

Semi-decidability of may, must and probabilistic testing in a higher-type setting

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Main result

Theorem

May, must and probabilistic testing are semi-decidable, in a fairly general setting including higher-types.

Observations:

- 1 Must testing is perhaps surprising:
It involves universal quantification over an infinite set.
- 2 The other two involve existential quantification and integration.

Ingredient 1

Can reduce to quantification and integration over the Cantor space.

This is the space of infinite sequences of binary digits.

Ingredient 2

Can algorithmically quantify and integrate over the Cantor space.

Quantification amounts exhaustive search in finite time.

Organization

- ① A programming language for non-determinism and probability.
- ② Logical types. [For results of semi-decisions.](#)
- ③ An executable program logic.
- ④ Operational semantics of the executable logic. [Algorithms.](#)
- ⑤ Denotational semantics of the executable logic. [Correctness.](#)

Brief discussion of effects

ML way.

- ① All effects are possible at all types.
- ② Come up with a monad that combines all effects.
- ③ The semantics is in the Kleisli category of that big monad.

Haskell way.

- ① Explicitly define various monads as type constructors.
- ② For each effect, or maybe for each combination of a set of effects.
- ③ Several monads are used in the same program.
- ④ The programmer decides which monads he wants for each sub-program.

We develop our results in the Haskell way.

A programming language for non-determinism and probability

Ground types:

$$\gamma ::= \text{Bool} \mid \text{Nat}$$

Powertype constructors:

$$F ::= H \mid S \mid P \mid V$$

- ① Hoare, Smyth, Plotkin, Probabilistic.
- ② May, must, may/must, on average.
- ③ Angelic, demonic, human.

Types:

$$\sigma, \tau ::= \gamma \mid \sigma \times \tau \mid \sigma \rightarrow \tau \mid F\sigma$$

Cartesian closed language.

Example

The type

$$\sigma \times \tau \rightarrow \mathbf{V} \tau$$

can be used to code labeled Markov processes with:

- 1 label space $A = \sigma$,
- 2 state space $S = \tau$, and
- 3 transition function $t : A \times S \rightarrow \mathbf{V} S$.

Terms

For the sublanguage over the PCF types

$$\sigma, \tau ::= \gamma \mid \sigma \times \tau \mid \sigma \rightarrow \tau$$

we take the PCF terms.

(Conditional, arithmetic, λ -calculus, fixed-point recursion.)

So no non-determinism or probability.

Non-deterministic choice constants

For each type σ and each type constructor $F \in \{\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}\}$, we have a constant

$$(\mathbb{V}^\sigma): F\sigma \times F\sigma \rightarrow F\sigma,$$

Idea. The term

this \mathbb{V} that

non-deterministically evaluates to this or that, angelically or demonically.

Probabilistic choice constants

For each type σ , we have an infix constant

$$(\oplus^\sigma): V\sigma \times V\sigma \rightarrow V\sigma.$$

Idea. The term

this \oplus that

non-deterministically evaluates to this or that, with equal probability.

Monad syntax

Functor. If $f: \sigma \rightarrow \tau$ is a term, then so is

$$Ff: F\sigma \rightarrow F\tau.$$

Unit. For each type σ , we have a term

$$\eta_F^\sigma: \sigma \rightarrow F\sigma.$$

Multiplication. For each type σ , we have a constant

$$\mu_F^\sigma: FF\sigma \rightarrow F\sigma.$$

Strength. Left to the audience.

Remark

We could have worked with monads as Kleisli triples
(as in Haskell).

This makes no difference, but our choice is presentationally more
convenient.

Example

$$\eta(\lambda x.0) \circledast \eta(\lambda x.1) : F(\sigma \rightarrow \text{Nat})$$

$$\lambda x.\eta(0) \circledast \eta(1) : \sigma \rightarrow F\text{Nat}$$

Remark. If we apply the ML way to a call-by-name language, the terms

$$(\lambda x.0) \circledast (\lambda x.1)$$

and

$$\lambda x.(0 \circledast 1)$$

behave in the same way!

