

Programming Languages and Compilers (CS 421)

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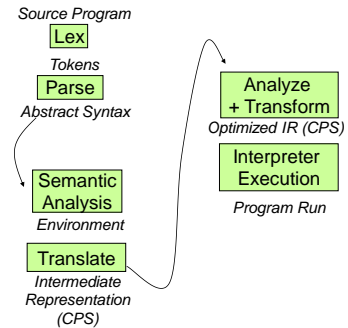
<https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs421/fa2017/CS421A>

Based on slides by [Elsa Gunter](#), which were inspired by earlier slides by Mattox Beckman, Vikram Adve, and Gul Agha

11/12/2018

1

Major Phases of a PicoML Interpreter



Semantics

- Expresses the **meaning of syntax**
- Static semantics
 - Meaning based only on the form of the expression without executing it
 - Usually restricted to type checking / type inference

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3

Dynamic semantics

- Method of **describing meaning of executing** a program
- Several different types:
 - Operational Semantics
 - Axiomatic Semantics
 - Denotational Semantics
- Different languages better suited to different types of semantics
- Different types of semantics serve different purposes

4

Operational Semantics

- Start with a simple notion of machine
- Describe how to execute (implement) programs of language on virtual machine, by describing how to execute each program statement (ie, following the *structure* of the program)
- Meaning of program is how its execution changes the state of the machine
- Useful as basis for implementations

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5

Denotational Semantics

- Construct a function \mathcal{M} assigning a mathematical meaning to each program construct
- Lambda calculus often used as the range of the meaning function
- Meaning function is compositional: meaning of construct built from meaning of parts
- Useful for proving properties of programs

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6

Axiomatic Semantics

- Also called Floyd-Hoare Logic
- Based on formal logic (first order predicate calculus)
- Axiomatic Semantics is a logical system built from *axioms* and *inference rules*
- Mainly suited to simple imperative programming languages

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7

Axiomatic Semantics

- Used to formally prove a property (*post-condition*) of the *state* (the values of the program variables) after the execution of program, assuming another property (*pre-condition*) of the state before execution
- Written :
 $\{\text{Precondition}\} \text{Program} \{\text{Postcondition}\}$

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8

Natural Semantics (“Big-step Semantics”)

- Aka Structural Operational Semantics, aka “Big Step Semantics”
- Provide value for a program by rules and derivations, similar to type derivations
- Rule conclusions look like

$$(C, m) \Downarrow m'$$

“Evaluating a command C in the state m results in the new state m’”

or

$$(E, m) \Downarrow v$$

“Evaluating an expression E in the state m results in the value v”

9

Simple Imperative Programming Language

- $I \in \text{Identifiers}$
- $N \in \text{Numerals}$
- $B ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false}$
 $\mid B \ \& \ B \mid B \ \text{or} \ B \mid \text{not } B \mid E < E \mid E = E$
- $E ::= N \mid I \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid E - E \mid - E$
- $C ::= \text{skip} \mid C; C \mid I ::= E$
 $\mid \text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C \text{ fi} \mid \text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}$

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10

Natural Semantics of Atomic Expressions

- Identifiers: $(k, m) \Downarrow m(k)$
- Numerals are values: $(N, m) \Downarrow N$
- Booleans: $(\text{true}, m) \Downarrow \text{true}$
 $(\text{false}, m) \Downarrow \text{false}$

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11

Booleans:

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(B \ \& \ B', m) \Downarrow \text{false}} \quad \frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \ (B', m) \Downarrow b}{(B \ \& \ B', m) \Downarrow b}$$

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true}}{(B \ \text{or} \ B', m) \Downarrow \text{true}} \quad \frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false} \ (B', m) \Downarrow b}{(B \ \text{or} \ B', m) \Downarrow b}$$

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true}}{(\text{not } B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}} \quad \frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(\text{not } B, m) \Downarrow \text{true}}$$

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12

Relations

$$\frac{(E, m) \Downarrow U \quad (E', m) \Downarrow V \quad U \sim V = b}{(E \sim E', m) \Downarrow b}$$

