

# Principles of Abstract Interpretation

## MIT press

### Ch. 19, Structural forward reachability semantics

Patrick Cousot

[pcousot.github.io](http://pcousot.github.io)

[PrAbsInt@gmail.com](mailto:PrAbsInt@gmail.com)

[github.com/PrAbsInt/](https://github.com/PrAbsInt/)

These slides are available at

<http://github.com/PrAbsInt/slides/slides/slides-19--structural-forward-reachability-semantics-PrAbsInt.pdf>

# Design of a verification/analysis method for a programming language by abstract interpretation

- Define the **syntax** and operational **semantics** of the language
- Define **program properties** and the **collecting semantics**
- Define an **abstraction** of properties (preferably by a Galois connection)
- Calculate a sound (and possibly complete) **abstract semantics** by abstraction of the collecting semantics ← **this chapter**
- Define an **abstract inductive proof method/analysis algorithm**

## Chapter 17

# Structural fixpoint prefix trace semantics (quick reminder from Chapter **17**)

# Fixpoint prefix trace semantics of an assignment statement

*Fixpoint prefix trace semantics of an assignment statement*  $S ::= {}^{\ell} x = E ;$

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket S \rrbracket (\pi^{\ell}) &= \{\ell\} \cup \{\ell \xrightarrow{x = E = v} \text{after} \llbracket S \rrbracket \mid v = \mathcal{E} \llbracket E \rrbracket \varrho(\pi^{\ell})\} \\ \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket S \rrbracket (\pi^{\ell'}) &= \emptyset \qquad \ell' \neq \ell\end{aligned} \tag{17.2}$$

- example of basic case

## Fixpoint prefix trace semantics of a statement list

*Prefix traces of a statement list*  $sl ::= sl' \ s$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[sl]](\pi_1) = \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[sl']](\pi_1) \cup \{\pi_2 \dot{\circ} \pi_3 \mid \pi_2 \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^+[[sl']](\pi_1) \wedge \pi_3 \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[s]](\pi_1 \dot{\circ} \pi_2)\} \quad (17.3)$$

- example of inductive case ( $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[sl]]$  defined in terms of  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^+[[sl']]$  and  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[[s]]$  with  $sl' \triangleleft sl$  and  $s \triangleleft sl$ )

# Fixpoint prefix trace semantics of an iteration

*Prefix traces of an iteration statement*  $S ::= \text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b$

$$\mathcal{S}^*[\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b] = \text{lfp}^\subseteq \mathcal{F}^*[\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b] \quad (17.4)$$

$$\mathcal{F}^*[\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b](X)(\pi_1^{\ell'}) \triangleq \emptyset \quad \text{when } \ell' \neq \ell$$

$$\mathcal{F}^*[\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b](X)(\pi_1^\ell) \triangleq \{\ell\} \quad (a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cup \{ \ell' \pi_2^{\ell'} \xrightarrow{\neg(B)} \text{after}[\![S]\!] \mid \ell' \pi_2^{\ell'} \in X(\pi_1^{\ell'}) \wedge \\ \mathcal{B}[\![B]\!]\varrho(\pi_1^{\ell'} \pi_2^{\ell'}) = \text{ff} \wedge \ell' = \ell \} \end{aligned} \quad (b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cup \{ \ell' \pi_2^{\ell'} \xrightarrow{B} \text{at}[\![S_b]\!] \frown \pi_3 \mid \ell' \pi_2^{\ell'} \in X(\pi_1^{\ell'}) \wedge \mathcal{B}[\![B]\!]\varrho(\pi_1^{\ell'} \pi_2^{\ell'}) = \text{tt} \\ \wedge \pi_3 \in \mathcal{S}^*[\![S_b]\!](\pi_1^{\ell'} \pi_2^{\ell'} \xrightarrow{B} \text{at}[\![S_b]\!]) \wedge \ell' = \ell \} \end{aligned} \quad (c)$$

