

# Modelling a Language

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## 1 Syntax

$x \in \text{VAR}, n \in \text{NAT}, b \in \text{BOOL}, v \in \text{VAL}, e \in \text{EXP}, d \in \text{DIC}, o \in \text{OBS}$

$$\begin{aligned} n &::= \mathbf{z} \mid \mathbf{s} \, n \\ b &::= \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \neg b \\ v &::= n \mid b \\ e &::= n \mid b \mid \mathbf{s} \, e \mid \neg e \mid \mathbf{if} \, e \, \mathbf{then} \, e \, \mathbf{else} \, e \mid \lambda x. e \mid e \, e \mid d \mid d(e) \\ &\quad \mid \mathbf{nat-fold} \, e \, e \, e \\ d &::= \cdot \mid d[x \mapsto v] \\ o &::= v \end{aligned}$$

*Remark 1.* A natural number  $n \in \text{NAT}$  is (1) zero, denoted by  $\mathbf{z}$ , or (2) the successor of a natural number, denoted by  $\mathbf{s} \, n$ .

A boolean  $b \in \text{BOOL}$  is (1)  $\mathbf{true}$ , (2)  $\mathbf{false}$ , or (3) the negation of a boolean, denoted by  $\neg b$ .

A value  $v \in \text{VALUE}$  is (1) a natural number  $n$ , or (2) a boolean  $b$ .

An expression  $e \in \text{EXP}$  is (1) a natural number  $n$ , (2) a boolean  $b$ , (3) the successor of an expression  $\mathbf{s} \, e$ , (4) the negation of an expression  $\neg e$ , (5) an if-then-else expression  $\mathbf{if} \, e \, \mathbf{then} \, e \, \mathbf{else} \, e$ , (6) a function  $\lambda x. e$ , (7) a function application  $e \, e$ , (8) a dictionary  $d$ , (9) a dictionary projection  $d(e)$ , or (10) a nat-fold expression  $\mathbf{nat-fold} \, e \, e \, e$ .

A dictionary  $d \in \text{DIC}$  is (1) an empty dictionary, denoted by  $\cdot$ , or (2) an dictionary  $d$  with an update that the variable  $x$  maps to the value  $v$ , denoted by  $d[x \mapsto v]$ .

An observation  $o \in \text{OBS}$  is a value  $v$ .

*Remark 2.* Introduction forms include:  $\mathbf{z}$ ,  $\mathbf{s} \, n$ ,  $\mathbf{true}$ ,  $\mathbf{false}$ ,  $\lambda x. e$ ,  $d$

Elimination forms include:  $\neg e$ ,  $\mathbf{if} \, e \, \mathbf{then} \, e \, \mathbf{else} \, e$ ,  $e \, e$ ,  $d(e)$ ,  $\mathbf{nat-fold} \, e \, e \, e$

*Remark 3.* It is straightforward that expressions are well-defined as all self-referencing premises are “smaller” than the conclusion. For example, the subexpressions  $e$ ’s in the expression  $\mathbf{if} \, e \, \mathbf{then} \, e \, \mathbf{else} \, e$  are all “smaller” than the expression itself. Although  $n$ ,  $b$  and  $d$  are defined elsewhere, they all are well-defined if we examine their respective syntactic structures. For example, if we examine  $d \in \text{DIC}$ , the subterm  $d$  in  $d[x \mapsto v]$  is “smaller” than the term itself.

## 2 Semantics

### 2.1 Reduction relation

$$\begin{aligned} &\boxed{e \longrightarrow e} \\ &\frac{}{\neg \mathbf{true} \longrightarrow \mathbf{false}} \text{ (not-t)} \\ &\frac{}{\neg \mathbf{false} \longrightarrow \mathbf{true}} \text{ (not-f)} \\ &\frac{}{\mathbf{if} \, \mathbf{true} \, \mathbf{then} \, e_1 \, \mathbf{else} \, e_2 \longrightarrow e_1} \text{ (if-t)} \\ &\frac{}{\mathbf{if} \, \mathbf{false} \, \mathbf{then} \, e_1 \, \mathbf{else} \, e_2 \longrightarrow e_2} \text{ (if-f)} \\ &\frac{}{(\lambda x. e_1) \, e_2 \longrightarrow e_1[e_2/x]} \text{ (app)} \\ &\frac{}{d[x \mapsto v](x) \longrightarrow v} \text{ (dic-proj-eq)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{x \neq y}{d[x \mapsto v](y) \longrightarrow d(y)} \text{ (dic-proj-df)} \\
\frac{}{\text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ e_3 \longrightarrow e_2} \text{ (nat-fold-0)} \\
\frac{}{\text{nat-fold } (s \ e) \ e_2 \ e_3 \longrightarrow ((e_3 \ e) \ (\text{nat-fold } e \ e_2 \ e_3))} \text{ (nat-fold-s)}
\end{array}$$