Example: randomly choose an infinite sequence of booleans with uniform distribution

$\text{Cantor} = (\text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Bool}).$

$\text{cons}: \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Cantor} \rightarrow \text{Cantor}.$

$\text{prefix}: \text{Bool} \rightarrow V \text{Cantor} \rightarrow V \text{Cantor}.$

$\text{prefix } p = V(\text{cons } p).$

$\text{random}: V \text{Cantor}.$

$\text{random} = (\text{prefix False random}) \oplus (\text{prefix True random}).$

Possible-results operational semantics

$$\frac{M \Downarrow v}{M \otimes N \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{N \Downarrow v}{M \otimes N \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow v}{M \oplus N \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{N \Downarrow v}{M \oplus N \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \eta(v) \quad f(v) \Downarrow w}{Ff(M) \Downarrow \eta(w)}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow v}{\eta(M) \Downarrow \eta(v)}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \eta(V) \quad V \Downarrow \eta(W)}{\mu(M) \Downarrow \eta(W)}$$

Schedulers

Think of elements of the Cantor space as “schedulers”.

Can decorate the operational semantics with schedulers,

$$M \Downarrow^s v,$$

so that

$$M \Downarrow v \text{ iff there is some } s \text{ with } M \Downarrow^s v.$$

May and must convergence

M *must converge* \iff for every s there is v with $M \Downarrow^s v$.

M *may converge* \iff there are s and v with $M \Downarrow^s v$.

Our approach is based on this idea.
But we implement it in a different way.

The Sierpinski type

Term formation rules for a Sierpinski type S :

- ① $\top : S$ is a term.
- ② If $M : S$ and $N : \sigma$ are terms then $(\text{if } M \text{ then } N) : \sigma$ is a term.
- ③ If $M, N : S$ are terms then so is $M \vee N : S$.

The only value (or canonical form) of type S is \top .

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \top \quad N \Downarrow V}{\text{if } M \text{ then } N \Downarrow V} \qquad \frac{M \Downarrow \top}{M \vee N \Downarrow \top} \qquad \frac{N \Downarrow \top}{M \vee N \Downarrow \top}.$$

Computational adequacy of Scott model

If M is a closed term of ground type and v is a value then

$$\llbracket M \rrbracket = v \text{ iff } M \Downarrow v.$$

The vertical unit-interval type \mathbb{I}

- 1 Interpreted as the cpo $([0, 1], \leq)$.
- 2 Computations of terms $M: \mathbb{I}$ allow to semi-decide the condition $p < M$ with p rational.
- 3 But **not** the conditions $M = p$ or $M < p$ in general.

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- ⑥ We take the primitive operations those for **Real PCF**, restricted to such intervals.
- ⑦ Arithmetic functions, $p < (-): \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ and **pif**.
- ⑧ Same operational rules.

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Computational adequacy

$\llbracket M \rrbracket = x$ iff for every rational number p , we have that

$$p < x \iff (p < M) \Downarrow \top.$$

Definability results

There are programs:

- ① $x \oplus y = (x + y)/2$, **min**, **max**,
- ② $\exists, \forall: (\text{Cantor} \rightarrow S) \rightarrow S$.
- ③ $\int: (\text{Cantor} \rightarrow I) \rightarrow I$.

Based on papers:

- ① PCF extended with real numbers, 1996.
- ② Integration in Real PCF (with Edalat), 2000.
- ③ Synthetic topology of data types and classical spaces, 2004.
- ④ Exhaustible sets in higher-computation, 2008.

Some code

$$\exists(p) = p(\perp) \vee (\exists(\lambda s. p(\text{cons False } s)) \vee \exists(\lambda s. p(\text{cons True } s))),$$

$$\forall(p) = p(\text{if } \forall(\lambda s. p(\text{cons False } s)) \wedge \forall(\lambda s. p(\text{cons True } s)) \text{ then } c),$$

$$\int f = \max \left(f(\perp), \int \lambda s. f(\text{cons False } s) \oplus \int \lambda s. f(\text{cons True } s) \right).$$

Executable program logic

We extend the programming language $\text{PCF} + \text{S} + \text{I}$ with modal operators.

We get an executable program logic, MMP .

May and must testing

The \mathcal{S} -valued terms are characteristic functions of open sets:

$$\mathcal{O} \sigma = (\sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{S}).$$

$$\diamond_F^\sigma: \mathcal{O} \sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{O} F \sigma, \quad \text{for } F \in \{\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{P}\},$$

$$\square_F^\sigma: \mathcal{O} \sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{O} F \sigma, \quad \text{for } F \in \{\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P}\}.$$

Idea. If $u: \mathcal{O} \sigma$ and $N: \mathcal{P} \sigma$,

$$\diamond(u)(N) = \top \iff u(x) = \top \text{ for some outcome } x \text{ of a run of } N$$

and

$$\square(u)(N) = \top \iff u(x) = \top \text{ for all outcomes } x \text{ of runs of } N.$$

Example

- 1 Want to semi-decide whether $n: \text{FNat}$ must be prime.
- 2 Write a semi-decision term $\text{prime}: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{S}$.
- 3 Run, in the executable logic, the ground term $\Box \text{prime } n$.

