

Introduction to higher-order verification I

Recursion schemes and terms

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Overview

- 1 Motivations of this group
- 2 Higher-order recursion schemes
- 3 λ -terms and recursion

Model-checking higher-order programs

A well-known approach in verification: **model-checking**.

- Construct a **model** of a program
- Specify a property in an appropriate **logic**
- Make them **interact** in order to determine whether the program satisfies the property.

Interaction is often realized by translating the formula into an equivalent **automaton**, which then runs over the model.

Need to balance expressivity vs. complexity in the choice of the model and of the logic.

Model-checking higher-order programs

Functional languages (such as C++, Haskell, OCaml, Javascript, Python, or Scala) allow and encourage the use of **higher-order functions**.

Informally, these are functions which can take a function as input:

$$\text{compose } \phi \ x = \phi(\phi(x))$$

$\text{map } f \ l$ applies the function f to every element of the list l

It is a real challenge for verification, as it needs models with **recursion of higher-order**.

Higher-order recursion schemes (HORS) allow to abstract such programs and precisely model their higher-order behaviour.

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- Ong 2006 (game semantics)
- Hague-Murawski-Ong-Serre 2008 (game semantics, higher-order pushdown automata)
- Kobayashi-Ong 2009 (intersection types)
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- C-SHORE (Broadbent, Carayol, Hague, Serre)
- Preface (Ramsay, Neatherway, Ong)
- others ??

It would be nice to have some talks about practical aspects too. In particular, how do we abstract a program into a recursion scheme in practice ? How helpful is the theoretical understanding of the problem in the implementation of a model-checker ?

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- The goal is that **everyone understands** this common basis of knowledge, so **please interrupt this talk** everytime you need it !
- Then, from January, "normal" talks will start.
- This group is intended for **discussion**: interrupting talks with questions will be encouraged in general
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Higher-order recursion schemes

Idea: it is a kind of grammar whose parameters may be functions and which generates trees.

It is a model which **does not interpret conditionals**, but generates a **tree of all possible behaviours** of a program.

A very simple functional program

At first, a recursion scheme looks like a grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L \text{ Nil} \\ L x &= \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))} \end{aligned}$$

It produces a tree by substitution, starting from the axiom S .

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Value tree of a recursion scheme

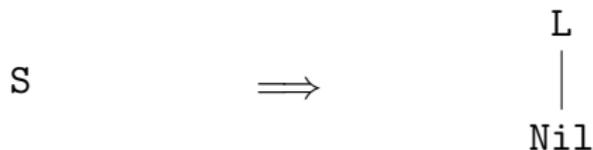
S = $L \text{ Nil}$
 $L \ x$ = $\text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x))$ generates:

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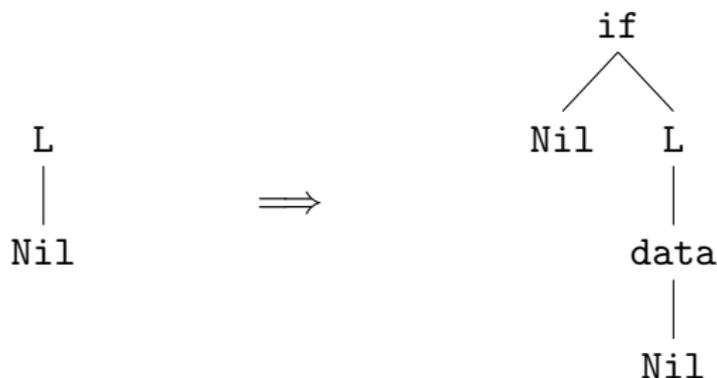
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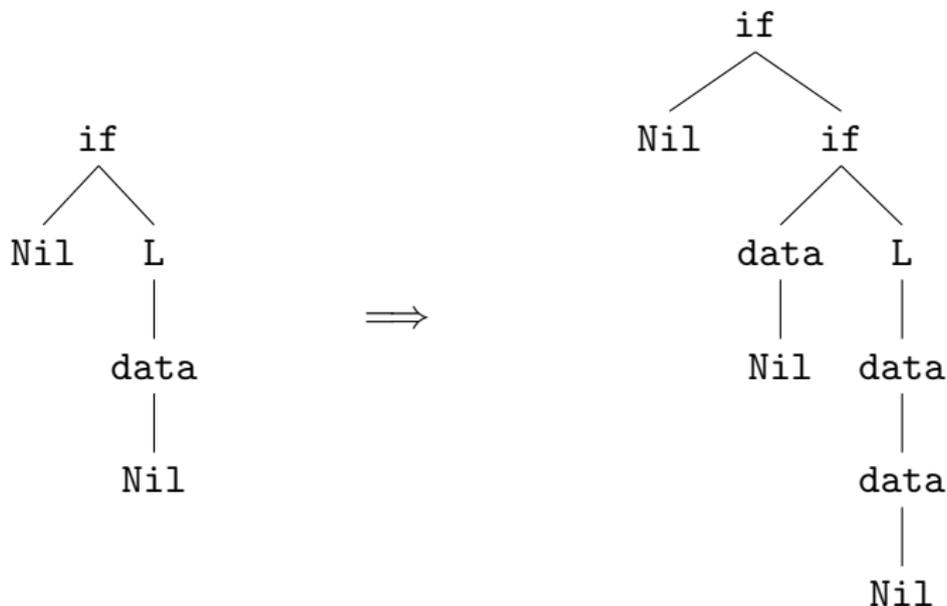


