theories* which are λ -theories [Bar84] that distinguish between two unsolvable terms iff they have different *orders*.¹ $\lambda\ell$ may be characterized as the *maximal* fully lazy λ -theory; equivalently, $\lambda\ell$ is *Hilbert-Post complete* w.r.t. fully lazy λ -theories [Bar84, pp 83]. More precisely, we have,

PROPOSITION 1.2.2 *Let M, N be two unsolvables of orders m and n respectively. Then, $\lambda\ell \vdash M = N \iff m = n$. Furthermore, for any P, Q such that $\lambda\ell \not\vdash P = Q$, either $\lambda\ell + (P = Q)$ is inconsistent or it is not fully lazy.* □

1.3 Applicative Structures

The Abramsky lazy λ -theory $\lambda\ell$ is derived from a particular operational model — the transition system $\langle \Lambda^\circ, \Downarrow \rangle$. What is the general mathematical structure of which the previous transition system is an instance? More generally, how should a model of the lazy λ -calculus (call it *lazy λ -model*) look like? In the lazy regime, a clear distinction is made between terms that evaluate to *values* (=abstractions) and those that do not (i.e. the *strongly unsolvables*²). A natural way to reflect this dichotomy is to decree that the underlying applicative structure comes equipped with *divergent* elements. Moreover, normal order reduction entails an application operation which is left-strict but *not* right-strict. These lead to the following definitions.

A *quasi-applicative structure with divergence* (q-aswd) is a structure $\langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$ such that $\langle A, \cdot \rangle$ is an applicative structure with a (non-empty) *divergence* predicate $\uparrow \subseteq A$ satisfying $\forall x \in A. x \uparrow \Rightarrow \forall y \in A. x \cdot y \uparrow$. Define $x \Downarrow \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \neg[x \uparrow]$. The language $\langle \Lambda^\circ, \Downarrow \rangle$ is a q-aswd with \uparrow consisting of all closed strongly unsolvable terms.

Given a q-aswd $\langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$, we define a *bisimulation pre-order* \sqsubseteq^A (by mimicking \sqsubseteq^B in $\langle \Lambda^\circ, \Downarrow \rangle$) satisfying the following recursive specification:

$$a \sqsubseteq^A b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a \Downarrow \Rightarrow b \Downarrow \quad \& \quad \forall c \in A. a \cdot c \sqsubseteq^A b \cdot c.$$

\sqsubseteq^A is defined as the conjunction of a sequence of inductively defined preorders in the same way as \sqsubseteq^B .

An *applicative structure with divergence* (aswd) $\langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$ is a q-aswd that satisfies:

$$\forall a, b, c \in A. b \sqsubseteq^A c \Rightarrow a \cdot b \sqsubseteq^A a \cdot c.$$

1.4 Lazy λ -Models

We are now in a position to formalize the notion of lazy λ -

²A λ -term M is *strongly unsolvable* if M has order 0 and $\neg[\lambda\beta \vdash M = x\tilde{N}]$, i.e. unsolvables of order 0. See [Ong88, Chap 1 & 2] for motivation

¹The *order* of a λ -term M is the largest i such that $\exists N \in \Lambda. \lambda\beta \vdash M = \lambda x_1 \dots x_i. N$.

model. An (environment) *lazy λ -model* $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \cdot, \uparrow, \llbracket - \rrbracket \rangle$ is a structure such that:

- $\langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$ is a q-aswd.
- $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ is *homomorphic* w.r.t. application, i.e. $\forall M, N \in \Lambda(A), \forall a \in A$,

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket a \rrbracket &= a, \\ \llbracket x \rrbracket &= \rho(x), \\ \llbracket MN \rrbracket &= \llbracket M \rrbracket \cdot \llbracket N \rrbracket. \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathcal{A} \models (\beta)$, i.e. $\lambda\beta \vdash M = N \Rightarrow \mathcal{A} \models M = N$.
- $\mathcal{A} \models (\xi)$ where ξ is:

$$\forall x. M = N \Rightarrow \lambda x. M = \lambda x. N.$$

- $\forall M \in \Delta^\circ. M \Downarrow \Rightarrow \mathcal{A} \models M \Downarrow$.

