

Semantyka i weryfikacja programów

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Program Semantics & Verification

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Denotational semantics

The method

- define syntax (*syntactic domains*)
- define *semantic domains*
- define *semantic functions*
- use *compositional* definitions

Syntactic domains

Each syntactic category of the language forms a *syntactic domain*, which has as elements all the syntactic phrases in this category.

Semantic domains

Semantic domains capture the forms of the intended meanings (*denotations*) for syntactic phrases of the language. All the denotations live in semantic domains, but typically not all elements in semantic domains are denotable.

Semantic domains are defined from *basic domains* (**Int**, **Bool**) using *domain constructors*: product, (disjoint) sum, function spaces, etc.

There is a semantic domain for each key syntactic category of the language.

Semantic functions

For each syntactic category \mathbf{Cat} , define a *semantic function*

$$\mathcal{C}: \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{CAT}$$

which assigns to the syntactic phrases $ph \in \mathbf{Cat}$ their *denotations* in the corresponding semantic domain \mathbf{CAT} :

$$\mathcal{C}[[ph]] \in \mathbf{CAT}$$

BTW: This defines a semantic equivalence: phrases $ph_1, ph_2 \in \mathbf{Cat}$ are *semantically equivalent* (equivalent w.r.t. the denotational semantics)

$$ph_1 \equiv_{\mathcal{DS}} ph_2$$

whenever $\mathcal{C}[[ph_1]] = \mathcal{C}[[ph_2]]$.

Compositionality

Semantic functions are defined *compositionally*, so that the denotation of a phrase depends only on the denotations of its immediate components:

$$\mathcal{C}[\varphi(ph_1, \dots, ph_n)] = \Phi(\mathcal{C}[ph_1], \dots, \mathcal{C}[ph_n])$$

Such a *semantic clause* is given for each syntactic construct.

Homomorphism
property
lurking out

Key consequences:

STRUCTURAL INDUCTION

Congruence properties of the semantic equivalence

Denotational semantics for TINY

Syntactic domains

Num (**Var**) **Exp** **BExp** **Stmt**

Somewhat informally:

$N \in \mathbf{Num} ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \dots$

$(x \in \mathbf{Var} ::= \dots)$

$e \in \mathbf{Exp} ::= N \mid x \mid e_1 + e_2 \mid e_1 * e_2 \mid e_1 - e_2$

$b \in \mathbf{BExp} ::= \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid e_1 \leq e_2 \mid \neg b' \mid b_1 \wedge b_2$

$S \in \mathbf{Stmt} ::= x := e \mid \mathbf{skip} \mid S_1; S_2 \mid \mathbf{if } b \mathbf{ then } S_1 \mathbf{ else } S_2 \mid \mathbf{while } b \mathbf{ do } S'$

Denotational semantics for TINY

Semantic domains

Int (**Bool**) (**State**) **EXP** **BEXP** **STMT**

Int = $\{0, 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots\}$

Bool = $\{\text{tt}, \text{ff}\}$

State = **Var** \rightarrow **Int**

EXP = **State** \rightarrow **Int**

BEXP = **State** \rightarrow **Bool**

STMT = **State** \rightarrow **State**

Semantic functions:

$\mathcal{N}: \text{Num} \rightarrow \text{Int}$

$\mathcal{E}: \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{EXP}$

$\mathcal{B}: \text{BExp} \rightarrow \text{BEXP}$

$\mathcal{S}: \text{Stmt} \rightarrow \text{STMT}$

Basic functions on semantic domains

To define semantic functions, we are free to use various well-known functions on semantic domains:

$$+, -, *: \mathbf{Int} \times \mathbf{Int} \rightarrow \mathbf{Int}$$

$$=, \leq: \mathbf{Int} \times \mathbf{Int} \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$$

$$\neg: \mathbf{Bool} \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$$

$$\wedge, \vee: \mathbf{Bool} \times \mathbf{Bool} \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$$

...