Notice that **substitution and expansion occur in one same step.**

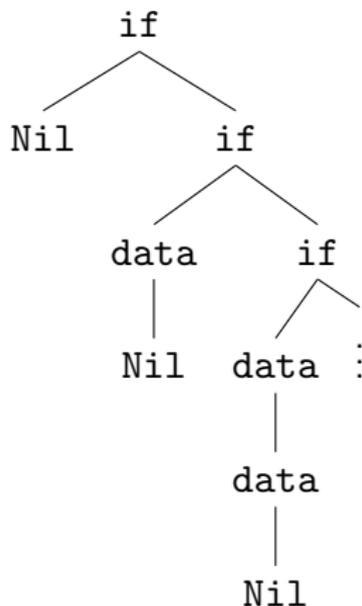
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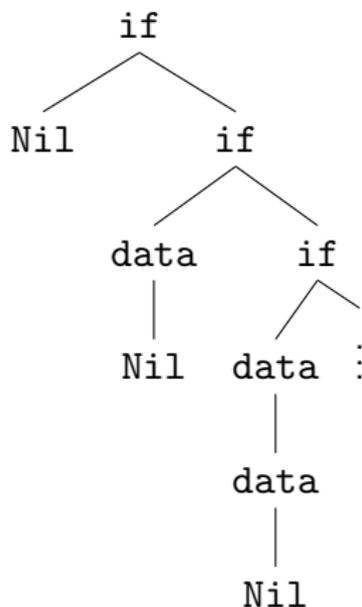


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Important remark: this scheme is very simple, yet it produces a tree which is **not regular** (it does not have a finite number of subtrees).

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Recursion schemes: formal definition

We shall define:

- **types** (as they constraint rules and trees),
- **trees** (as they are produced by schemes),
- **terms** (as they appear in the rewriting rules),
- **recursion schemes**,
- the **rewriting relation** induced by a recursion scheme,
- and the **value tree** of a recursion scheme.

Simple types (or kinds)

Kinds are generated by the grammar

$$\kappa ::= \perp \mid \kappa \rightarrow \kappa.$$

By convention, the arrow associates to the right, so every kind may be written

$$\kappa = \kappa_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \kappa_n \rightarrow \perp$$

with n called the **arity** of κ .

The order $order(\kappa)$ of κ is defined as 0 if $n = 0$ and as $1 + \max(order(\kappa_1), \dots, order(\kappa_n))$ otherwise.

The set of all kinds is denoted \mathcal{K} .

Simple types (or kinds) — terminology

The word **kind** was proposed by Kobayashi and Ong in their 2009 article on intersection types for verification.

Its purpose is to easily distinguish from **types**, which they intend as intersection types.

In the sequel, we will try to use the term **kind**, but will probably sometimes say **simple type** as well.

(these types and this approach will be the subject of another talk)

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Simple types (or kinds) — examples

The kind

$$\perp \rightarrow (\perp \rightarrow (\perp \rightarrow \perp))$$

(as formed by the grammar) is also denoted

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by associativity to the right.