- example of inductive/structural fixpoint case
  - inductive/structural:  $\mathcal{S}^*[\text{while}^\ell(B) S_b]$  defined in terms of  $\mathcal{S}^*[S_b]$  with  $S_b \triangleleft \text{while}^\ell(B) S_b$
  - fixpoint:  $\mathcal{S}^*[\text{while}^\ell(B) S_b]$  recursively defined in terms of itself ( $n + 1$  iterations are  $n$  iterations plus 1 iteration)

# Ch. 19, Structural forward reachability semantics



## Forward relational reachability semantics

- Objective: define a semantics that attaches to each program point  $\ell$  of the program
  - the strongest predicate  $/\star I^\ell(\vec{x}_0, \vec{x}) \star/$  describing the relation between the initial values  $\vec{x}_0$  of the variables  $\vec{x}$  and the values  $\vec{x}$  of these variables  $\vec{x}$  whenever control reaches that program point  $\ell$ .
  - i.e. the relation  $\mathcal{R}^\ell \in \wp(\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v})$  between the initial and current environment  $\mathcal{R}^\ell = \{\langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \mid I^\ell(\rho_0(\vec{x}), \rho(\vec{x}))\}$  with the convention that  $\vec{x}_0 = \rho_0(\vec{x})$  denotes the initial value of  $\vec{x}$  in the initial environment  $\rho_0$  while  $\vec{x} = \rho(\vec{x})$  denotes the current value of  $\vec{x}$  in the current environment  $\rho$ .

## Forward assertional reachability semantics

- Similar, but forgets about the initial values  $\vec{x}_0$  i.e.  $/\star I^\ell(\vec{x}) \star/$

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reachability](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reachability)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reachability\\_problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reachability_problem)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invariant\\_\(mathematics\)#Invariants\\_in\\_computer\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invariant_(mathematics)#Invariants_in_computer_science)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loop\\_invariant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loop_invariant)

## Examples of reachability/invariant semantics

## Assertional local invariants, Example

```
/* x = 0 (initialization hypothesis) */  
while  $\ell_1$  (x < 10)  /* 0 ≤ x ≤ 10 (loop invariant) */  
     $\ell_2$  /* 0 ≤ x < 10 */  
        x = x + 1 ;  
     $\ell_3$  /* x = 10 */
```

Representing such logical propositions by sets of environments, we have

$\ell$	$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{r}}[[S]] \mathcal{R}_0^\ell$ where $\mathcal{R}_0 = \{\rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \mid \forall y \in \mathbb{V} . \rho(y) = 0\}$
$\ell_1$	$\{\rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \mid 0 \leq \rho(x) \leq 10 \wedge \forall y \in \mathbb{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = 0\}$
$\ell_2$	$\{\rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \mid 0 \leq \rho(x) < 10 \wedge \forall y \in \mathbb{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = 0\}$
$\ell_3$	$\{\rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \mid \rho(x) = 10 \wedge \forall y \in \mathbb{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = 0\}$

□

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invariant\\_\(mathematics\)#Invariants\\_in\\_computer\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invariant_(mathematics)#Invariants_in_computer_science)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loop\\_invariant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loop_invariant)

## Relational local invariants, Example

```

/* x = x0 (initialization hypothesis) */
while  $\ell_1$  (x < 10)  /* (10 ≤ x0 = x) ∨ (x0 ≤ x ≤ 10) (loop invariant) */
     $\ell_2$  /* x0 ≤ x < 10 */
    x = x + 1 ;
 $\ell_3$  /* (10 ≤ x0 = x) ∨ (x0 < 10 ∧ x = 10) */

```

Representing such logical propositions by a binary relation between environments, we have