Just as the classical λ -models can be presented equivalently in three different ways, namely, environment, functional or first order (combinatory) λ -models emphasizing their respective features (see [Koy84, Mey82, Bar84]); so may the lazy λ -models (see [Ong88, Chap 3]). It is well-known that λ -models can be characterized as reflexive objects which have enough points in Cartesian closed categories [Sco80, Koy84]. A similar presentation of lazy λ -models (and those in which convergence testing is definable) may be carried out in *partial Cartesian closed dominical categories* [Ong88, Chap 5] (see [RR88] for partial categories). A general account of lazy λ -models and partial categories will be the subject of a forth-coming paper.

1.5 Lambda Transition Systems

In [Ong88, Chap 3], we studied in some details the local structure of a class of lazy λ -models called *free lazy PSE-models* [Lon83]. In this paper, we will study another lazy λ -model D , the initial solution of the domain equation $D \cong [D \rightarrow D]_\perp$ in the category of cpos and continuous functions. D satisfies a rather strong extensionality axiom ($\text{Ext}_{\text{bisim}}$):

$$\forall x, y \in D. x \sim^B y \Rightarrow x = y.$$

Lazy λ -models which satisfy the above axiom are called *lambda transition systems* (lts). An lts \mathcal{A} is *adequate* if $\forall M \in \Delta^\circ. M \Downarrow \iff \mathcal{A} \models M \Downarrow$. A prime example of an (adequate) lts is in fact a “syntactic structure” — the quotient $\langle \Delta^\circ / \sim^B, \Downarrow \rangle$ (which is well-defined by an appeal to Proposition 1.2.1) henceforth referred to as $\lambda\ell$ by abuse of notation.

With respect to the inherent preorder, i.e. the bisimulation preorder, any lts $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \cdot, \uparrow, \llbracket - \rrbracket \rangle$ has unique least and greatest elements. They are the interpretations of the strongly unsolvables and PO_∞ -terms³ respectively. If an lts \mathcal{A} is *adequate*, then it is a *fully lazy λ -model*, i.e. for

unsolvables M, N of orders $m, n \in \omega + 1$ respectively,

$$\mathcal{A} \models M \sqsubseteq^A N \iff m \leq n.$$

2 Convergence Testing

Is there a closed λ -term X that discriminates between the convergent and divergent λ -terms? i.e. $\forall M \in \Delta^\circ$,

$$\begin{cases} XM = \mathbf{I} & \text{if } M \Downarrow, \\ XM \uparrow & \text{if } M \nmid; \end{cases}$$

where \mathbf{I} is the identity. A case analysis of the possible orders of X shows that *no* such convergence discriminatory function is *internally* definable in $\langle \Delta^\circ, \Downarrow \rangle$. More generally, we say that *convergence testing is definable* in a q-aswd $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$ if $\exists c \in A$ such that for $x \in A$, \mathcal{A} satisfies the following:

- $c \Downarrow$,
- $x \Downarrow \Rightarrow cx = \mathbf{I}$,
- $x \uparrow \Rightarrow cx \uparrow$.

2.1 The lts $\lambda\ell_c$

Define an augmented language $\langle \Delta(C)^\circ, \Downarrow_c \rangle$ (not superfluous since convergence testing is not definable in $\langle \Delta^\circ, \Downarrow \rangle$), where C is a formal constant called *convergence testing* and \Downarrow_c is a reduction relation defined on $\Delta(C)^\circ$ by

$$\frac{M \Downarrow_c}{C \Downarrow_c C} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow_c \quad I}{CM \Downarrow_c I} \quad \frac{\lambda x. P \Downarrow_c \quad \lambda x. P}{\lambda x. P \Downarrow_c \lambda x. P} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow_c \quad \lambda x. P \quad P[x := Q] \Downarrow_c N}{MQ \Downarrow_c N}.$$

$\langle \Delta(C)^\circ, \Downarrow_c \rangle$ is a q-aswd; denote the associated bisimulation preorder as \sqsubseteq^c and the induced equivalence as \sim^c . Just as \sqsubseteq^B , \sqsubseteq^c can be characterized by *observability under all contexts* i.e. for $M, N \in \Delta(C)^\circ$,

$$M \sqsubseteq^c N \iff \forall C[\cdot]. C[M] \Downarrow_c \Rightarrow C[N] \Downarrow_c.$$

An immediate corollary is that \sqsubseteq^c is a *pre-congruence* i.e.

$$M \sqsubseteq^c N \Rightarrow \forall C[\cdot]. C[M] \sqsubseteq^c C[N].$$

In the same way as $\lambda\ell$, we define an (in)equational theory $\lambda\ell_c$. The q-aswd $\langle \Delta(C)^\circ, \Downarrow_c \rangle$ is an lts which we refer to as $\lambda\ell_c$ by abuse of notation.