Of course, one can also semi-decide whether n must be non-prime.

However:

- 1 It doesn't follow that primeness of all outcomes of n is decidable.
- 2 If n has at least one non-divergent run, then both must tests diverge.

Example

Recursively define a term $f: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{P Nat}$ by

$$f(n) = \eta(n) \odot f(n+1),$$

and let $\text{converge}: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{S}$ be a term such that

$$\text{converge}(n) = \top \iff n \neq \perp.$$

Then we intend that

$$\diamond \text{converge}(f(0)) = \top$$

and that

$$\square \text{converge}(f(0)) = \perp$$

but

$$\square \text{converge}(\eta(0) \odot \eta(1)) = \top.$$

Parallel-convergence is definable from may testing

Taking $\text{converge}: S \rightarrow S$ as the identity, the function

$$(\vee): S \times S \rightarrow S$$

is characterized by the equation

$$(p \vee q) = \Diamond \text{converge}(\eta(p) \otimes \eta(q)).$$

However, it cannot be defined from must testing.

Notice that $(p \wedge q) = \Box \text{converge}(\eta(p) \otimes \eta(q))$.

Probabilistic testing

Define a type of expectations:

$$\mathcal{E} \sigma = (\sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{I}).$$

We add a constant to the logic:

$$\bigcirc^\sigma : \mathcal{E} \sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \mathbb{V} \sigma.$$

For a $\{0, 1\}$ -valued term $u : \mathcal{E} \sigma$ and a term $N : \mathbb{V} \sigma$,

$\bigcirc(u)(N) : \mathbb{I}$ is the **probability** that u holds for outcomes of runs of N .

Example

Recursively define a term $g: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}\text{Nat}$ by

$$g(n) = \eta(n) \oplus g(n+1),$$

Then we intend that

$$\bigcirc \text{converge}(g(0)) = 1$$

and

$$\bigcirc \text{converge}_n(g(0)) = 2^{-n-1}$$

where $\text{converge}_n: \text{Nat} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}$ is a term such that

$$\text{converge}_n(x) = \top \iff x = n.$$

Parallel-convergence is definable from probabilistic testing

$$(p \vee q) = 0 < \bigcirc \text{converge}(\eta(p) \oplus \eta(q)).$$

Example: uniform distribution on I

Define a term $\text{prefix}: I \rightarrow V\ I \rightarrow V\ I$ by

$$\text{prefix } x = V(\lambda y. x \oplus y),$$

Define $\text{random}: V\ I$ by

$$\text{random} = (\text{prefix } 0\ \text{random}) \oplus (\text{prefix } 1\ \text{random}).$$

For example $\bigcirc(\lambda x. p < x)\ \text{random} = 1 - p$ for any $p \in I$.

Existential quantification in MMP

Recall that $\mathcal{O}\sigma = (\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{S})$

$$\Diamond: \mathcal{O}\sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{O}\mathbf{H}\sigma$$

Define

$$\exists: \mathbf{H}\sigma \rightarrow ((\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow \mathbf{S})$$

as

$$\exists(C)(u) = \Diamond(u)(C).$$

The idea is that this stands for

$$\exists x \in C. u(x).$$

Universal quantification in MMP

Similarly, from the must testing operator

$$\Box: \mathcal{O}\sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{O}\mathbf{S}\sigma,$$

we get a term

$$\forall: \mathbf{S}\sigma \rightarrow ((\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{S}) \rightarrow \mathbf{S}),$$

The Ploktin powertype has both quantifiers.

Integration in MMP

Recalling that $\mathcal{E} \sigma = (\sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{I})$, from the probabilistic testing operator

$$\bigcirc: \mathcal{E} \sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \mathbb{V} \sigma$$

we get a term

$$\int: \mathbb{V} \sigma \rightarrow ((\sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow \mathbb{I})$$

defined by

$$\int_{\nu} u = \bigcirc(u)(\nu).$$

where $\nu: \mathbb{V} \sigma$ and $u: \sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$.

Example

Let $(\sigma, f_1, \dots, f_n, p_1, \dots, p_n)$ be an IFS with probabilities.