- By $U \sim V = b$, we mean does (the meaning of) the relation \sim hold on the meaning of U and V
- May be specified by a mathematical expression/equation or rules matching U and V

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13

Arithmetic Expressions

$$\frac{(E, m) \Downarrow U \quad (E', m) \Downarrow V \quad U \text{ op } V = N}{(E \text{ op } E', m) \Downarrow N}$$

where N is the specified value for $U \text{ op } V$

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14

Commands

Skip: $(\text{skip}, m) \Downarrow m$

Assignment: $\frac{(E, m) \Downarrow V}{(k := E, m) \Downarrow m \text{ [} k \leftarrow V \text{]}}$

Sequencing: $\frac{(C, m) \Downarrow m' \quad (C', m') \Downarrow m''}{(C; C', m) \Downarrow m''}$

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15

If Then Else Command

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad (C, m) \Downarrow m'}{(\text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C', m) \Downarrow m'}$$

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false} \quad (C', m) \Downarrow m'}{(\text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C', m) \Downarrow m'}$$

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16

Example: If Then Else Rule

$$\frac{}{(\text{if } x > 5 \text{ then } y := 2 + 3 \text{ else } y := 3 + 4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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17

Example: If Then Else Rule

$$\frac{\frac{}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(\text{if } x > 5 \text{ then } y := 2 + 3 \text{ else } y := 3 + 4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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18

Example: Arith Relation

$$\frac{\frac{? > ? = ?}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ? \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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19

Example: Identifier(s)

$$\frac{\frac{7 > 5 = true}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 7 \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 5}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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20

Example: Arith Relation

$$\frac{\frac{7 > 5 = true}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 7 \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 5}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow true}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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21

Example: If Then Else Rule

$$\frac{\frac{7 > 5 = true}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 7 \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 5} \quad \frac{(y := 2 + 3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}{.}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow true}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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22

Example: Assignment

$$\frac{\frac{7 > 5 = true}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 7 \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 5} \quad \frac{(2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}{(y := 2 + 3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow true}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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23

Example: Arith Op

$$\frac{\frac{7 > 5 = true}{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 7 \quad (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow 5} \quad \frac{(2, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ? \quad (3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}{(2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow true} \quad \frac{(y := 2 + 3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \Downarrow ?}{.}}{(if \ x > 5 \ then \ y := 2 + 3 \ else \ y := 3 + 4 \ fi, \ {x \rightarrow 7}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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24

Example: Numerals

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{2+3=5}{(2,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 2 \quad (3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 3} \\
 \frac{7>5=\text{true} \quad (2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}{(x,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 7 \quad (5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5} \\
 \frac{(x>5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \text{true} \quad (y:=2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}{(if\ x>5\ \text{then}\ y:=2+3\ \text{else}\ y:=3+4\ \text{fi},\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}
 \end{array}$$

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25

Example: Arith Op

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{2+3=5}{(2,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 2 \quad (3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 3} \\
 \frac{7>5=\text{true} \quad (2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5}{(x,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 7 \quad (5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5} \\
 \frac{(x>5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \text{true} \quad (y:=2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}{(if\ x>5\ \text{then}\ y:=2+3\ \text{else}\ y:=3+4\ \text{fi},\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}
 \end{array}$$

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26

Example: Assignment

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{2+3=5}{(2,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 2 \quad (3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 3} \\
 \frac{7>5=\text{true} \quad (2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5}{(x,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 7 \quad (5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5} \\
 \frac{(x>5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \text{true} \quad (y:=2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \{x->7,\ y->5\}}{(if\ x>5\ \text{then}\ y:=2+3\ \text{else}\ y:=3+4\ \text{fi},\{x->7\})\Downarrow ?}
 \end{array}$$