$\ell$	$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{R}}[[s]] \mathcal{R}_0 \ell$ where $\mathcal{R}_0 = \{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \mid \rho = \rho_0 \}$
$\ell_1$	$\{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \mid (10 \leq \rho_0(x) = \rho(x)) \vee (\rho_0(x) \leq \rho(x) \leq 10) \wedge$ $\forall y \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = \rho_0(y) \}$
$\ell_2$	$\{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \mid \rho_0(x) \leq \rho(x) < 10 \wedge \forall y \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = \rho_0(y) \}$
$\ell_3$	$\{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \mid (10 \leq \rho_0(x) = \rho(x)) \vee (\rho_0(x) \leq \rho(x) \leq 10) \wedge$ $\forall y \in \mathcal{V} \setminus \{x\} . \rho(y) = \rho_0(y) \}$

□

# Reachability/invariant semantics

# Notations to handle both the assertional and relational cases at once

tag	assertional	relational
$\vec{q}$	$\vec{r}$	$\vec{R}$
$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{q}}[[P]]$	$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{r}}[[P]]$	$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{R}}[[P]]$
$\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}^{\vec{q}}$	$\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}$	$\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v} \times \mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}$
...	...	...

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathcal{S}^{\vec{q}}[[s]] & \in & \wp(\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}^{\vec{q}}) & \rightarrow & (\mathbb{L} \rightarrow \wp(\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}^{\vec{q}})) \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & \text{precondition} & & \text{invariant} \\
 & & & & \text{point}
 \end{array}$$

# Formal definition of the assertional/relational reachability semantics

- Let  $\ell_0 = \text{at}[\![S]\!]$ .

$$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{r}}[\![S]\!] \mathcal{R}_0 \ell \triangleq \{ \varrho(\pi_0 \ell_0 \pi_1 \ell') \mid \varrho(\pi_0 \ell_0) \in \mathcal{R}_0 \wedge \exists \pi_2 . \ell_0 \pi_1 \ell' \pi_2 \in \mathcal{S}^*[\![S]\!](\pi_0 \ell_0) \wedge \ell' = \ell \}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{R}}[\![S]\!] \mathcal{R}_0 \ell \triangleq \{ \langle \rho_0, \varrho(\pi_0 \ell_0 \pi_1 \ell') \rangle \mid \langle \rho_0, \varrho(\pi_0 \ell_0) \rangle \in \mathcal{R}_0 \wedge \exists \pi_2 . \ell_0 \pi_1 \ell' \pi_2 \in \mathcal{S}^*[\![S]\!](\pi_0 \ell_0) \wedge \ell' = \ell \}$$

- (Informally, if  $\mathcal{R}_0 \in \wp(\mathbb{E}\mathbf{v}^{\vec{e}})$  is a precondition and  $\ell \in \mathbb{L}$  is the program label then  $\mathcal{S}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!] \mathcal{R}_0 \ell$  is an invariant at  $\ell$  which holds if and when execution of the program component  $S$  started with an initial state satisfying the precondition  $\mathcal{R}_0$  reaches program point  $\ell$ .)
- This formal definition is hard to work with, so we look for an equivalent structural definition  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!] = \mathcal{S}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!]$ .

## Environment assignment

Assignment  $\rho[x \leftarrow v]$  of a value  $v \in \mathbb{V}$  to a variable  $x \in \mathbb{V}$  in an environment  $\rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\rho[x \leftarrow v](x) &\triangleq v \\ \rho[x \leftarrow v](y) &\triangleq \rho(y) \quad \text{when } x \neq y\end{aligned}\tag{19.10}$$



## Examples of environment assignment

- $\leftarrow \rho$  encodes the values of variables *before* the assignment  
 $x = 0 ;$   
 $\leftarrow \rho[x \leftarrow 0]$  encodes the values of variables *after* the assignment

i.e.  $\rho[x \leftarrow 0](x) = 0$  is the value of  $x$  after the assignment while the value of the other variables is unchanged.

- $\leftarrow \rho$  encodes the values of variables *before* the assignment  
 $x = x + 1 ;$   
 $\leftarrow \rho[x \leftarrow \rho(x) + 1]$  encodes the values of variables *after* the assignment

The value of  $x$  after the assignment  $x = x + 1 ;$  is the value  $\rho(x)$  of  $x$  before the assignment incremented by 1 that is  $\rho(x) + 1$ . Value of all other variables unchanged.

# Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics

# Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics

Reachability *at a statement S*

$$\mathcal{S}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!](\mathcal{R}_0)_{\text{at}[\![S]\!]} \triangleq \mathcal{R}_0$$

Reachability *outside a statement S*

$$\ell \notin \text{labx}[\![S]\!] \Rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!](\mathcal{R}_0)^\ell = \emptyset \quad (19.30)$$

Reachability of a program  $P ::= S \mid \ell'$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![P]\!] \triangleq \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!] \quad (19.19)$$

## Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

Reachability of a skip statement  $S ::= ;$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^\ell = (\ell \in \{\text{at}[S], \text{after}[S]\} ? \mathcal{R}_0 : \emptyset) \quad (19.21)$$

Reachability of an assignment statement  $S ::= x = E ;$

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^\ell = & (\ell = \text{at}[S] ? \mathcal{R}_0 \\ & \parallel \ell = \text{after}[S] ? \text{assign}_{\vec{e}}[x, E] \mathcal{R}_0 \\ & : \emptyset) \end{aligned} \quad (19.12)$$

$$\text{assign}_r[x, E] \mathcal{R}_0 \triangleq \{\rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{E}[E]\rho] \mid \rho \in \mathcal{R}_0\}$$

$$\text{assign}_{\bar{r}}[x, E] \mathcal{R}_0 \triangleq \{\langle \rho_0, \rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{E}[E]\rho] \rangle \mid \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathcal{R}_0\}$$

## Assignment example

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{r}}[\ell_1 \ x = x + 1 \ ; \ell_2] \{\rho \mid \rho(x) = 0\} \ell_2$$

$$\triangleq \text{assign}_{\vec{r}}[x, x + 1] \{\rho \mid \rho(x) = 0\}$$

(def. (19.12) of  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{r}}$ )

$$\triangleq \{\rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}[\![x + 1]\!]\rho] \mid \rho \in \{\rho \mid \rho(x) = 0\}\}$$

(def. (19.12) of  $\text{assign}_{\vec{r}}$ )

$$\triangleq \{\rho[x \leftarrow \rho(x) + 1] \mid \rho(x) = 0\}$$

(def.  $\in$  and semantics of arithmetic expressions in Section **3.6**)

$$= \{\rho[x \leftarrow 1] \mid \rho \in \mathbb{E}\forall\}$$

(mathematical def. + )  $\square$

# Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

Reachability of a conditional statement  $S ::= \text{if } (B) S_t$

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^{\ell} = & \left( \ell = \text{at}[S] ? \mathcal{R}_0 \right. \\ & \mid \ell \in \text{in}[S_t] ? \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S_t] (\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^{\ell} \\ & \mid \ell = \text{after}[S] ? \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S_t] (\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^{\ell} \cup (\overline{\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B]} \mathcal{R}_0) \\ & \left. : \emptyset \right) \end{aligned} \quad (19.22)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{test}^{\vec{r}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0 & \triangleq \{ \rho \in \mathcal{R}_0 \mid \mathcal{B}[B] \rho = \text{tt} \} \\ \text{test}^{\vec{R}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0 & \triangleq \{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathcal{R}_0 \mid \mathcal{B}[B] \rho = \text{tt} \} \\ \overline{\text{test}^{\vec{r}}[B]} \mathcal{R}_0 & \triangleq \{ \rho \in \mathcal{R}_0 \mid \mathcal{B}[B] \rho = \text{ff} \} \\ \overline{\text{test}^{\vec{R}}[B]} \mathcal{R}_0 & \triangleq \{ \langle \rho_0, \rho \rangle \in \mathcal{R}_0 \mid \mathcal{B}[B] \rho = \text{ff} \} \end{aligned}$$

## Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

Reachability of a conditional statement  $S ::= \text{if } (B) S_t \text{ else } S_f$