2.2 Properties of $\lambda\beta C$

Just as $\lambda\ell$ is a λ -theory, i.e. a consistent extension of the formal system $\lambda\beta$, so $\lambda\ell_c$ is a consistent extension of the

³A PO_∞ -term M is one whose order is unbounded i.e. M is (convertible to) an infinitely deeply-nested abstraction; for example $YK = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_n. YK$ for any $n \in \omega$ or $(\lambda xy. xx)(\lambda xy. xx)$.

formal system $\lambda\beta C$ defined on the language $\Lambda(C)$ by extending the rules of $\lambda\beta$ by the axiom scheme $CM = I$ provided $M \Downarrow_C$. By abuse of notation, we “overload” the symbol \Downarrow_C by using it to denote the (new) reduction relation on $\Lambda(C)$ (i.e. possibly open λC -terms), defined by the same rules as the previous \Downarrow_C . Provability in $\lambda\beta C$ is denoted $\lambda\beta C \vdash$. Define an associated proof system with formulae of the form $M \geq N$ as: $\lambda\beta C \vdash M \geq N$ if $\lambda\beta C \vdash M = N$ without using the symmetry rule. The *one-step βC -reduction* is the compatible closure of the union of the relation schema: $\langle (\lambda x.P)Q, P[x := Q] \rangle$, $\langle CC, I \rangle$ and $\langle C(\lambda x.P), I \rangle$.

THEOREM 2.2.1 (Church-Rosser) *The proof system $\lambda\beta C$ is Church-Rosser, i.e. $\lambda\beta C \vdash M \geq M_i$ for $i = 1, 2 \Rightarrow \exists N. \lambda\beta C \vdash M_i \geq N$.* \square

$\lambda\beta C$ satisfies a *standardization theorem*. First, a definition. Define *one-step lazy βC reduction* \rightarrow_1 on $\Lambda(C)$ by

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{CC \rightarrow_1 I} \quad \overline{C(\lambda x.P) \rightarrow_1 I} \\ \overline{(\lambda x.P)Q \rightarrow_1 P[x := Q]} \\ \frac{M \rightarrow_1 M' \quad CM \rightarrow_1 CM'}{CM \rightarrow_1 CM'} \quad \frac{M \rightarrow_1 M' \quad MN \rightarrow_1 M'N}{MN \rightarrow_1 M'N}. \end{array}$$

Define *standard reduction sequence* on $\Lambda(C)$ inductively:

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\langle x \rangle} \quad \overline{\langle C \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle N_2, \dots, N_n \rangle \quad N_1 \rightarrow_1 N_2}{\langle N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n \rangle} \\ \frac{\langle N_1, \dots, N_n \rangle}{\langle \lambda x.N_1, \dots, \lambda x.N_n \rangle} \\ \frac{\langle M_1, \dots, M_m \rangle \quad \langle N_1, \dots, N_n \rangle}{\langle M_1 N_1, \dots, M_m N_1, M_m N_2, \dots, M_m N_n \rangle}. \end{array}$$

THEOREM 2.2.2 (Standardization) *Let $M, N \in \Lambda(C)$. Then, $\lambda\beta C \vdash M \geq N \iff \exists \vec{M}. M_1 \equiv M \ \& \ M_m \equiv N \ \& \ \langle M_1, \dots, M_m \rangle$.* \square

The proofs of the two previous Theorems employ *parallel reduction* technique à la Plotkin [Plo75], Martin-Löf and Tait.

2.3 Call-by-Value Simulation

The introduction of convergence testing in $\langle \Lambda(C)^\circ, \Downarrow_C \rangle$ enables an application operation which is both left and right strict to be simulated. This corresponds to call-by-value evaluation. Define a *call-by-value* language $\langle \Lambda^\circ, \Downarrow_v \rangle$ where \Downarrow_v is a reduction relation on Λ° defined as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\lambda x.M \Downarrow_v \lambda x.M} \\ \frac{M \Downarrow_v \lambda x.P \quad N \Downarrow_v Q \quad P[x := Q] \Downarrow_v L}{MN \Downarrow_v L} \end{array}$$

The associated convergence predicate \Downarrow_v and divergence predicate \Uparrow_v are defined in the usual way.