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27

Example: If Then Else Rule

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{2+3=5}{(2,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 2 \quad (3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 3} \\
 \frac{7>5=\text{true} \quad (2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5}{(x,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 7 \quad (5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow 5} \\
 \frac{(x>5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \text{true} \quad (y:=2+3,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \{x->7,\ y->5\}}{(if\ x>5\ \text{then}\ y:=2+3\ \text{else}\ y:=3+4\ \text{fi},\{x->7\})\Downarrow \{x->7,\ y->5\}}
 \end{array}$$

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28

While Command

$$\frac{\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m) \Downarrow m}}{\textcircled{1} (B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad \textcircled{2} (C, m) \Downarrow m' \quad \textcircled{3} (\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m') \Downarrow m''}$$

Example: While Rule

$$\frac{\textcircled{1} (x>5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \text{true} \quad \frac{(x>5,\{x->2\})\Downarrow \text{false}}{\textcircled{3} \text{while } x>5 \text{ do } x := x-5 \text{ od;} \quad \textcircled{2} (x := x-5,\{x->7\})\Downarrow \{x->2\} \quad \{x->2\}\Downarrow \{x->2\}}{(while\ x>5\ \text{do}\ x := x-5\ \text{od},\{x->7\})\Downarrow \{x->2\}}$$

30

While Command

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m) \Downarrow m}$$

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad (C, m) \Downarrow m' \quad (\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m') \Downarrow m''}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m) \Downarrow m''}$$

The rule assumes the loop terminates!

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31

While Command

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m) \Downarrow m}$$

$$\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad (C, m) \Downarrow m' \quad (\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m') \Downarrow m''}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od, } m) \Downarrow m''}$$

The rule assumes the loop terminates!

???

$$\frac{}{\text{while } (x > 0) \text{ do } x := x + 1 \text{ od, } \{x \rightarrow 1\} \Downarrow ???}$$

32

Let's Try Adding Let in Command...

$$\frac{(E, m) \Downarrow v \quad (C, m[k \leftarrow v]) \Downarrow m'}{(\text{let } k = E \text{ in } C, m) \Downarrow m'}$$

Where

$m''(y) = m'(y)$ for $y \neq k$ and
if $m(k)$ is defined, $m''(k) = m(k)$ or
otherwise $m''(k)$ is undefined

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33

Example

$$\frac{\frac{(x, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 5 \quad (3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 3}{(x+3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 8}}{(5, \{x \rightarrow 17\}) \Downarrow 5 \quad (x := x+3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow \{x \rightarrow 8\}}{(\text{let } x = 5 \text{ in } (x := x+3), \{x \rightarrow 17\}) \Downarrow ?}$$

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34

Example

$$\frac{\frac{(x, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 5 \quad (3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 3}{(x+3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow 8}}{(5, \{x \rightarrow 17\}) \Downarrow 5 \quad (x := x+3, \{x \rightarrow 5\}) \Downarrow \{x \rightarrow 8\}}{(\text{let } x = 5 \text{ in } (x := x+3), \{x \rightarrow 17\}) \Downarrow \{x \rightarrow 17\}}$$

Recall: Where $m''(y) = m'(y)$ for $y \neq k$ and $m''(k) = m(k)$ if $m(k)$ is defined, and $m''(k)$ is undefined otherwise

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35

Comment on Language Design

- Simple Imperative Programming Language introduces variables **implicitly** through assignment
- The let-in command introduces scoped variables **explicitly**
- Clash of constructs apparent in awkward semantics – a question for language designers!