Further constructions

Some auxiliary notation:

- *λ -notation*: $\lambda x:D.E$ stands for the function that maps any $d \in D$ to $E[d/x]$
- *identity*: $id_D = \lambda x:D.x$
- *function composition*: the composition of $f: D_1 \rightarrow D_2$ and $g: D_2 \rightarrow D_3$ is written as $f;g: D_1 \rightarrow D_3$
- *conditional*: $ifte_D: \mathbf{Bool} \times D \times D \rightarrow D$ is defined by

$$ifte_D(c, d_1, d_2) = \begin{cases} d_1 & \text{if } c = \mathbf{tt} \\ d_2 & \text{if } c = \mathbf{ff} \end{cases}$$

(the index D will often be omitted)

- *indexing*: given any function $f: D_1 \times \dots \times D_n \rightarrow D$, for any domain I ,

$$\text{lift}^I(f): (I \rightarrow D_1) \times \dots \times (I \rightarrow D_n) \rightarrow (I \rightarrow D)$$

is defined as follows:

$$\text{lift}^I(f)(fd_1, \dots, fd_n) = \lambda i:I. f(fd_1(i), \dots, fd_n(i))$$

For instance, the conditional on state-dependent functions, like

$$\text{cond}: \mathbf{BEXP} \times \mathbf{EXP} \times \mathbf{EXP} \rightarrow \mathbf{EXP}$$

given explicitly by

$$\text{cond}(B, E_1, E_2)(s) = \text{ifte}_{\mathbf{Int}}(B(s), E_1(s), E_2(s)) = \begin{cases} E_1(s) & \text{if } B(s) = \mathbf{tt} \\ E_2(s) & \text{if } B(s) = \mathbf{ff} \end{cases}$$

may be defined as $\text{cond} = \text{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(\text{ifte}_{\mathbf{Int}})$.

All these carry over
to partial functions as well

Denotational semantics for TINY

Semantic clauses

$\mathcal{N}: \text{Num} \rightarrow \text{Int}$

$$\mathcal{N}[[0]] = 0$$

$$\mathcal{N}[[1]] = 1$$

$$\mathcal{N}[[2]] = 2$$

...

$\mathcal{E}: \text{Exp} \rightarrow \text{EXP}$

$$\mathcal{E}[[N]]s = \mathcal{N}[[N]] \quad \mathcal{E}[[x]]s = s\ x$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 + e_2]]s = \mathcal{E}[[e_1]]s + \mathcal{E}[[e_2]]s$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 * e_2]]s = \mathcal{E}[[e_1]]s * \mathcal{E}[[e_2]]s$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 - e_2]]s = \mathcal{E}[[e_1]]s - \mathcal{E}[[e_2]]s$$

$\mathcal{B}: \text{BExp} \rightarrow \text{BEXP}$

$$\mathcal{B}[[\text{true}]]s = \text{tt} \quad \mathcal{B}[[\text{false}]]s = \text{ff} \quad \mathcal{B}[[\neg b]]s = \neg(\mathcal{B}[[b]]s)$$

$$\mathcal{B}[[e_1 \leq e_2]]s = (\mathcal{E}[[e_1]]s \leq \mathcal{E}[[e_2]]s) \quad \mathcal{B}[[b_1 \wedge b_2]]s = (\mathcal{B}[[b_1]]s \wedge \mathcal{B}[[b_2]]s)$$

Denotational semantics for TINY

The same clauses, using some notational sugar

$\mathcal{N}: \mathbf{Num} \rightarrow \mathbf{Int}$

$$\mathcal{N}[[0]] = 0$$

$$\mathcal{N}[[1]] = 1$$

$$\mathcal{N}[[2]] = 2$$

...

$\mathcal{E}: \mathbf{Exp} \rightarrow \mathbf{EXP}$

$$\mathcal{E}[[N]] = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}.\mathcal{N}[[N]] \quad \mathcal{E}[[x]] = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}.s \ x$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 + e_2]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(+)(\mathcal{E}[[e_1]], \mathcal{E}[[e_2]])$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 * e_2]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(*) (\mathcal{E}[[e_1]], \mathcal{E}[[e_2]])$$

$$\mathcal{E}[[e_1 - e_2]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(-)(\mathcal{E}[[e_1]], \mathcal{E}[[e_2]])$$