We define a translation $\overline{} : \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda(C)$ by structural induction as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} \overline{x} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x, \\ \overline{\lambda x.M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x.\overline{M}, \\ \overline{MN} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C\overline{N}((\overline{M})(\overline{N})). \end{array}$$

THEOREM 2.3.1 (Simulation) *Let $M \in \Lambda^\circ$. Then,*

$$M \Downarrow_v \iff \overline{M} \Downarrow_C.$$

PROOF See Appendix. \square

3 Canonical Model D

In the *sensible* theory (in which all unsolvables are identified [Bar84]), λ -calculus may be regarded as being characterized by the type equation $D = [D \rightarrow D]$ — every element of D may be *unfolded* into a continuous function from D to D — which has *no* non-trivial initial solution in, say, the category of cpos and continuous functions. In the lazy regime, the equation needs to be modified to $D = [D \rightarrow D]_\perp$, where $(-)_{\perp}$ is the standard *lifting* operation [Plo81], to reflect the sharp distinction between convergent and divergent elements: only convergent elements *unfold* to functions from D to D , the divergent element \perp in D , devoid of any *functional* (or *operator* as opposed to *operand*) content, “unfolds” naturally to the adjoint \perp .

We regard the initial solution to the equation $D \cong [D \rightarrow D]_{\perp}$ in the category of cpos and continuous functions (which is non-trivial) as the canonical model of the pure lazy language (see [Abr88] for a domain logic justification). The construction of the initial solution is standard. We refer the reader to [Plo81] and [SP82] for a detailed account. As usual, we regard each canonical approximant D_n for $n \in \omega$ as a subset of D . The isomorphism pair is denoted as:

$$D \xrightarrow{\text{Fun}} [D \rightarrow D]_{\perp} \xrightarrow{\text{Gr}} D.$$

Recall the category-theoretic characterization of *lifting* as the left adjoint to the forgetful functor U :

$$\text{CPO} \xrightarrow{(-)_{\perp}} \text{CPO}_{\perp} \xrightarrow{U} \text{CPO}$$

where CPO_{\perp} is the sub-category of strict functions with:

- A natural transformation:

$$\text{up} : I_{\text{CPO}} \rightarrow U \circ (-)_{\perp}.$$

- For each continuous function $f : D \rightarrow UE$, its adjoint lift $(f) : (D)_{\perp} \rightarrow_{\perp} E$.

Concretely, we have, for $x, y \in D$:

$$(D)_{\perp} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \perp \} \cup \{ \langle 0, d \rangle \mid d \in D \},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
x \sqsubseteq y & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x = \perp \quad \text{or } [x = \langle 0, d \rangle \& \\
& y = \langle 0, d' \rangle \& d \sqsubseteq_D d'], \\
\text{up}_D(d) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \langle 0, d \rangle, \\
\text{lift}(f)(\perp) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \perp_E, \\
\text{lift}(f)(\langle 0, d \rangle) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(d).
\end{aligned}$$

D is a lts with $\uparrow = \{\perp\}$ and application is defined as:

$$d \cdot e \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} f(d) & \text{if } \text{Fun}(d) = \langle 0, f \rangle; \\ \perp & \text{if } \text{Fun}(d) = \perp. \end{cases}$$

Abstractions have denotation

$$\llbracket \lambda x. M \rrbracket_\rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Gr}(\text{up}(\lambda d. \llbracket M \rrbracket_{\rho[x:=d]})).$$

The interpretation of the rest of the λ -terms is standard.

3.1 Properties of D

D does not satisfy the *strong extensionality* principle (see [Bar84]) — just consider \perp and $\perp_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Gr}(\text{up}(\lambda x \in D. \perp))$ which is the least convergent element; but it satisfies a weaker property which we call *conditional strong extensionality*: for $d, e \in D$,

$$d \Downarrow \& e \Downarrow \Rightarrow [\forall x \in D. d \cdot x \sqsubseteq e \cdot x \Rightarrow d \sqsubseteq e].$$