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^\ell &= ( \ell = \text{at}[S] \text{ ? } \mathcal{R}_0 \\ &\quad \| \ell \in \text{in}[S_t] \text{ ? } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S_t] (\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^\ell \\ &\quad \| \ell \in \text{in}[S_f] \text{ ? } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S_f] (\overline{\text{test}}^{\vec{e}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^\ell \\ &\quad \| \ell = \text{after}[S] \text{ ? } \\ &\quad \quad \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S_t] (\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^\ell \cup \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[S_f] (\overline{\text{test}}^{\vec{e}}[B] \mathcal{R}_0)^\ell \\ &\quad : \emptyset ) \end{aligned} \tag{19.23}$$

## Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

*Reachability of a statement list*  $sl ::= sl' \ s$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[sl]\mathcal{R}_0^\ell = \left( \ell \in \text{labs}[sl'] \setminus \{\text{at}[s]\} \ ? \ \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[sl']\mathcal{R}_0^\ell \right. \\ \left. \parallel \ell \in \text{labs}[s] \ ? \ \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[s](\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[sl']\mathcal{R}_0^\ell \text{ at}[s])^\ell \right. \\ \left. \circ \emptyset \right) \quad (19.24)$$

*Reachability of an empty statement list*  $sl ::= \epsilon$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[sl]\mathcal{R}_0^\ell = \left( \ell = \text{at}[sl] \ ? \ \mathcal{R}_0 \circ \emptyset \right) \quad (19.20)$$



## Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

Reachability of a break statement  $S ::= \ell \text{ break } ;$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^{\ell} = (\ell = \text{at}[S] \text{ ? } \mathcal{R}_0 \text{ : } \emptyset) \quad (19.25)$$

Reachability of a compound statement  $S ::= \{ S_1 \}$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[S] = \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{e}}[S_1] \quad (19.26)$$

## Structural assertional/relational reachability semantics (cont'd)

Reachability of an iteration statement  $S ::= \text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S]\!] \mathcal{R}_0^{\ell'} = (\text{lfp}^{\leq} \mathcal{F}^{\vec{e}}[\![\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b]\!] \mathcal{R}_0)^{\ell'} \quad (19.16)$$

$$\mathcal{F}^{\vec{e}}[\![\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b]\!] \mathcal{R}_0 \in (\mathbb{L} \rightarrow \wp(\text{Ev}^{\vec{e}})) \xrightarrow{\quad} (\mathbb{L} \rightarrow \wp(\text{Ev}^{\vec{e}}))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{\vec{e}}[\![\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b]\!] \mathcal{R}_0 X^{\ell'} = & \\ & (\ell' = \ell \text{ ? } \mathcal{R}_0 \cup \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S_b]\!] (\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[\![B]\!] X(\ell)) \ell \\ & \mid \ell' \in \text{in}[\![S_b]\!] \setminus \{\ell\} \text{ ? } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S_b]\!] (\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[\![B]\!] X(\ell)) \ell' \\ & \mid \ell' = \text{after}[\![S]\!] \text{ ? } \overline{\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[\![B]\!]}(X(\ell)) \cup \bigcup_{\ell'' \in \text{breaks-of}[\![S_b]\!]} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{e}}[\![S_b]\!] (\text{test}^{\vec{e}}[\![B]\!] X(\ell)) \ell'' \\ & : \emptyset ) \end{aligned}$$

Only the *loop invariant*  $X(\ell)$  is used!

# Loop invariant

Invariant of an iteration statement  $S ::= \text{while } \ell(B) S_b$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[\text{while } \ell(B) S_b] \mathcal{R}_0 &\in \wp(\text{Ev}^{\vec{\ell}}) \longrightarrow \wp(\text{Ev}^{\vec{\ell}}) \\
 \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0^{\ell'} &= \text{let} \\
 \overline{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[\text{while } \ell(B) S_b] \mathcal{R}_0 X &= \mathcal{R}_0 \cup \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S_b] (\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] X)^{\ell} \\
 \text{and } I &= \text{lfp}^{\subseteq} \overline{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[\text{while } \ell(B) S_b] \mathcal{R}_0 \text{ in} \\
 &(\ell' = \ell \text{ ? } I \\
 &\quad \parallel \ell' \in \text{in}[S_b] \setminus \{\ell\} \text{ ? } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S_b] (\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] I)^{\ell'} \\
 &\quad \parallel \ell' = \text{after}[S] \text{ ? } \text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] I \cup \bigcup_{\ell'' \in \text{breaks-of}[S_b]} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S_b] (\text{test}^{\vec{\ell}}[B] I)^{\ell''} \\
 &\quad \text{: } \emptyset)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19.42}$$

