Abstract Binding Trees

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1 Preliminaries

Fix a set $\mathscr{S}$ of *sorts*. We will say $s\ \mathit{sort}$ when $s \in S$. A valence $\{\vec{p}\}[\vec{q}].s$ specifies an expression of sort s which binds symbols in $\vec{p}$ and variables in $\vec{q}$.

$$\frac{s\ \mathit{sort} \quad p_i\ \mathit{sort}\ \ (i \leq m) \quad q_i\ \mathit{sort}\ \ (i \leq n)}{\{p_0, \dots, p_m\}[q_0, \dots, q_n].s\ \mathit{valence}}$$

An arity $(\vec{v})s$ specifies an operator of sort s with arguments of valences $\vec{v}$. We will call the set of valences $\mathscr{V}$, and the set of arities $\mathscr{A}$.

$$\frac{s\ \mathit{sort} \quad v_i\ \mathit{valence}\ \ (i \leq n)}{(v_0, \dots, v_n)s\ \mathit{arity}}$$

Let $\mathbb{I}$ be an infinite set of symbols; let $\mathbb{F}$ be the free cocartesian category over $\mathbb{I}$. Then, fix a covariant presheaf of operators $\mathscr{O} : \mathbb{F} \times \mathscr{A} \to \mathbf{Set}$ such that the arrows in $\mathbb{F}$ lift to renamings of operators' parameters; via the Grothendieck construction, we can also consider the set $\int \mathscr{O}$ of operators $(\mathcal{U}, \varrho, \vartheta)$ for $\vartheta \in \mathscr{O}(\mathcal{U}, \varrho)$.

$$\frac{\vartheta \in \mathscr{O}(\mathcal{U}, \varrho)}{\mathcal{U} \Vdash \vartheta : \varrho}$$

The judgment $\mathcal{U} \Vdash \vartheta : \varrho$ enjoys the structural properties of weakening and exchange via the functoriality of $\mathscr{O}$.

Examples Operators are defined by specifying the fibres of $\int \mathscr{O}$ in which they reside. For instance, consider the lambda calculus with a single sort, exp; we give its signature by asserting the following about its operators:

$$\mathcal{U} \Vdash \lambda : (\{\cdot\}[\mathsf{exp}].\mathsf{exp})\,\mathsf{exp}$$
$$\mathcal{U} \Vdash \mathsf{ap} : (\{\cdot\}[\cdot].\mathsf{exp}, \{\cdot\}[\cdot].\mathsf{exp})\,\mathsf{exp}$$

So far, we have made no use of symbols and parameters; however, consider the extension of the calculus with assignables (references):

$$U \Vdash \mathsf{decl} : (\{\cdot\}[\cdot].\mathsf{exp}, \{\mathsf{exp}\}[\cdot].\mathsf{exp})\,\mathsf{exp}$$
$$U, u \Vdash \mathsf{get}[u] : (\cdot)\,\mathsf{exp}$$
$$U, u \Vdash \mathsf{set}[u] : (\{\cdot\}[\cdot].\mathsf{exp})\,\mathsf{exp}$$

Declaring a new assignable consists in providing an initial value, and an expression with a free symbol (which shall represent the assignable in scope). Weakening can be seen as inducing a "degeneracy map" on operators, whereas a renaming $u \mapsto v$ will take $\mathsf{get}[u]$ to $\mathsf{get}[v]$.

2 Contexts

In general, we will have three kinds of context: metavariable contexts, variable contexts, and symbol (parameter) contexts. A metavariable context Ω consists of bindings of valences to metavariables; a variable context Γ is a collection of bindings of sorts to variables, and a parameter context Υ is a collection of bindings of sorts to symbols.

$$\frac{}{\cdot\ \mathit{mctx}} \qquad \frac{\Omega\ \mathit{mctx} \quad v\ \mathit{valence} \quad \textsc{m} \notin |\Omega|}{\Omega, \textsc{m} : v\ \mathit{mctx}}$$

$$\frac{}{\cdot\ \mathit{vctx}} \qquad \frac{\Gamma\ \mathit{vctx} \quad s\ \mathit{sort} \quad x \notin |\Gamma|}{\Gamma, x : s\ \mathit{vctx}}$$

$$\frac{}{\cdot\ \mathit{sctx}} \qquad \frac{\Upsilon\ \mathit{vctx} \quad s\ \mathit{sort} \quad u \notin |\Upsilon|}{\Upsilon, u : s\ \mathit{sctx}}$$

3 Abstract Binding Trees

Let the judgment $\Omega \rhd \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash M : s$ presuppose Ω *mctx*, Υ *sctx*, Γ *vctx* and s *sort*, meaning that M is an abstract binding tree of sort s, with metavariables in Ω, parameters in Υ, and variables in Γ. Let the judgment $\Omega \rhd \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash E : v$ presuppose v *valence*. Then, the syntax of abstract binding trees is inductively defined in four rules:

$$\frac{\Gamma \ni x : s}{\Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash x : s}\ \textit{var}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \Omega \ni \mathrm{M} : \{p_0, \dots, p_m\}[q_0, \dots, q_n] \,.\, s \\ \Upsilon \ni u_i : p_i \quad (i \leq m) \\ \Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash M_i : q_i \quad (i \leq n) \end{array}}{\Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash \mathrm{M}\,\{u_0, \dots, u_m\}\,(M_0, \dots, M_n) : s}\ \textit{mvar}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} |\Upsilon| \Vdash \vartheta : v_1, \dots, v_n \\ \Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash E_i : q_i \quad (i \leq n) \end{array}}{\Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash \vartheta\,(E_0, \dots, E_n) : s}\ \textit{app}$$

$$\frac{\Omega \triangleright \Upsilon, \vec{u} : \vec{p} \parallel \Gamma, \vec{x} : \vec{q} \vdash E : s}{\Omega \triangleright \Upsilon \parallel \Gamma \vdash (\{\vec{u}\}[\vec{x}] \,.\, E) : (\{\vec{p}\}[\vec{q}] \,.\, s)}\ \textit{abs}$$