As a corollary, D is *internally fully abstract*:

$$\forall d, e \in D. d \sqsubseteq e \iff d \sqsubseteq^B e.$$

Convergence testing is definable in D as $\text{Gr}(\text{up}(f_{\perp, i}))$, call it c , with $i \equiv \llbracket \lambda x. x \rrbracket$ and $f_{d, e}$ being the standard *step function* defined as

$$f_{d, e}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} e & \text{if } d \sqsubseteq x, \\ \perp & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

$\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$, the canonical projection functions from D to D_n , are not λ -definable but they are λC -definable. That is to say, for each $n \in \omega$, $\exists \Psi_n \in \Lambda(C)^\circ. \forall d \in D. \psi_n(d) \equiv d_n = \llbracket \Psi_n \rrbracket \cdot d$ where C is interpreted in D as the convergence testing c . The λC -terms $\langle \Psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ are defined inductively as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Psi_0 & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x. \perp, \\
\Psi_{n+1} & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x. Cx(\lambda y. \Psi_n(x(\Psi_n y))).
\end{aligned}$$

D is a ω -algebraic complete lattice with an application operation that *left-preserved arbitrary joins*, i.e.

$$\forall X \subseteq D. \forall d \in D. (\bigsqcup X) \cdot d = \bigsqcup_{x \in X} x \cdot d.$$

This is a consequence of the coincidence of *representable* [Bar84] and the continuous functions of D .

4 The Full Abstraction Problem

The *full abstraction* problem was first studied by Gordon Plotkin in the seminal paper [Plot77], and shortly after by Robin Milner [Mil77]; see also [Sto88]. Informally stated, it is concerned with the problem of finding a denotational semantic definition for a programming language which is not “over-generous” w.r.t. a natural notion of operational equivalence defined by *observational indistinguishability*. Let M, N be two program fragments (or terms) of a language \mathcal{L} . We define the notion of *operational precongruence* as follows. We say that M *safely approximates* N (in all contexts), denoted $M \sqsubseteq^{C[]}_N$, if under all program contexts $C[\]$, all that can be observed about the computational outcome of $C[M]$ can also be observed about $C[N]$. (In an optimizing compiler, for example, to preserve correctness, we will only want to replace M by N if $M \sqsubseteq^{C[]}_N$.) A denotational semantics (i.e. the semantic function $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ with an associated domain D) is *fully abstract* w.r.t. the language \mathcal{L} if for all terms M, N ,

$$M \sqsubseteq^{C[]}_N \iff \llbracket M \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket N \rrbracket.$$

In the pure lazy language $\lambda\ell$, only convergence is observable. By an appeal to Proposition 1.2.1, the full abstraction criterion may be recast as:

$$M \sqsubseteq^B N \iff \llbracket M \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket N \rrbracket;$$

similarly for $\lambda\ell_c$.

4.1 Non Full Abstraction

THEOREM 4.1.1 $\exists M, N \in \Lambda. M \sim^B N \& D \not\models M = N$.

PROOF Define $M \equiv x(\lambda y. x \Xi \Omega y) \Xi, N \equiv x(x \Xi \Omega) \Xi$ where Ω is any strongly unsolvable term and Ξ a PO_∞ -term. $M \sim^B N$ may be shown by a case analysis of the possible orders of the interpretation of x in Λ° . For ρ which maps x to c , $\llbracket M \rrbracket_\rho \neq \llbracket N \rrbracket_\rho$. \square

As an immediate corollary, $\lambda\ell$ is *not* fully abstract w.r.t. D . This strengthens Abramsky’s result in [Abr87, Theorem 6.6.19].

Given that convergence testing is definable in D and that in the construction of the previous counter-example, convergence testing features so pivotally; it is at least plausible that $\lambda\ell_c$ might be fully abstract with respect to D . This turns out *not* to be the case. This result was first obtained by Abramsky in [Abr87, Chap 6], and later independently by the author; and is a corollary of the following:

THEOREM 4.1.2 $\exists M, N \in \Lambda(C). M \sim^c N \& D \not\models M = N$.