$I = (\text{lfp}^{\subseteq} \overline{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[\text{while } \ell(B) S_b] \mathcal{R}_0)^{\ell}$  (see Exercise 19.18) can be mathematically calculated iteratively but not mechanizable (Rice theorem).

## Reachability transformers preserve joins

**Theorem (19.36)** For all program components  $S$ ,  $\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S]$  preserves arbitrary joins  
i.e.  $\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S] (\bigcup_i P_i)^{\ell} = \bigcup_i \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S] (P_i)^{\ell}$ .

In particular  $\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{\ell}}[S] (\emptyset) = \emptyset$  and the loop transformer  $\mathcal{F}^{\vec{\ell}}[\text{while}^{\ell} (B) S]$  preserves arbitrary joins  $\bigcup$ .

## System of equations for the iteration statement

- By (19.16) for an iteration statement  $S ::= \text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b$ ,  $\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{\vec{q}}[S] \mathcal{R}_0$  is the pointwise  $\subseteq$ -least solution to the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} X(\ell') = \mathcal{F}^{\vec{q}}[\text{while } \ell \text{ (B) } S_b] \mathcal{R}_0 X \ell' \\ \ell' \in \text{labx}[S] \end{cases}$$

- Mathematically solved iteratively
- Not mechanizable, even if the loop invariant is given (Rice theorem)
- Approximations needed

## Example 19.15: iteration

- $P = \text{while } \ell_1 (x < 10) \ell_2 x = x + 1 ; \ell_3$
- all variables are initially 0
- Since there is only one variable  $x$  we don't consider properties to be sets of environments but more simply the set of value of  $x$
- Let  $R_{\ell_1}^n$  be the set of reachable values of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$  after at most  $n \geq 0$  iterations
- The initial value  $x = 0$  is reachable at  $\ell_1$  on iteration entry, that is at iteration 0. So  $R_{\ell_1}^0 = \mathcal{R}_0 = \{0\}$
- After at most 1 iteration, the reachable values  $R_{\ell_1}^1$  of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$  are those  $\mathcal{R}_0$  reachable at iteration 0 plus those of iteration 0 which pass the test and have been incremented in the loop body. So  $R_{\ell_1}^1 = \mathcal{R}^0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R_{\ell_1}^0 \wedge x < 10\} = \{0, 1\}$
- ...

- Similarly,  $R_{\ell_1}^9 = \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ .
- Then, after at most 10 iterations, the reachable values  $R_{\ell_1}^{10}$  of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$  are those  $\mathcal{R}_0$  reachable at iteration 0 plus those  $R_{\ell_1}^9$  of previous iterations which pass the test and have been incremented in the loop body. So

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\ell_1}^{10} &= \mathcal{R}_0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R_{\ell_1}^9 \wedge x < 10\} \\ &= \{0\} \cup \{1, \dots, 10\} = \{0, 1, \dots, 10\}; \end{aligned}$$

- After at most 11 iterations, the reachable values  $R_{\ell_1}^{11}$  of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$  are those  $\mathcal{R}_0$  reachable at iteration 0 plus those  $R_{\ell_1}^{10}$  of previous iterations which pass the test and have been incremented in the loop body. So

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\ell_1}^{11} &= \mathcal{R}_0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R_{\ell_1}^{10} \wedge x < 10\} \\ &= \{0\} \cup \{1, \dots, 10\} = \{0, 1, \dots, 10\} = R_{\ell_1}^{10}; \end{aligned}$$