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36

Interpretation Versus Compilation

- A **compiler** from language L1 to language L2 is a program that takes an L1 program and for each piece of code in L1 generates a piece of code in L2 of same meaning
- An **interpreter** of L1 in L2 is an L2 program that executes the meaning of a given L1 program
- Compiler would examine the body of a loop once; an interpreter would examine it every time the loop was executed

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37

Interpreter

- An *Interpreter* represents the operational semantics of a language L1 (source language) in the language of implementation L2 (target language)
- Built incrementally
 - Start with literals
 - Variables
 - Primitive operations
 - Evaluation of expressions
 - Evaluation of commands/declarations

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38

Interpreter

- Takes abstract syntax trees as input
 - In simple cases could be just strings
- One procedure for each syntactic category (nonterminal)
 - eg one for expressions, another for commands
- If Natural semantics used, tells how to compute final value from code
- If Transition semantics used, tells how to compute next “state”
 - To get final value, put in a loop

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39

Natural Semantics Interpreter Implementation

- Identifiers: $(k, m) \Downarrow m(k)$
- Numerals are values: $(N, m) \Downarrow N$
- Conditionals: $\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad (C, m) \Downarrow m'}{(\text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C', m) \Downarrow m'} \quad \frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false} \quad (C', m) \Downarrow m'}{(\text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C', m) \Downarrow m'}$

compute_exp (Var(v), m) = look_up v m

compute_exp (Int(n), _) = Num (n)

...

compute_com (IfExp(b, c1, c2), m) =
 if compute_exp (b, m) = Bool(true)
 then compute_com (c1, m)

else compute_com (c2, m)

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40

Natural Semantics Interpreter Implementation

- Loop: $\frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{false}}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}, m) \Downarrow m} \quad \frac{(B, m) \Downarrow \text{true} \quad (C, m) \Downarrow m' \quad (\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}, m') \Downarrow m''}{(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}, m) \Downarrow m''}$

```
compute_com (While(b, c), m) =
  if compute_exp (b, m) = Bool(false)
  then m
  else compute_com
      (While(b, c), compute_com(c, m))
```

- May fail to terminate - exceed stack limits
 - Returns no useful information then

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41

Transition Semantics (“Small-step Semantics”)

- Form of operational semantics
- **Describes how each program construct transforms machine state by transitions**
- Rules look like $(C, m) \rightarrow (C', m')$ or $(C, m) \rightarrow m'$
- C, C' is code remaining to be executed
- m, m' represent the state/store/memory/environment
 - Partial mapping from identifiers to values
 - Sometimes m (or C) not needed
- Indicates exactly one step of computation

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42

Expressions and Values

- C, C' used for commands; E, E' for expressions; U, V for values
- Special class of expressions designated as *values*
 - Eg 2, 3 are values, but $2+3$ is only an expression
- Memory only holds values
 - Other possibilities exist

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43

Evaluation Semantics

- Transitions successfully stops when E/C is a value/memory
- Evaluation fails if no transition possible, but not at value/memory
- Value/memory is the final *meaning* of original expression/command (in the given state)
- Coarse semantics: final value / memory
- More fine grained: whole transition sequence

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44

Simple Imperative Programming Language

- $I \in$ Identifiers
- $N \in$ Numerals
- $B ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid B \ \& \ B \mid B \ \text{or} \ B \mid \text{not} \ B \mid E < E \mid E = E$
- $E ::= N \mid I \mid E + E \mid E * E \mid E - E \mid - E$
- $C ::= \text{skip} \mid C; C \mid I ::= E \mid \text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C \text{ fi} \mid \text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}$

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45

Transitions for Expressions

- Numerals are values
- Boolean values = {true, false}
- Identifiers: $(k, m) \rightarrow (m(k), m)$

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46

Boolean Operations:

- Operators: (short-circuit)

$(\text{false} \ \& \ B, m) \rightarrow (\text{false}, m)$	$(B, m) \rightarrow (B'', m)$
$(\text{true} \ \& \ B, m) \rightarrow (B, m)$	$(B \ \& \ B', m) \rightarrow (B'' \ \& \ B', m)$

$(\text{true} \ \text{or} \ B, m) \rightarrow (\text{true}, m)$	$(B, m) \rightarrow (B'', m)$
$(\text{false} \ \text{or} \ B, m) \rightarrow (B, m)$	$(B \ \text{or} \ B', m) \rightarrow (B'' \ \text{or} \ B', m)$