So, its **arity** is 3.

What about its **order** ?

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Informally, the *order* measures the *nesting* of a type.

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Trees: signatures

We call **signature** or **ranked alphabet** a set Σ of **constructors** together with a function $ar : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ defining the **arity** of the constructors of the signature.

The arity of a constructor $f \in \Sigma$ may be seen as a kind $kind(f)$ defined as the kind

$$\perp \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \perp \rightarrow \perp$$

of arity $ar(f)$.

Trees

Recursion schemes produce **labelled ranked trees**.

A Σ -labelled (ranked) tree is defined as a function $t : Dom(t) \rightarrow \Sigma$ with $Dom(t) \subseteq \mathbb{N}^*$ a prefix-closed set of finite words on natural numbers, satisfying the following property:

$$\forall \alpha \in Dom(t), \{i \mid \alpha \cdot i \in Dom(t)\} = \{1, \dots, ar(t(\alpha))\}$$

When this last condition is relaxed, the tree is called **unranked** – the run-trees of alternating automata will be unranked, as we will see during the next talk.

A **branch** $b = i_0 \cdots i_n \cdots$ of a tree t is a finite or countable sequence of integers whose prefixes $i_0 \cdots i_n$ are all in $Dom(t)$, and which, if finite, ends on a nullary node: $ar(t(i_0 \cdots i_n)) = 0$.

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Terms

Recall the example scheme:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L \text{ Nil} \\ L \ x &= \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \end{aligned}$$

We may **curry** rules, and obtain equivalently

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L \text{ Nil} \\ L &= \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda x.$ is a notation expressing the fact that x is a variable which will be given as argument to the non-terminal L .

Terms

More generally, a rule

$$L \quad f \ x \ y \quad = \quad t$$

will be written as

$$L \quad = \quad \lambda f. \lambda x. \lambda y. t$$

meaning that L takes three arguments, the first one being denoted f in the term t , the second one x and the third one y .

Well-kinded terms

Consider a set of variables \mathcal{V} , a set of constants \mathcal{C} and a function $\text{kind} : \mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$.

The set of **well-kinded terms** $\Lambda(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{C})$ is defined inductively:

- $x \in \mathcal{V}$ is a term of kind $\text{kind}(x)$,
- $c \in \mathcal{C}$ is a term of kind $\text{kind}(c)$,
- if t is a term of kind κ and $x \in \mathcal{V}$, $\lambda x. t$ is a term of kind $\text{kind}(x) \rightarrow \kappa$,
- if t_1 is a term of kind $\kappa \rightarrow \kappa'$ and t_2 is a term of kind κ , $t_1 t_2$ is a term of kind κ' .

We extend the function kind to well-kinded terms accordingly.

Well-kinded terms – example

Is the term

$$\lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))}$$

well-kinded ? If so, what is its kind ?

We need first to give kinds to the variables x and L , and to the constants if and data .

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Well-kinded terms – example

$$\lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))}$$

- $\text{kind}(x) = \perp$
- $\text{kind}(L) = \perp \rightarrow \perp$
- $\text{kind}(\text{if}) = \perp \rightarrow \perp \rightarrow \perp$
- $\text{kind}(\text{data}) = \perp \rightarrow \perp$

So that:

- $\text{kind}(\text{data } x) = \perp$
- $\text{kind}(L \text{ (data } x)) = \perp$
- $\text{kind}(\text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x))) = \perp$
- $\text{kind}(\lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x))) = \perp \rightarrow \perp$

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- $\text{kind}(x) = \perp$
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it is natural to ask that $\text{kind}(L) = \perp \rightarrow \perp$.

(in the example we gave, it was automatic since L itself was playing the role of L).

Moreover, this kind has order 1.

This will be the order of this rewriting rule.

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Recursion schemes

Consider a set of variables \mathcal{V} and a function $\text{kind} : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$. A higher-order recursion scheme $\mathcal{G} = \langle \Sigma, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{R}, S \rangle$ consists of

- a signature Σ ,
- a finite set \mathcal{N} of **non-terminals** with a function $\text{kind} : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$,
- a function $\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \Lambda(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{N} \cup \Sigma)$ such that, for every $L \in \mathcal{N}$, $\mathcal{R}(L)$ is of the form $\lambda x_1 \cdots \lambda x_n. t$, where t is a term without abstractions of kind \perp and which does not contain S , and such that $\text{kind}(L) = \text{kind}(\mathcal{R}(L))$,
- and of $S \in \mathcal{N}$ of kind \perp called its **axiom**.