PROOF The proof depends on the *non-definability of parallel convergence* in $\langle \Lambda(C)^\circ, \Downarrow_c \rangle$. Generally, we say that *parallel convergence is definable* in a q-awsd $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \cdot, \uparrow \rangle$

if $\exists p \in A$ and for $x, y \in A$,

- $p \Downarrow, px \Downarrow,$
- $x \Downarrow \Rightarrow pxy \Downarrow \& pyx \Downarrow,$
- $x \Uparrow \& y \Uparrow \Rightarrow pxy \Uparrow.$

Ω is as before and $\Omega_1 \equiv \lambda x. \Omega$. Let $M \equiv C[(x\Omega\Omega)]$, $N \equiv C[(x\Omega\Omega_1)]$ where $C[\] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C(C(x\Omega_1\Omega)[\])$. Then $M \sim^c N$ & $D \not\models M = N$. \square

4.2 Full Abstraction and the lts $\lambda\ell_p$

Full abstraction is attained if all the compact elements of the (algebraic) semantic domains are *definable* in the language. Given a denotational semantics which is not fully abstract, then, there are generally two natural directions in which to achieve full abstraction:

- The *expansive* approach consists in enriching the language, as in the introduction of parallel or to PCF [Plo77], thereby enabling all *finite* semantic information to be represented syntactically as program phrases.
- The *restrictive* approach is to “cut down” (as in “quotienting out” by an appropriate equivalence relation) the existing “over-generous” semantic domain to an appropriate sub-structure that “fits” the prescribed language [Mil77, Mul86].

Abramsky showed that full abstraction is attained if *parallel convergence* P (which is not definable in $\lambda\ell$) is introduced to $\lambda\ell$ — an *expansive* approach. Define $\langle \Lambda(P)^\circ, \Downarrow_P \rangle$ by augmenting the rules for \Downarrow with

$$\frac{}{P \Downarrow_P P} \quad \frac{}{PM \Downarrow_P PM} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow_P}{PMN \Downarrow_P I} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow_P}{PNM \Downarrow_P I}.$$

Call the augmented language $\lambda\ell_p$. Let the associated bisimulation preorder be \sqsubseteq^P .

THEOREM 4.2.1 (Abramsky) *Let $M, N \in \Lambda(P)^\circ$. Then, $M \sqsubseteq^P N \iff D \models M \sqsubseteq N$.* \square

5 Fully Abstract Models

5.1 The Problem

Let $K = \langle K, \cdot^K, \Downarrow_K \rangle$ be a *fully-adequate* lts i.e. $\forall M \in \Lambda(K)^\circ. M \Downarrow_K \Rightarrow D \models M \Downarrow$ given an interpretation of K in D . We aim to construct Q^K , a *retract* of D , which is *fully abstract* with respect to K by the *restrictive* approach. That is to say $Q^K \xrightarrow{\psi^K} D \xrightarrow{\phi^K} Q^K$ with $\psi^K \circ \phi^K = \text{id}$ and

$$\forall M \in \Lambda(K)^\circ. \llbracket M \rrbracket^K \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \psi^K(\llbracket M \rrbracket);$$

satisfying $\forall M, N \in \Lambda(K)^\circ$,

- $\llbracket MN \rrbracket^K = \llbracket M \rrbracket^K \cdot^K \llbracket N \rrbracket^K;$
- $M \sqsubseteq^K N \iff Q^K \models M \sqsubseteq N.$

In the following, we present a sketch of the general strategy we shall adopt to construct such Q^K for any fully-adequate lts K . However, we are only able to *prove* that Q^K is fully abstract for K for a restricted class of lts's, which includes $\lambda\ell_c$.

5.2 Construction of Q^K

The construction relies on a *bisimulation logical relation*, \triangleleft^K , between D and K which captures the extent to which an element d of D *bisimulates* an element M of $\Lambda(K)^\circ$ with respect to a suite of *tests* consisting of elements of $\Lambda(K)^\circ$. $\triangleleft^K \subseteq D \times \Lambda(K)^\circ$ satisfies the following recursive specification: $d \triangleleft^K M$ iff

- $\forall \vec{P} \subseteq \Lambda(K)^\circ. D \models d \vec{P} \Downarrow \Rightarrow K \models M \vec{P} \Downarrow_K \quad \&$
- $\forall e, N. [e \triangleleft^K N \Rightarrow de \triangleleft^K MN].$

Thus, \triangleleft^K may be seen as a natural extension of the by now familiar notion of bisimulation to one between two *different* lts's. That \triangleleft^K is a *logical relation* [Plo73, Sta85] is an extrapolation of the notion of a precongruence. Intuitively, $d \triangleleft^K M$ if “all that can be observed about d by applying it to terms in $\Lambda(K)^\circ$ can equally be observed about M ”. \triangleleft^K satisfies the property of *arbitrary join inclusiveness*, i.e. for any $X \subseteq D$

$$[\forall x \in X. x \triangleleft^K M] \Rightarrow (\bigsqcup X) \triangleleft^K M.$$

