Guarded Recursion and Mathematical Operational Semantics

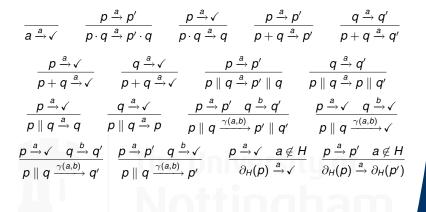
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Coalgebraic Methods in Computer Science 2008

Structural Operational Semantics



When is a collection of rules a well-behaved SOS?

Syntactic Rule Formats

- A theory of SOS?
- Rule formats restrict the syntax of rules.
- Given for a concrete transition relation.

Example (GSOS)

$$\frac{\{x_i \xrightarrow{a} y_{ij}^a\}_{1 \le j \le m_i^a}^{1 \le i \le n, a \in A_i} \quad \{x_i \xrightarrow{b}\}_{b \in B_i}^{1 \le i \le n}}{\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_n) \xrightarrow{c} t}$$

- $A_i, B_i \subseteq A$.
- x_i and y_{ii}^a are all distinct.
- Those are the only variables that occur in the term t.

Mathematical Operational Semantics

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SOS is a distributive law of a monad over a comonad

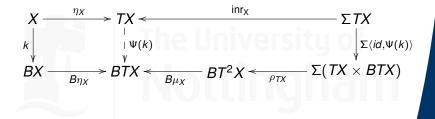
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Constructing Distributive Laws

Semantics given by an abstract operational rule

 $\rho \colon \Sigma(Id \times B) \to BT$

We get a lifting Ψ of T to the B-coalgebras.



If Beauty Is Not Enough...

Benefits of Mathematical Operational Semantics:

- Language-independent.
- Bisimulation is a congruence.
- Adequate denotational model.
- Derive rule formats.

D. Turi. and G. Plotkin. Towards a mathematical operational semantics. *12th LICS Conf.*, 1997.

Back to "Syntactic" SOS

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Recursive programs are expressed via equations:

$$x_1 = t_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_n = t_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

Processes
$$s_1, \ldots, s_n$$
 are a solution if
 $s_1 \sim t_1(s_1, \ldots, s_n)$
 \vdots
 $s_n \sim t_n(s_1, \ldots, s_n)$

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Guarded equations

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Equations should be guarded to ensure existence and uniqueness of solutions.

Definition (Guarded Equations for ACP) An equation is *guarded* if its RHS can be written as:

 $a_1 \cdot t'_1(x_1,\ldots,x_n) + \cdots + a_k \cdot t'_k(x_1,\ldots,x_n) + b_1 + \cdots + b_l$

Guarded Equations, Abstractly

The guardedness condition is

$$x_i = a_1 \cdot t'_1(x_1, \ldots, x_n) + \cdots + a_k \cdot t'_k(x_1, \ldots, x_n) + b_1 + \cdots + b_k$$

- The behaviour for ACP is $\mathcal{P}_f(A \times + A)$
- More abstractly, an equation is guarded if it is a function:

$$X \rightarrow BTX$$

- B is expressing a reflection of behaviour in the syntax.
- Note that $X \to \Sigma TX$ is not enough!

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$$x = x \cdot t$$

Reflecting Behaviour in Syntax

Given a signature Σ with semantics

$$\rho: \Sigma(Id \times B) \longrightarrow BT_{\Sigma}$$

we have semantics for signature B

$$\beta: B(Id \times B) \xrightarrow{B\pi_1} B \xrightarrow{B\eta} BT_B$$

and injections

$$\iota^{\Sigma}$$
 : $T_{\Sigma} \to T_{\Sigma+B}$
 ι^{B} : $T_{B} \to T_{\Sigma+B}$

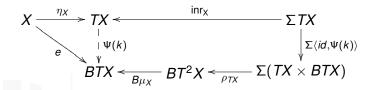
we obtain

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$$\iota^{\Sigma} \circ \rho + \iota^{B} \circ \beta : (\Sigma + B)(Id \times B) \to BT_{\Sigma + B}$$

Turi's Guarded Equations

• Given $\rho \colon \Sigma(Id \times B) \to BT$ and $e \colon X \to BTX$



- ► This is not a lifting of *T* to the *B*-coalgebras!
- No distributive law is obtained.

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Recursive Programs as Operators

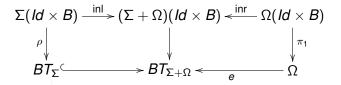
- Rather than variables, we have recursive operators Ω.
- Equations are natural transformations

$$\Omega \rightarrow BT_{\Sigma+\Omega}$$

Parameter-passing recursive operators are now possible.

Construction of an Abstract Operational Rule

• Given $\rho \colon \Sigma(Id \times B) \to BT_{\Sigma}$ and $e \colon \Omega \to BT_{\Sigma+\Omega}$



- We construct a plain abstract operational rule.
- We can generalize to $\Omega(Id \times B) \to BT_{\Sigma+\Omega}$

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Summary

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- Added guarded equations in mathematical operational semantics.
- Guarded equations are not really necessary: operational rules are enough for describing (guarded) recursive programs.
- Recursive programs are a reflection in syntax of operationally-defined infinitary behaviour.

Thank you!

The University of Nottingham