The **order** of \mathcal{G} is $\max(\{\text{order}(\text{kind}(L)) \mid L \in \mathcal{N}\})$.

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Order of a recursion schemes

Considering the signature

$$\Sigma = \{\text{if} : 2, \text{data} : 1, \text{Nil} : 0\}$$

the following set of rules defines a recursion scheme:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L \text{ Nil} \\ L &= \lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))} \end{aligned}$$

The order of S is 0, the one of L is 1.

So that this recursion scheme is of order 1.

It is why we said it was a very simple one.

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Another recursion scheme

An example from Serre et al.:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= M \text{ Nil} \\ M &= \lambda x. \text{if} (\text{commit } x) (A \ x \ M) \\ A &= \lambda y. \lambda \phi. \text{if} (\phi (\text{error } \text{end})) (\phi (\text{cons } y)) \end{aligned}$$

with

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Exercise: check that terms are well-kinded and compute the order of the scheme.

The answer is that the order is 2.

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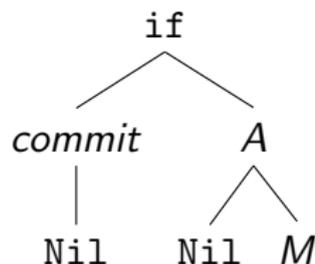
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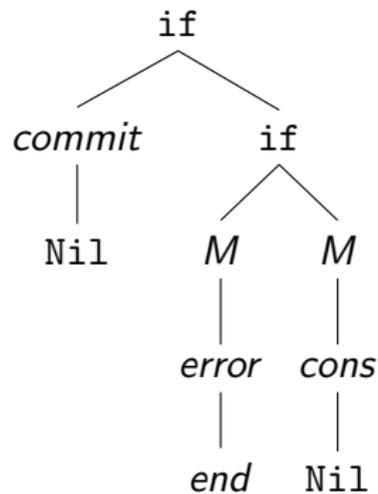
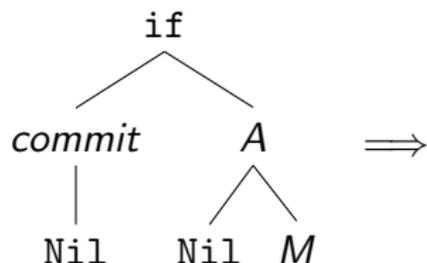
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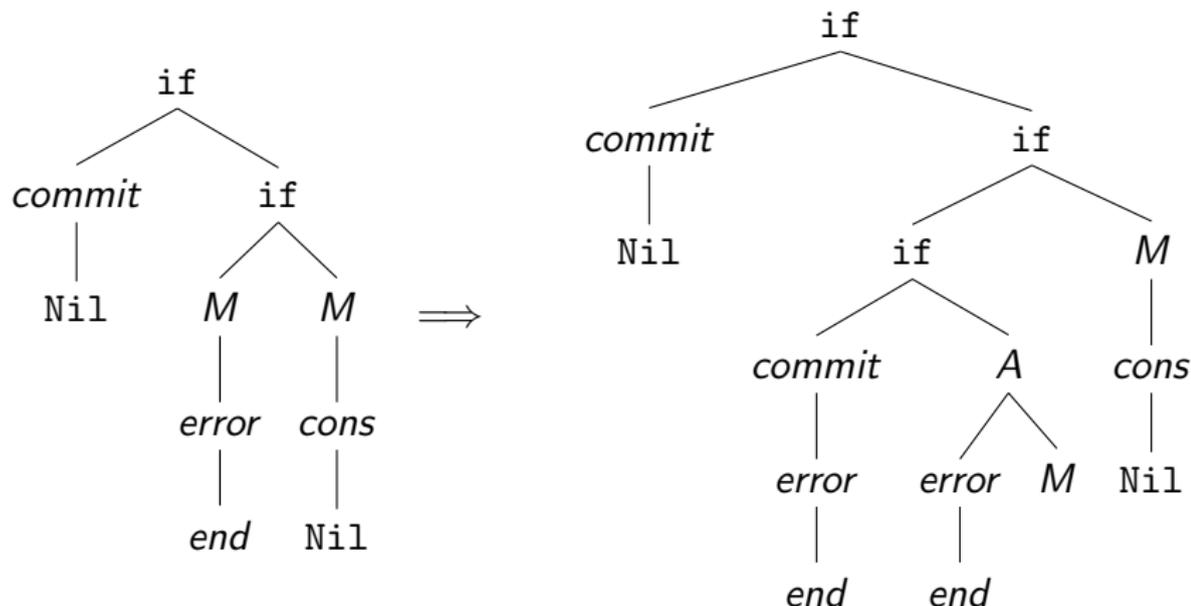
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Rewriting relation over recursion schemes