Its invariant measure $\nu: \mathbf{V} \sigma$ can be defined as

$$\nu = \text{weighted-choice}(p_1, \dots, p_n)(\mathbf{V}(f_1)(\nu), \dots, \mathbf{V}(f_n)(\nu)),$$

Scriven (MFPS 2008) developed a PCF program for computing integrals of functions $u: \sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{I}$ with respect to the invariant measure.

Here we get the alternative algorithm $\int_{\nu} u = \mathbf{O}(u)(\nu)$ in the program logic MMP instead.

Operational semantics of the executable logic MMP

- 1 By compositional compilation into its deterministic sub-language $\text{PCF} + \text{S} + \text{I}$.
- 2 The translation is the identity on $\text{PCF} + \text{S} + \text{I}$ terms.
- 3 Reduce may, must and probabilistic testing in MMP to quantification and integration in $\text{PCF} + \text{S} + \text{I}$.

Translation of types

This is defined by induction:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(\gamma) &= \gamma, \\ \phi(\sigma \times \tau) &= \phi(\sigma) \times \phi(\tau), \\ \phi(\sigma \rightarrow \tau) &= \phi(\sigma) \rightarrow \phi(\tau), \\ \phi(F\sigma) &= \mathbf{Cantor} \rightarrow \phi(\sigma).\end{aligned}$$

Recall that $\mathbf{Cantor} = (\mathbf{Nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool})$.

(Hence the translation is the identity on $\mathbf{PCF} + \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{Ic}$ types.)

Translation of terms

$$\phi(x) = x$$

$$\phi(\lambda x.M) = \lambda x.\phi(M)$$

$$\phi(MN) = \phi(M)\phi(N)$$

$$\phi(\text{PCF} + \text{S} + \text{I constant}) = \text{itself}$$

$$\phi(\text{any fixed-point combinator}) = \text{itself}$$

(Hence the translation is the identity on **PCF + S + I** terms.)

Translation of choice operators

For $\star \in \{\otimes, \oplus\}$, we define

$$\phi(\star) = \lambda(k_0, k_1). \lambda s. \text{if head}(s) \text{ then } k_0(\text{tail}(s)) \text{ else } k_1(\text{tail}(s)).$$

Here k_0 and k_1 range over $\phi(F\sigma) = \text{Cantor} \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)$.

Translation of the modal operators: may

Typing:

$$\begin{aligned}\diamond & : (\sigma \rightarrow S) \rightarrow (F\sigma \rightarrow S), \\ \phi(\diamond) & : (\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow S) \rightarrow ((\text{Cantor} \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow S).\end{aligned}$$

We define

$$\phi(\diamond) = \lambda u. \lambda k. \exists s. u(k(s)).$$

Here

$$\underbrace{(\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow S)}_u \rightarrow \underbrace{((\underbrace{\text{Cantor}}_s \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow S)}_k.$$

The quantification is over the Cantor space.

Translation of the modal operators: must

Typing:

$$\begin{aligned}\Box & : (\sigma \rightarrow S) \rightarrow (F\sigma \rightarrow S), \\ \phi(\Box) & : (\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow S) \rightarrow ((\text{Cantor} \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow S).\end{aligned}$$

We define

$$\phi(\Box) = \lambda u. \lambda k. \forall s. u(k(s)).$$

Here

$$\underbrace{(\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow S)}_u \rightarrow \underbrace{((\underbrace{\text{Cantor}}_s \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow S)}_k.$$

The quantification is over the Cantor space.

Translation of the modal operators: probabilistic

Typing:

$$\begin{aligned}\bigcirc & : (\sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{I}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{V} \sigma \rightarrow \mathbf{I}), \\ \phi(\bigcirc) & : (\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow \mathbf{I}) \rightarrow ((\mathbf{Cantor} \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow \mathbf{I}).\end{aligned}$$

We define

$$\phi(\bigcirc) = \lambda u. \lambda k. \int u(k(s)) \mathfrak{s}.$$

Here

$$\underbrace{(\phi(\sigma) \rightarrow \mathbf{I})}_u \rightarrow \underbrace{((\underbrace{\mathbf{Cantor}}_s \rightarrow \phi(\sigma)) \rightarrow \mathbf{I})}_k.$$

The integration is over the Cantor space.