$\mathcal{B}: \mathbf{BExp} \rightarrow \mathbf{BEXP}$

$$\mathcal{B}[[\mathbf{true}]] = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}.\mathbf{tt} \quad \mathcal{B}[[\mathbf{false}]] = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}.\mathbf{ff} \quad \mathcal{B}[[\neg b]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(\neg)(\mathcal{B}[[b]])$$

$$\mathcal{B}[[e_1 \leq e_2]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(\leq)(\mathcal{E}[[e_1]], \mathcal{E}[[e_2]]) \quad \mathcal{B}[[b_1 \wedge b_2]] = \mathit{lift}^{\mathbf{State}}(\wedge)(\mathcal{B}[[b_1]], \mathcal{B}[[b_2]])$$

Denotational semantics for TINY

Semantic clauses

$\mathcal{S}: \text{Stmt} \rightarrow \text{STMT}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S}[[x := e]]s &= s[x \mapsto \mathcal{E}[[e]]s] \\ \mathcal{S}[[\text{skip}]]s &= s \\ \mathcal{S}[[S_1; S_2]]s &= \mathcal{S}[[S_2]](\mathcal{S}[[S_1]]s) \\ \mathcal{S}[[\text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2]]s &= \text{ifte}_{\text{State}}(\mathcal{B}[[b]]s, \mathcal{S}[[S_1]]s, \mathcal{S}[[S_2]]s) \\ \mathcal{S}[[\text{while } b \text{ do } S]]s &= \text{ifte}_{\text{State}}(\mathcal{B}[[b]]s, \mathcal{S}[[\text{while } b \text{ do } S]]s', s) \\ &\quad \text{where } s' = \mathcal{S}[[S]]s\end{aligned}$$

Denotational semantics for TINY

The same clauses with notational sugar

$\mathcal{S}: \text{Stmt} \rightarrow \text{STMT}$

$$\mathcal{S}[x := e] = \lambda s:\text{State}.s[x \mapsto \mathcal{E}[e] s]$$

$$\mathcal{S}[\text{skip}] = id_{\text{State}}$$

$$\mathcal{S}[S_1; S_2] = \mathcal{S}[S_1]; \mathcal{S}[S_2]$$

$$\mathcal{S}[\text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2] = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[b], \mathcal{S}[S_1], \mathcal{S}[S_2])$$

$$\mathcal{S}[\text{while } b \text{ do } S] = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[b], \mathcal{S}[S]; \mathcal{S}[\text{while } b \text{ do } S], id_{\text{State}})$$

Something wrong?

The clause for **while**:

$$\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S] = \mathit{cond}(\mathcal{B}[b], \mathcal{S}[S]; \mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S], \mathit{id}_{\mathbf{State}})$$

is *not* compositional!

We "define":

$$??? \quad \mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S] = \Phi(\dots, \mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S], \dots) \quad ???$$

We need *fixed point definitions*

Potential problems with fixed point definitions

Consider fixed point definitions in $\mathbf{STMT} = \mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}$, as

$$\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while } b \mathbf{ do } S] = \Phi(\dots, \mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while } b \mathbf{ do } S], \dots)$$

- Does a fixed point always exist?

$$f = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}. \text{ifte}_{\mathbf{State}}(f(s) \text{ is not defined}, s, f(s)[\text{var} \mapsto (f(s) \text{ var}) + 1])$$

Only some functionals Φ may be allowed

- If a fixed point exists, is it unique?

$$f = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}. f(s)[\text{var} \mapsto 2 * (f(s) \text{ var})]$$

(or even: $f = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}. f(s)$)

Some “best” fixed point must be chosen

The guiding fixed point definition

Looking closer at the clause for **while**:

$$\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S] = \Phi(\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S])$$

where $\Phi: \mathbf{STMT} \rightarrow \mathbf{STMT}$ is defined as follows:

$$\Phi(F) = \mathit{cond}(\mathcal{B}[b], \mathcal{S}[S]; F, \mathit{id}_{\mathbf{state}})$$

Whatever fixed point we choose, we want it to be adequate for our operational intuitions; we want a denotation $\mathit{fix}(\Phi) \in \mathbf{STMT}$ that is a fixed point of Φ (so that $\Phi(\mathit{fix}(\Phi)) = \mathit{fix}(\Phi)$) and is adequate for the operational semantics of **while**, i.e., such that

$$\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s' \ \text{iff} \ \mathit{fix}(\Phi) \ s = s'$$

Right guess!