$(\text{not} \ \text{true}, m) \rightarrow (\text{false}, m)$	$(B, m) \rightarrow (B', m)$
$(\text{not} \ \text{false}, m) \rightarrow (\text{true}, m)$	$(\text{not} \ B, m) \rightarrow (\text{not} \ B', m)$

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47

Relations

$$\frac{(E, m) \rightarrow (E'', m)}{(E \sim E', m) \rightarrow (E'' \sim E', m)}$$

$$\frac{(E, m) \rightarrow (E', m)}{(V \sim E, m) \rightarrow (V \sim E', m)}$$

$(U \sim V, m) \rightarrow (\text{true}, m) \text{ or } (\text{false}, m)$
depending on whether $U \sim V$ holds or not

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48

Arithmetic Expressions

$$\frac{(E, m) \rightarrow (E', m)}{(E \text{ op } E', m) \rightarrow (E' \text{ op } E', m)}$$

$$\frac{(E, m) \rightarrow (E', m)}{(V \text{ op } E, m) \rightarrow (V \text{ op } E', m)}$$

$$(U \text{ op } V, m) \rightarrow (N, m)$$

where N is the specified value for U op V

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49

Commands - in English

- **skip** means we're done evaluating
- When evaluating an **assignment**, evaluate the expression first
- If the **expression being assigned is already a value**, update the memory with the new value for the identifier
- When evaluating a **sequence**, work on the first command in the sequence first
- If the first command evaluates to a new memory (i.e. it completes), evaluate remainder with the new memory

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50

Commands

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{skip}, m) \rightarrow m \\ &\frac{(E, m) \rightarrow (E', m)}{(k:=E, m) \rightarrow (k:=E', m)} \\ &(k:=V, m) \rightarrow m[k \leftarrow V] \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{(C, m) \rightarrow (C', m')}{(C; C', m) \rightarrow (C'; C', m')} \quad \frac{(C, m) \rightarrow m'}{(C; C', m) \rightarrow (C', m')}$$

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51

If Then Else Command - in English

- If the boolean guard in an if_then_else is true, then evaluate the first branch
- If it is false, evaluate the second branch
- If the boolean guard is not a value, then start by evaluating it first.

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52

If Then Else Command

- Base Cases:

$$(\text{if true then } C \text{ else } C' \text{ fi}, m) \rightarrow (C, m)$$

$$(\text{if false then } C \text{ else } C' \text{ fi}, m) \rightarrow (C', m)$$

- Recursive Case:

$$\frac{(B, m) \rightarrow (B', m)}{(\text{if } B \text{ then } C \text{ else } C' \text{ fi}, m) \rightarrow (\text{if } B' \text{ then } C \text{ else } C' \text{ fi}, m)}$$

53

While Command

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od}, m) \rightarrow \\ &(\text{if } B \text{ then } C ; \text{ while } B \text{ do } C \text{ od else skip fi}, m) \end{aligned}$$

In English: Expand a While into a test of the boolean guard, with the true case being to do the body and then try the while loop again, and the false case being to stop.

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54

Example Evaluation

- First step:

$$\frac{\text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:= 2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}}{\{x \rightarrow 7\}} \rightarrow ?$$

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55

Example Evaluation

- First step:

$$\frac{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow ?}{\text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:= 2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}} \{x \rightarrow 7\} \rightarrow ?$$

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56

Example Evaluation

- First step:

$$\frac{\frac{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (7, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow ?}}{\text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:= 2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}} \{x \rightarrow 7\} \rightarrow ?$$

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57

Example Evaluation

- First step:

$$\frac{\frac{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (7, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (7 > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}}{\text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:= 2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}} \{x \rightarrow 7\} \rightarrow ?$$

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58

Example Evaluation

- First step:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{(x, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (7, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}{(x > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (7 > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}}{\text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:= 2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}} \{x \rightarrow 7\}} \rightarrow \text{(if } 7 > 5 \text{ then } y:=2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\})$$

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59

Example Evaluation

- Second Step:

$$\frac{(7 > 5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (\text{true}, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}{\text{(if } 7 > 5 \text{ then } y:=2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi,}} \{x \rightarrow 7\}} \rightarrow \text{(if true then } y:=2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\})$$