Define a preorder \preceq^K on D as $d \preceq^K e \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \triangleleft^K e$

$$\forall M \in \Lambda(K)^\circ. e \triangleleft^K M \Rightarrow d \triangleleft^K M.$$

\preceq^K compares the extent to which any two elements in D *bisimulate* elements of $\Lambda(K)^\circ$. Finally, Q^K is obtained by taking the respective supremums of the equivalence classes induced by the preorder \preceq^K .

5.3 Proof of Full Abstraction

This we secure by a technique first employed in [Mil77], see also [Mul86]. Construct for the model Q^K and the language K respectively a chain of *approximants* such that, roughly speaking, both the model Q^K and the language K are appropriate *completions* of their respective chains.

We assume that the canonical projections $\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ are definable in the language K by $\langle \Psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ with

$$K \models \forall n \in \omega. (\Psi_{n+1} M) N = \Psi_n (M (\Psi_n N))$$

and that K is *reflexive*, i.e.

$$\forall M \in \Lambda(K)^\circ. \llbracket M \rrbracket \triangleleft^K M;$$

conditions which $\lambda\ell_c$ satisfies. For each $i \in \omega$, define

$\Delta(K)_i^\circ$ as the smallest subset of $\Delta(K)^\circ$ containing $\{\Psi_i M : M \in \Delta(K)^\circ\}$ closed under application and \sim^K . $K_i = (\Delta(K)_i^\circ, \Downarrow_K)$, the i -th approximant of the language K , is a well-defined q-aswd and denote the associated bisimulation ordering as Ξ_i^K .

Define for each $i \in \omega$, Q_i^K , i -th approximant of the model, consisting of the respective supremums of the intersection of D_i and the equivalence classes induced by \leq^K .

Full abstraction of the completion, i.e. $\forall M, N \in \Delta(K)^\circ$,

$$M \Xi^K N \iff Q^K \models M \sqsubseteq N;$$

then follows from the full abstraction of the approximants, i.e. $\forall M, N \in \Delta(K)_i^\circ$

$$M \Xi_i^K N \iff Q_i^K \models M \sqsubseteq N$$

by a continuity argument. To summarize, the problem posed in §5.1 is solved for a class of lts as follows:

THEOREM 5.3.1 (Full Abstraction) *Let K be a fully-adequate, reflexive lts in which the projection functions $\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ are internally definable in the above sense. Then, $\forall M, N \in \Delta(K)^\circ$*

$$M \Xi^K N \iff Q^K \models M \sqsubseteq N.$$

□

$\lambda\ell_c$ satisfies the premises of the Theorem, hence a fully abstract model which is a retract of D exists (and can be constructed) for it.

5.4 Complementarity of C

The convergence testing constant C introduced to $\lambda\ell$ enables the projection functions $\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ to be internally definable thereby making it possible to enunciate finite information of the domain within the language $\lambda\ell_c$. The domain-theoretic role C plays is clear: the lifted space D_\perp is just unitary separated sum and C constitutes the corresponding discriminatory function [Plo81] i.e. the “elimination” operation concomitant to the “introduction” operation up_D . That convergence testing complements lazy λ -calculus is reinforced further from a category-theoretic perspective. In [Ong88, Chap 5], we introduce a formal proof system λ_L based on Scott’s logic of existence [Sco79] which is correct (see [Plo75] for definition) w.r.t. $\lambda\ell$ and may be given a sound interpretation in partial categories. The interpretation is complete only for the subclass of λ_L in which convergence testing is definable. These results lead us to conclude that a foundational treatment of lazy functional programming in the framework of the pure untyped λ -calculus should include as fundamental a device for testing convergence. We propose $\lambda\ell_c$ as such a framework.

5.5 The lts $\lambda\ell_\omega$ and Conjecture

We are not able to apply the above Theorem to $\lambda\ell$ because the projection functions $\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ are not internally definable, even though the construction of the retract $Q^{\lambda\ell}$ is well-defined. Can this be circumvented?