Suppose that we have such adequacy for S , i.e., $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s'$ iff $\mathcal{S}[[S]] s = s'$.

Right guess:

$$\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s' \text{ iff for some } n \geq 0, \Phi^n(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) s = s'$$

where $\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}} : \mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}$ is the function undefined everywhere, $\Phi^0(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) = \emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}$, and $\Phi^{n+1}(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) = \Phi(\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}))$.

Proof: in a moment.

Conclusion

$$\mathcal{S}[[\mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S]] = \text{fix}(\Phi) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \Phi^n(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}})$$

This is well-defined, and yields the *least* fix-point of Φ , see below.

while $sqr \leq n$ **do** $rt := rt + 1; sqr := sqr + 2 * rt + 1$

$\Phi(F) = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\![sqr \leq n]\!], \mathcal{S}[\![rt := rt + 1; sqr := sqr + 2 * rt + 1]\!]; F, id_{\text{State}})$

$s(n, rt, sqr)$	$\Phi^0(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^1(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^2(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^3(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^4(\emptyset)(s)$	\dots	$\bigcup \Phi^n(\emptyset)(s)$
0, 0, 1	?	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	\dots	0, 0, 1
1, 0, 1	?	?	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	\dots	1, 1, 4
2, 0, 1	?	?	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	\dots	2, 1, 4
3, 0, 1	?	?	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	\dots	3, 1, 4
4, 0, 1	?	?	?	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	\dots	4, 2, 9
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots
8, 0, 1	?	?	?	8, 2, 9	8, 2, 9	\dots	8, 2, 9
9, 0, 1	?	?	?	?	9, 3, 16	\dots	9, 3, 16
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots

$$\Phi(F) = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[\text{sqr} \leq n], \mathcal{S}[\text{rt} := \text{rt} + 1; \text{sqr} := \text{sqr} + 2 * \text{rt} + 1]; F, \text{id}_{\text{State}})$$

$s(n, \text{rt}, \text{sqr})$	$\Phi^0(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^1(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^2(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^3(\emptyset)(s)$	$\Phi^4(\emptyset)(s)$	\dots	$\bigcup \Phi^n(\emptyset)(s)$
0, 0, 1	?	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 1	\dots	0, 0, 1
1, 0, 1	?	?	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	\dots	1, 1, 4
1, 1, 4	?	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	1, 1, 4	\dots	1, 1, 4
2, 0, 1	?	?	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	\dots	2, 1, 4
2, 1, 4	?	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	2, 1, 4	\dots	2, 1, 4
3, 0, 1	?	?	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	\dots	3, 1, 4
3, 1, 4	?	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	3, 1, 4	\dots	3, 1, 4
4, 0, 1	?	?	?	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	\dots	4, 2, 9
4, 1, 4	?	?	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	\dots	4, 2, 9
4, 2, 9	?	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	4, 2, 9	\dots	4, 2, 9
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots
9, 0, 1	?	?	?	?	9, 3, 16	\dots	9, 3, 16
9, 1, 4	?	?	?	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	\dots	9, 3, 16
9, 2, 9	?	?	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	\dots	9, 3, 16
9, 3, 16	?	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	9, 3, 16	\dots	9, 3, 16
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots

Proof

“ \implies ”: By induction on the length of the computation $\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k s'$.

$k > 0$: Then $\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow \gamma \Rightarrow^{k-1} s'$. By cases on this first step:

- $\mathcal{B}[[b]] \ s = \mathbf{ff}$ and $\gamma = s$. Then $s' = s$, and $\Phi(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) \ s = s$. OK
- $\mathcal{B}[[b]] \ s = \mathbf{tt}$ and $\gamma = \langle S; \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^{k-1} s'$. Then $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^{k_1} \hat{s}$ and $\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, \hat{s} \rangle \Rightarrow^{k_2} s'$, for some $\hat{s} \in \mathbf{State}$ and $k_1, k_2 > 0$ with $k_1 + k_2 = k - 1$. Hence, $\mathcal{S}[[S]] \ s = \hat{s}$ and $\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) \ \hat{s} = s'$ for some $n \geq 0$. Thus, $\Phi^{n+1}(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) \ s = s'$. OK

BTW: This relies only on $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s' \implies \mathcal{S}[[S]] \ s = s'$

Proof

“ \Leftarrow ”: By induction on $n \geq 0$, assuming $\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}) s = s'$.