## 2.2 Conversion relation

$$\begin{array}{c}
\boxed{e \longrightarrow^1 e} \\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow e_2}{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_2} \text{ (step)} \\
\\
\frac{b_1 \longrightarrow^1 b_{11}}{s \ b_1 \longrightarrow^1 s \ b_{11}} \text{ (suc-cp-b1)} \\
\frac{b_1 \longrightarrow^1 b_{11}}{\neg b_1 \longrightarrow^1 \neg b_{11}} \text{ (not-cp-b1)} \\
\\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_{11}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{if } e_{11} \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3} \text{ (if-cp-e1)} \\
\frac{e_2 \longrightarrow^1 e_{21}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_{21} \text{ else } e_3} \text{ (if-cp-e2)} \\
\frac{e_3 \longrightarrow^1 e_{31}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_{31}} \text{ (if-cp-e3)} \\
\\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_{11}}{\lambda x. e_1 \longrightarrow^1 \lambda x. e_{11}} \text{ (fun-cp-e1)} \\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_{11}}{e_1 \ e_2 \longrightarrow^1 e_{11} \ e_2} \text{ (app-cp-e1)} \\
\frac{e_2 \longrightarrow^1 e_{21}}{e_1 \ e_2 \longrightarrow^1 e_1 \ e_{21}} \text{ (app-cp-e2)} \\
\\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_{11}}{\text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{nat-fold } e_{11} \ e_2 \ e_3} \text{ (nat-fold-cp-e1)} \\
\frac{e_2 \longrightarrow^1 e_{21}}{\text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_{21} \ e_3} \text{ (nat-fold-cp-e2)} \\
\frac{e_3 \longrightarrow^1 e_{31}}{\text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3 \longrightarrow^1 \text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_2 \ e_{31}} \text{ (nat-fold-cp-e3)} \\
\\
\boxed{e \longrightarrow^* e} \\
\frac{}{e_1 \longrightarrow^* e_1} \text{ (refl)} \\
\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow^1 e_2 \quad e_2 \longrightarrow^* e_3}{e_1 \longrightarrow^* e_3} \text{ (trans)}
\end{array}$$

## 2.3 Evaluation function

$$\begin{array}{c}
\boxed{\text{eval}(e) = o} \\
\frac{e \longrightarrow^* o}{\text{eval}(e) = o} \text{ (eval)}
\end{array}$$

### 3 Properties and Proofs

#### 3.1 Properties

**Problem 4.** Explain whether all syntactic expressions are well-defined, in the sense that they produce valid observations in the evaluation function.

**Solution 5.** For the above definitions, the answer is negative. Proceed by cases on  $e \in \text{EXP}$ .

- Case 1.* ( $e = n$  or  $e = b$ ). These two cases will reduce to an observation.
- Case 2.* ( $e = \mathbf{s} \ e_1$ ). Unless  $e_1$  is a natural number  $n \in \text{NAT}$ , it does not reduce to an observation.
- Case 3.* ( $e = \neg e_1$ ). Unless  $e_1$  is a boolean  $n \in \text{BOOL}$ , it does not reduce to an observation.
- Case 4.* ( $e = \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3$ ). If  $e_1$  reduce to **true** (or **false**), and  $e_2$  (or  $e_3$ ) reduces to an observation, then  $e$  reduces to an observation. Otherwise, it does not reduce to an observation.
- Case 5.* ( $e = \lambda x. e_1$ ). It is not an observation and does not reduce to an observation.
- Case 6.* ( $e = e_1 \ e_2$ ). We expect  $e_1$  to reduce to a function of the form  $\lambda x. e_{11}$ . We expect  $e_{11}[e_2/x]$  to reduce to an observation. If either does not hold, it does not reduce to an observation.
- Case 7.* ( $e = d$ ). Analogous to the ( $e = \lambda x. e_1$ ) case with respect to the definition of  $d \in \text{DIC}$ .
- Case 8.* ( $e = d(e_1)$ ). Analogous to the ( $e = e_1 \ e_2$ ) case with respect to the definition of  $d \in \text{DIC}$ .
- Case 9.* (**nat-fold**  $e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3$ ). We expect  $e_1$  to reduce to a natural number  $n \in \text{NAT}$ . We expect  $e_3$  to reduce to a function  $\lambda x. \lambda y. e_{31}$ . We expect its reduction according to the rules (**nat-fold-0**) and (**nat-fold-s**) will lead to an observation. If either does not hold, it does not reduce to an observation.