We define a new q-aswd $\lambda\ell_\omega = (\langle \Delta^\omega \rangle^\circ, \Downarrow_\omega)$ with $\Delta^\omega \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Delta(\langle \Psi_n : n \in \omega \rangle)$ which is essentially $\lambda\ell$ augmented with the formal projection constants. The binary reduction relation $\Downarrow_\omega \subseteq (\Delta^\omega)^\circ \times (\Delta^\omega)^\circ$ is defined inductively as follows:

$$\frac{\Psi_n \Downarrow_\omega \Psi_n \quad \lambda x.P \Downarrow_\omega \lambda x.P}{M \Downarrow_\omega \Psi_{n+1} \quad N \Downarrow_\omega \frac{M \Downarrow_\omega \Psi_{n+1} \quad N \Downarrow_\omega}{MN \Downarrow_\omega \lambda y. \Psi_n(N(\Psi_n y))} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow_\omega \lambda x.P \quad P[x := Q] \Downarrow_\omega N}{MQ \Downarrow_\omega N}.$$

Define the bisimulation preorder Ξ^ω and the induced equivalence \sim^ω accordingly.

$(\langle \Delta^\omega \rangle^\circ, \Downarrow_\omega)$ is a fully-adequate reflexive lts with bisimulation ordering Ξ^ω in which the projection functions $\langle \psi_n \rangle_{n \in \omega}$ are trivially internally definable, hence the Full Abstraction Theorem applies.

The solubility of the full abstraction problem posed earlier for $\lambda\ell$ is then reduced to the validity of the following Conjecture:

CONJECTURE 5.5.1 *Let $M, N \in \Delta^\circ$. Then,*

$$M \Xi^K N \Rightarrow M \Xi^\omega N.$$

□

5.6 Summary

We summarize the full abstraction results obtained as follows:

Full Abstraction Results		
Languages	Fully Abstract Models	Fully Abstract w.r.t. D
$\lambda\ell_p$	D	Yes (4.2.1)
$\lambda\ell_c$	$Q^{\lambda\ell_c}$ (5.3.1)	No (4.1.2)
$\lambda\ell_\omega$	$Q^{\lambda\ell_\omega}$ (5.3.1)	No
$\lambda\ell$? (5.5.1)	No (4.1.1)

Appendix

The proof of the Theorem consists of the following steps. First, we define a *one-step call-by-value reduction* $\rightarrow_v \subseteq \Lambda^\circ \times \Lambda^\circ$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{(\lambda x.P)(\lambda y.Q) \rightarrow_v P[x := (\lambda y.Q)]}{M \rightarrow_v M'}{MN \rightarrow_v M'N}}{M \rightarrow_v M'}}{(\lambda x.P)M \rightarrow_v (\lambda x.P)M'}$$

LEMMA 5.6.1 $M \Downarrow_v N$ iff the deterministic sequence of one-step call-by-value reductions starting from M terminates at N . \square

Next, a (deterministic) one-step *parallel* β C-reduction \rightarrow_\circ is defined on $\Lambda(C)^\circ$ which *simulates* the one-step call-by-value reduction in a *step-wise fashion* i.e.

$$M \rightarrow_v N \iff \overline{M} \rightarrow_\circ \overline{N};$$

thus transforming the termination problem of M under \rightarrow_v to one of \overline{M} under \rightarrow_\circ .

\rightarrow_\circ is defined by

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{C(\lambda y.Q)((\lambda x.P)(\lambda y.Q)) \rightarrow_\circ P[x := \lambda y.Q]}{P \rightarrow_\circ P'}}{CP((\lambda x.Q)P) \rightarrow_\circ CP'((\lambda x.Q)P')}}{CQ(PQ) \rightarrow_\circ CQ(P'Q)}$$

Now, for $\overline{M} \in \Lambda(C)^\circ$, $\overline{M} \uparrow_\circ$ iff \overline{M} has an *infinite quasi-lazy reduction* i.e. an infinite sequence of one-step β C-reductions containing an *infinite subsequence* of one-step lazy β C-reductions. Hence, the following completes the argument:

PROPOSITION 5.6.2 Let $M \in \Lambda^\circ$. If there is an infinite sequence of \rightarrow_\circ reduction starting from \overline{M} , then \overline{M} has an infinite quasi-lazy reduction. \square

The Proposition is proved by a tedious case analysis according to the last rule used in proving each of the one-step \rightarrow_\circ reduction in the given infinite sequence.

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