Translation of the monad constructions: functor

$$\phi(Ff) = \lambda k. \lambda s. f(k(s)).$$

Translation of the monad constructions: unit

$$\phi(\eta_F) = \lambda x. \lambda s. x.$$

Translation of the monad constructions: multiplication

We consider PCF terms

$\text{evens}, \text{odds}: \text{Cantor} \rightarrow \text{Cantor}$

that take subsequences at even and odd indices.

Define:

$$\phi(\mu_F) = \lambda k. \lambda s. k(\text{evens}(s))(\text{odds}(s)).$$

Translation of the monad constructions: strength

Left as an exercise to the audience.

Ground evaluation

For **MMP** terms $M: \sigma$ with $\gamma \neq \mathbf{I}$ ground, define

$$M \Downarrow v \iff \phi(M) \Downarrow v.$$

Denotational semantics of the executable logic

As predicted by the audience.

Types:

- 1 Hoare powertype \mapsto Hoare powerdomain.
- 2 Smyth powertype \mapsto Smyth powerdomain.
- 3 Plotkin powertype \mapsto Plotkin powerdomain.
- 4 Probabilistic powertype \mapsto probabilistic powerdomain.

Terms:

- 1 These are monads, which have the binary choice operators we need.
- 2 The modal operators correspond to the usual descriptions of the open sets of the powerdomains.
- 3 The probabilistic operator is interpreted by integration.

Computational adequacy

To establish semi-decidability of may, must and probabilistic testing, we first prove *computational adequacy* of the model:

Lemma

For any closed MMP-term M of ground type other than \mathbf{I} , and all syntactical values v ,

$$\llbracket M \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket \iff M \Downarrow v.$$

In particular, for $M: \mathbf{I}$ closed and $r \in \mathbb{Q}$,

$$r < \llbracket M \rrbracket \iff r < M \Downarrow \top.$$

Computational adequacy: technical aspects

Because the model is already known to be computationally adequate for the deterministic sub-language $\text{PCF} + \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{I}$:

Lemma

Computational adequacy holds if and only if $\llbracket M \rrbracket = \llbracket \phi(M) \rrbracket$ for every closed term M of ground type.

Correctness of the semi-decision procedures

Follows directly from computational adequacy.

BUT

Trouble

- ① For the proof of computational adequacy, we rely on the **abstract description** of the powerdomains by free algebras.
- ② For the proof of correctness, we rely on the **concrete descriptions** of the powerdomains:
 - ① Set of closed sets (Hoare).
 - ② Set of compact sets (Smyth).
 - ③ Lenses (Plotkin).
 - ④ Continuous valuations with total mass 1 (Probabilistic).
- ③ The abstract and concrete descriptions agree only for special kinds of domains.

Partial results

Theorem

- 1 *For any type σ , may testing on terms of type $H\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*
- 2 *For any continuous type σ , must testing on terms of type $S\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*
- 3 *For any RSFP type σ , may and must testing on terms of type $P\sigma$ are semi-decidable.*
- 4 *For any continuous type σ , probabilistic testing on terms of type $V\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*

Remark

- ① If we hadn't included the probabilistic powertype in our language, we wouldn't have had any of the above difficulties.
- ② May and must testing would be semi-decidable for all types.
- ③ What causes the restrictions is the presence of the probabilistic powertype.
- ④ But still the restrictions are not severe in practice.
- ⑤ For example, probabilistic computations on any PCF type of any order have semi-decidable probabilistic testing.

Syntactical description of some types we account for

Define:

$$\begin{aligned} S &::= \gamma \mid S \times S \mid (C \rightarrow S) \mid \mathbb{H} C \mid \mathbb{S} C, \\ R &::= S \mid R \times R \mid (R \rightarrow R) \mid \mathbb{P} R, \\ C &::= R \mid C \times C \mid \mathbb{V} C. \end{aligned}$$

By a *continuous Scott domain* we mean a bounded complete continuous dcpo.

Proposition

- ① *The interpretation of an S type is a continuous Scott domain.*
- ② *The interpretation of an R type is an RSFP domain.*
- ③ *The interpretation of a C type is a continuous dcpo.*

End and summary

Theorem

- 1 *For any type σ , may testing on terms of type $H\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*
- 2 *For any continuous type σ , must testing on terms of type $S\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*
- 3 *For any RSFP type σ , may and must testing on terms of type $P\sigma$ are semi-decidable.*
- 4 *For any continuous type σ , probabilistic testing on terms of type $V\sigma$ is semi-decidable.*

This applies to a large class of (syntactically described) types.