There may be a way to make all syntactic expressions are “well-defined”: (1) add canonical forms such as  $\lambda x. e$  and  $d$  to  $o \in \text{OBS}$ . (2) add an error term to  $o \in \text{OBS}$ . (3) If an expression is stuck, make it reduce to the error term.

#### 3.2 About dictionaries

**Proposition 6.**  $\text{eval}((\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}])(b)) = 120$ .

*Proof.* We immediately get:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}]](b) \longrightarrow (\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120])(b)}{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}]](b) \longrightarrow^1 (\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120])(b)} \text{ (dic-proj-df)} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120])(b) \longrightarrow^1 120}{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120])(b) \longrightarrow^1 120} \text{ (step)} \quad \frac{120 \longrightarrow^* 120}{120 \longrightarrow^* 120} \text{ (refl)}}{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120])(b) \longrightarrow^* 120} \text{ (trans)}}{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}]](b) \longrightarrow^* 120} \text{ (trans)}$$

Thus, we have:

$$\frac{\frac{\vdots}{(\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}]](b) \longrightarrow^* 120}}{\text{eval}((\cdot[a \mapsto 5][b \mapsto 120][c \mapsto \text{false}]](b)) = 120} \text{ (eval)}$$

□

#### 3.3 About numbers: is-zero?

*Remark 7.* Note in this subsection and the next one, we may omit mentioning uninteresting conversion relations when showing a sequence of reductions.

**Definition 8.** **is-zero?**  $e = \text{nat-fold } e \ \text{true} \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false})$ .

**Proposition 9.**  $\text{eval}(\text{is-zero? } z) = \text{true}$ .

*Proof.* To prove  $\text{eval}(\text{is-zero? } z) = \text{true}$ , by (eval) and by the definition of  $\text{is-zero?}$ , it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{true}$$

We have:

$$\frac{\frac{\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow \text{true}}{\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^1 \text{true}} \quad \frac{}{\text{true} \longrightarrow^* \text{true}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(nat-fold-0)} \\ \text{(step)} \\ \text{(refl)} \end{array}}{\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{true}} \quad \text{(trans)}$$

□

**Proposition 10.**  $\text{eval}(\text{is-zero? } s(z)) = \text{false}$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of  $\text{is-zero?}$ , it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{false}$$

We have:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) & & & \text{(#0)} \\ \longrightarrow^* ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) z) (\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false})) & \text{by (nat-fold-s)} & & \text{(#1)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. \text{false}) (\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false})) & \text{by (app)} & & \text{(#2)} \\ \longrightarrow^* \text{false} & \text{by (app)} & & \text{(#3)} \end{array}$$

By (step), (refl) and (trans),

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{false}$$

□

*Remark 11.* Note that after (#1) and after (#2), we may apply (app-cp-e2) and try to reduce the sub-expression  $(\text{nat-fold } z \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}))$ . We will get the same result in the end.

**Proposition 12.**  $\text{eval}(\text{is-zero? } s(s(z))) = \text{false}$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of  $\text{is-zero?}$ , it is sufficient to show:

$$\text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{false}$$

We have:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) & & & \text{(#0)} \\ \longrightarrow^* ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) s(z)) (\text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false})) & \text{by (nat-fold-s)} & & \text{(#1)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. \text{false}) (\text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false})) & \text{by (app)} & & \text{(#2)} \\ \longrightarrow^* \text{false} & \text{by (app)} & & \text{(#3)} \end{array}$$

By (step), (refl) and (trans),

$$\text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}) \longrightarrow^* \text{false}$$

□

*Remark 13.* Note that after (#1) and after (#2), we may apply (app-cp-e2) and try to reduce the sub-expression  $(\text{nat-fold } s(z) \text{ true } (\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{false}))$ . We will get the same result in the end.