- Similarly, after at most  $n > 10$  iterations,  $R_{\ell_1}^n = R_{\ell_1}^{10}$ .
- Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\ell_1}^0 &= \mathcal{R}^0 \\ R_{\ell_1}^{n+1} &= \mathcal{R}^0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R_{\ell_1}^n \wedge x < 10\} \end{aligned}$$

with  $R_{\ell_1}^0 \subseteq R_{\ell_1}^1 \subseteq \dots R_{\ell_1}^n \subseteq R_{\ell_1}^{n+1} \subseteq \dots$

- Letting  $R'_{\ell_1}{}^0 = \emptyset$  and  $R'_{\ell_1}{}^{n+1} = R_{\ell_1}^n$ , this is the same as

$$\begin{aligned} R'_{\ell_1}{}^0 &= \emptyset \\ R'_{\ell_1}{}^{n+1} &= \mathcal{R}^0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R'_{\ell_1}{}^n \wedge x < 10\} \end{aligned}$$

with  $R'_{\ell_1}{}^0 \subseteq R'_{\ell_1}{}^1 \subseteq \dots R'_{\ell_1}{}^n \subseteq R'_{\ell_1}{}^{n+1} \subseteq \dots$

- This limit is the set of reachable values  $\bigcup R'_{\ell_1}{}^n = \{0, 1, \dots, 10\}$  of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$ .



- Obviously, the function  $F(R') \triangleq \mathcal{R}_{\ell_1}^0 \cup \{x + 1 \mid x \in R' \wedge x < 10\}$  preserves arbitrary joins  $\bigcup$
- So, by Theorem 15.26, the reachable values of  $x$  at  $\ell_1$  are  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{r}}[\![P]\!] \mathcal{R}^0 \ell_1 = \text{lfp}^{\subseteq} F$ .
- The reachable values of  $x$  at  $\ell_3$  on loop exit are those reachable at  $\ell_1$  that do not pass the test, that is

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{r}}[\![P]\!] \mathcal{R}^0 \ell_3 = \{x \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{r}}[\![P]\!] \mathcal{R}^0 \ell_1 \mid x \geq 10\} = \{10\}.$$

## Chapter 19

# Sound, complete, and exact structural abstract semantics (Section **19.6**)

## Concrete semantics

- Let  $\langle \mathcal{S} \llbracket s \rrbracket \in \mathcal{D} \llbracket s \rrbracket, s \in \mathcal{PC} \rangle$  be a structural semantics defined as

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{S} \llbracket s \rrbracket & \triangleq \mathcal{F} \llbracket s \rrbracket (\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \mathcal{S} \llbracket s' \rrbracket) \\ s \in \mathcal{PC} \end{cases} \quad (19.38)$$

where  $\langle s', s' \triangleleft s \rangle$  is the finite vector of immediate subcomponents of program components  $s \in \mathcal{PC}$ .

- The map  $\mathcal{F} \llbracket s \rrbracket \in \prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \mathcal{D} \llbracket s' \rrbracket \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \llbracket s \rrbracket$  has no parameters in the basic cases (assignment, skip, etc.).
- It is defined has the fixpoint for iteration statements.

## Abstract semantics

- Let  $\alpha[s] \in \wp(\mathcal{D}[s]) \rightarrow \langle \mathbb{D}[s], \sqsubseteq \rangle$  be an abstraction of the properties of the semantics  $\mathcal{S}[s] \in \mathcal{D}[s]$ .
- The abstract semantics of interest is the abstraction of the collecting semantics.

$$\mathcal{S}^\bowtie[s] \triangleq \alpha[s](\{\mathcal{S}[s]\}) \quad (19.39)$$

- The definition of a structural abstract semantics has the form

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie[s] \triangleq \mathcal{F}^\bowtie[s](\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie[s']) \\ s \in \mathcal{PC} \end{array} \right. \quad (19.40)$$

where  $\mathcal{F}^\bowtie[s] \in \prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \mathbb{D}[s'] \rightarrow \mathbb{D}[s]$ .