$n > 0$: Then

$\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}) s = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[b], \mathcal{S}[S]; \Phi^{n-1}(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}), \text{id}_{\text{State}}) s$.

- $\mathcal{B}[b] s = \mathbf{ff}$: then $\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}) s = s$, so $s' = s$, and also

$\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow s$. OK

- $\mathcal{B}[b] s = \mathbf{tt}$: then $\Phi^n(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}) s = \Phi^{n-1}(\emptyset_{\text{State} \rightarrow \text{State}}) (\mathcal{S}[S] s)$.

Hence, $\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, \mathcal{S}[S] s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s'$, and since $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* (\mathcal{S}[S] s)$, we

get $\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S; \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^*$

$\langle \mathbf{while} \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ S, \mathcal{S}[S] s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s'$. OK

BTW: This relies only on $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s' \Leftarrow \mathcal{S}[S] s = s'$

Adequacy of denotational semantics

Fact: For each statement $S \in \mathbf{Stmt}$ and states $s, s' \in \mathbf{State}$,

$$\mathcal{S}[[S]] s = s' \text{ iff } \langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s'$$

Proof:

“ \implies ”: By structural induction on S .

“ \impliedby ”: By induction on the length of the computation $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s'$.

How general is this fixpoint construction?

For any sets X and Y , define the *information ordering* on partial functions from X to Y :

$$f \sqsubseteq g \text{ iff } [f(x) \text{ is defined implies } g(x) \text{ is defined and } f(x) = g(x)]$$

This is a *complete partial order* (c.p.o.) on $X \rightarrow Y$, i.e., it has the least element $\emptyset_{X \rightarrow Y}$ and limits (least upper bounds) of increasing chains:

$$f_0 \sqsubseteq f_1 \sqsubseteq f_2 \sqsubseteq f_3 \sqsubseteq \cdots \sqsubseteq \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f_n$$

Putting $X = Y = \mathbf{State}$, we get a c.p.o. on the set **STMT**.

Continuous functions

Fact: For any $S \in \mathbf{Stmt}$ and $b \in \mathbf{BExp}$, the function

$$\Phi(F) = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[[b]], \mathcal{S}[[S]]; F, \text{id}_{\text{State}})$$

is monotone and even continuous:

- $\Phi(f) \sqsubseteq \Phi(g)$ if $f \sqsubseteq g$,
- $\Phi(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f_n) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Phi(f_n)$ if $f_1 \sqsubseteq f_2 \sqsubseteq f_3 \sqsubseteq \dots$.

Fact: (Kleene fixpoint theorem) Every continuous function Φ on a c.p.o. X has a least fixpoint, defined by:

$$\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Phi^n(\emptyset).$$

Continuous functions

Some functions are not continuous, or even not monotone. Recall our flawed "fixpoint definition":

$$f = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}. \text{ifte}_{\mathbf{State}}(f(s) \text{ is not defined}, s, f(s)[\text{var} \mapsto (f(s) \text{ var}) + 1])$$

This is supposed to be a fixpoint of the function $\Phi : \mathbf{STMT} \rightarrow \mathbf{STMT}$:

$$\Phi(F) = \lambda s:\mathbf{State}. \text{ifte}_{\mathbf{State}}(F(s) \text{ is not defined}, s, F(s)[\text{var} \mapsto (F(s) \text{ var}) + 1])$$

This Φ is well-defined, but it is not monotone: $\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}} \sqsubseteq id_{\mathbf{State}}$, but

$$\Phi(\emptyset_{\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State}}) = id_{\mathbf{State}} \not\sqsubseteq \Phi(id_{\mathbf{State}}).$$

In practice, all "reasonable" functions that we are likely to write are continuous.