- Third Step:

$$\text{(if true then } y:=2 + 3 \text{ else } y:=3 + 4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (y:=2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\})$$

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60

Example Evaluation

- Fourth Step:

$$\frac{(2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (5, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}{(y:=2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow (y:=5, \{x \rightarrow 7\})}$$

- Fifth Step:

$$(y:=5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \rightarrow \{y \rightarrow 5, x \rightarrow 7\}$$

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61

Example Evaluation

- Bottom Line:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(if } x > 5 \text{ then } y:=2+3 \text{ else } y:=3+4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \\ & \rightarrow \text{(if } 7 > 5 \text{ then } y:=2+3 \text{ else } y:=3+4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \\ & \rightarrow \text{(if true then } y:=2+3 \text{ else } y:=3+4 \text{ fi, } \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \\ & \rightarrow (y:=2+3, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \\ & \rightarrow (y:=5, \{x \rightarrow 7\}) \\ & \rightarrow \{y \rightarrow 5, x \rightarrow 7\} \end{aligned}$$

11/12/2018

62

Adding Local Declarations

- Add to expressions:
- $E ::= \dots \mid \text{let } x = E \text{ in } E' \mid \text{fun } x \rightarrow E \mid EE'$
- fun $x \rightarrow E$ is a value
- Could handle local binding using state, but have assumption that evaluating expressions does not alter the environment
- We will use **substitution** here instead
- Notation:** $E[E' / x]$ means replace all free occurrence of x by E' in E

11/12/2018

63

Calling Conventions (Common Strategies)

- Call by value: First evaluate the argument, then use its value
- Call by name: Refer to the computation by its name; evaluate every time it is called
- Call by need (lazy evaluation): Refer to the computation by its name, but once evaluated, store ("memoize") the result for future reuse

Call-by-value (Eager Evaluation)

$$\frac{(\text{let } k = V \text{ in } E, m) \rightarrow (E[V / k], m)}{(E, m) \rightarrow (E', m)}$$

$$\frac{((\text{fun } k \rightarrow E) V, m) \rightarrow (E[V / k], m)}{((\text{fun } k \rightarrow E) E', m) \rightarrow ((\text{fun } k \rightarrow E) E'', m)}$$

11/12/2018

65

Call-by-name

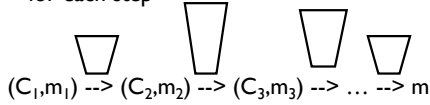
- $(\text{let } k = E \text{ in } E', m) \rightarrow (E' [E / k], m)$
- $((\text{fun } k \rightarrow E') E, m) \rightarrow (E' [E / k], m)$
- Question: Does it make a difference?
- It can depending on the language

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66

Transition Semantics Evaluation

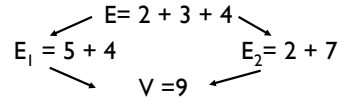
- **A sequence of transitions:** trees of justification for each step



- **Definition:** let \rightarrow^* be the transitive closure of \rightarrow i.e., the smallest transitive relation containing \rightarrow

Church-Rosser Property

- Church-Rosser Property: If $E \rightarrow^* E_1$ and $E \rightarrow^* E_2$, if there exists a value V such that $E_1 \rightarrow^* V$, then $E_2 \rightarrow^* V$
- Also called **confluence** or **diamond property**
- Example: (consider + as a function)



11/12/2018

68

Does Church-Rosser Property always Hold?

- No. Languages with side-effects tend not be Church-Rosser with the combination of call-by-name and call-by-value
- Benefit of Church-Rosser: can check equality of terms by evaluating them (but particular evaluation strategy might not always terminate!)
- Alonzo Church and Barkley Rosser proved in 1936 the λ -calculus does have it
 - λ -calculus \rightarrow Coming up next!

11/13/2018

69

Major Phases of a PicoML Interpreter