- So the calculation of the structural abstract semantics  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie[s]$  is purely in the abstract domains  $\langle \mathbb{D}[s], s \in \mathcal{PC} \rangle$  as opposed to abstract semantics  $\mathcal{S}^\bowtie[s]$  involving calculations in the more complicated concrete domains  $\langle \mathcal{D}[s], s \in \mathcal{PC} \rangle$ .

# Structural soundness, completeness, exactness

- The structural abstract semantics is
  - *sound* when  $\forall S \in \mathcal{PC} . \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket$ ,
  - *complete* when  $\forall S \in \mathcal{PC} . \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket \supseteq \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket$ , and
  - *sound and complete* or *exact* when  $\forall S \in \mathcal{PC} . \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket = \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket S \rrbracket$ .
- Examples:
  - The structural reachability semantics  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^{\vec{\ell}}$  is exact.
  - The structural sign semantics  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\pm$  of Section 3.13 is sound but not exact.  
For example,  $\mathcal{S}^\pm \llbracket 2 - 1 \rrbracket = \alpha_\pm(\{\mathcal{S} \llbracket 2 - 1 \rrbracket\}) = \alpha_\pm(\{1\}) = (>0)$  while  
 $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\pm \llbracket 2 - 1 \rrbracket = \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\pm \llbracket 2 \rrbracket \text{ }_{-\pm} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\pm \llbracket 1 \rrbracket = (>0) \text{ }_{-\pm} (>0) = \top_\pm$ .

## How to prove the exactness of a structural abstract semantics?

- We first prove the commutation property

$$\forall s \in \mathcal{PC} . \alpha[s](\{\mathcal{F}[s](\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} X_{s'})\}) = \mathcal{F}^\boxtimes[s](\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \alpha[s'](\{X_{s'}\})) \quad (19.48)$$

for all  $s \in \mathcal{PC}$  and  $X_{s'} \in \mathcal{D}[s']$ ,  $s' \triangleleft s$ .

- For iteration statements,  $\mathcal{F}[s](\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} X_{s'})$  is a fixpoint, and this proof involves e.g. Theorems 18.21 and 18.24, Corollaries 18.31 and 18.32, or similar results.
- This allows us to derive the abstract transformer  $\mathcal{F}^\boxtimes[s]$ , knowing the concrete transformer  $\mathcal{F}[s]$  and the abstraction  $\alpha[s]$ .

- Then the proof proceed by structural induction on  $\langle \mathcal{P}\mathcal{C}, \triangleleft \rangle$ .
- Assuming, by structural induction hypothesis, that  $\forall s' \triangleleft s . \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket s' \rrbracket = \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket s' \rrbracket$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket s \rrbracket \\
&= \alpha \llbracket s \rrbracket (\{ \mathcal{S} \llbracket s \rrbracket \}) && \wr (19.39) \wr \\
&= \alpha \llbracket s \rrbracket (\{ \mathcal{F} \llbracket s \rrbracket (\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \mathcal{S} \llbracket s' \rrbracket) \}) && \wr (19.38) \wr \\
&= \mathcal{F}^\bowtie \llbracket s \rrbracket (\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \alpha \llbracket s' \rrbracket (\{ \mathcal{S} \llbracket s' \rrbracket \})) && \wr \text{commutation property (19.48)} \wr \\
&= \mathcal{F}^\bowtie \llbracket s \rrbracket (\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \mathcal{S}^\bowtie \llbracket s' \rrbracket) && \wr (19.39) \wr \\
&= \mathcal{F}^\bowtie \llbracket s \rrbracket (\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket s' \rrbracket) && \wr \text{structural ind. hyp.} \wr \\
&= \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^\bowtie \llbracket s \rrbracket && \wr (19.40) \wr \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

## Home work

- Read Ch. **19** “Structural forward reachability semantics” of  
*Principles of Abstract Interpretation*  
Patrick Cousot  
MIT Press



# The End, Thank you