### 3.4 About numbers: +

**Definition 14.**  $e_1 + e_2 = \text{nat-fold } e_1 \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))$ .

**Proposition 15.**  $\text{eval}(z + z) = z$ .

*Proof.* To prove  $\text{eval}(z + z) = z$ , by (eval) and the definition of  $+$ , it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ z \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* z$$

We have:

$$\frac{\frac{\text{nat-fold } z \ z \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^1 z}{\text{nat-fold } z \ z \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* z} \text{ (step)} \quad \frac{}{z \longrightarrow^* z} \text{ (refl)}}{\text{nat-fold } z \ z \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* z} \text{ (trans)}$$

□

**Proposition 16.**  $\text{eval}(z + s(z)) = s(z)$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of  $+$ , it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(z)$$

We have:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{nat-fold } z \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) & \text{(#0)} \\ \longrightarrow^* s(z) & \text{by (nat-fold-0) (#1)} \end{array}$$

By (step), (refl) and (trans),

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(z)$$

□

**Proposition 17.**  $\text{eval}(s(z) + s(z)) = s(s(z))$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of  $+$ , it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(z))$$

We have:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) & & \text{(#0)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \ z \ (\text{nat-fold } z \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) & \text{by (nat-fold-s)} & \text{(#1)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. s(y)) \ (\text{nat-fold } z \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) & \text{by (app)} & \text{(#2)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. s(y)) \ s(z) & \text{by (nat-fold-0)} & \text{(#3)} \\ \longrightarrow^* s(s(z)) & \text{by (app)} & \text{(#4)} \end{array}$$

By (step), (refl) and (trans),

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(z) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(z))$$

□

**Lemma 18.**  $\text{nat-fold } \underbrace{s(\dots s(z) \dots)}_{n \text{ s's}} e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* \underbrace{s(\dots s(\text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) \dots)}_{n \text{ s's}} \text{ where } n \in \mathbb{N}.$

*Proof.* Proceed by induction on  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Case 1.* ( $n = 0$ ). By (refl), we have:

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* \text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))$$

*Case 2.* ( $n = i + 1$  where  $i \geq 0$ ). We have:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{nat-fold } \underbrace{s(\dots s(z) \dots)}_{(i+1) \text{ s's}} e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) & \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \underbrace{s(\dots s(z) \dots)}_{i \text{ s's}} (\text{nat-fold } \underbrace{s(\dots s(z) \dots)}_{i \text{ s's}} e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) & \text{by (nat-fold-s)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. s(y)) (\text{nat-fold } \underbrace{s(\dots s(z) \dots)}_{(i) \text{ s's}} e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) & \text{by (app)} \\ \longrightarrow^* (\lambda y. s(y)) \underbrace{s(\dots s(\text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) \dots)}_{i \text{ s's}} & \text{by inductive hypothesis} \\ \longrightarrow^* \underbrace{s(\dots s(\text{nat-fold } z \ e_2 \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) \dots)}_{(i+1) \text{ s's}} & \text{by (app)} \end{array}$$

□

**Proposition 19.**  $\text{eval}(s(z) + s(s(z))) = s(s(s(z)))$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of +, it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(s(z)))$$

By Lemma 18,

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)))$$

By (nat-fold-0),

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow s(s(z))$$

By (suc-cp-b1),

$$s(\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))) \longrightarrow^1 s(s(s(z)))$$

Thus,

$$\text{nat-fold } s(z) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(s(z)))$$

□

**Proposition 20.**  $\text{eval}(s(s(z)) + s(s(z))) = s(s(s(s(z))))$ .

*Proof.* By (eval) and by the definition of +, it is sufficient to show

$$\text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(s(s(z))))$$

By Lemma 18,

$$\text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y))))$$

By (nat-fold-0),

$$\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow s(s(z))$$

By (suc-cp-b1),

$$s(s(\text{nat-fold } z \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)))) \longrightarrow^1 s(s(s(s(z))))$$

Thus,

$$\text{nat-fold } s(s(z)) \ s(s(z)) \ (\lambda x. \lambda y. s(y)) \longrightarrow^* s(s(s(s(z))))$$

□