To define formally the **value tree** of a recursion scheme, we need to define how it rewrites.

We define inductively the rewriting relation $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{G}}$ over terms by:

- $L t_1 \cdots t_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{G}} t[x_i := t_i]$ if $\mathcal{R}(L) = \lambda x_1 \cdots \lambda x_n. t$,
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Informally, recall that a rule

$$L = \lambda x. \lambda y. t$$

means that L takes two arguments, that the first one is denoted x in the term t , and the second one is denoted y .

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which never outputs a symbol at its head and thus “never produces anything”.

Divergence

For this reason, we add a new symbol for divergence.

People from the verification community denote it \perp . It is fine for them, as they would give it the kind \circ .

In semantics, this is the Ω of Böhm trees – in this framework, it always has simple type \perp .

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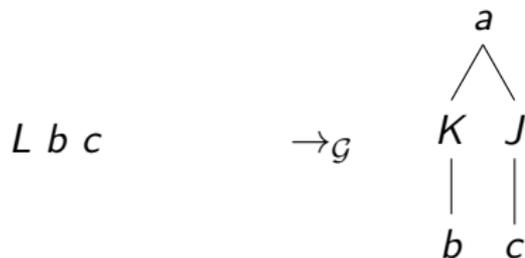
Evaluation policies

So far, we only considered schemes in which there was only **one rewritable non-terminal** at the same time.

However, consider a rule

$$L = \lambda x. \lambda y. a (K x) (J y)$$

An example of rewriting:



Which non-terminal should we rewrite first ?

It is not very important in this case, as no rewriting of a non-terminal affects the other.

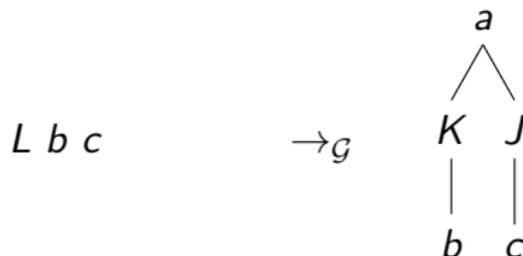
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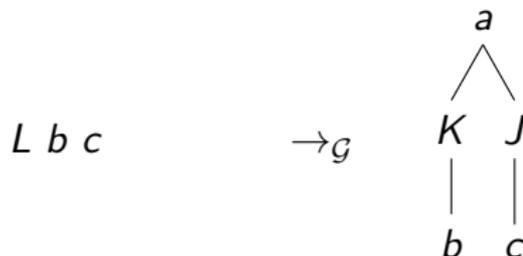
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and the evaluation is finished.

Evaluation policies

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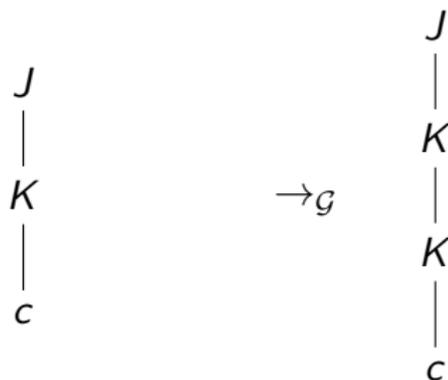
$$\begin{aligned} S &= J (K c) \\ K &= \lambda x. (K (K x)) \\ J &= \lambda y. c \end{aligned}$$

If we rewrite K :

$$\begin{array}{c} J \\ | \\ K \\ | \\ c \end{array} \quad \rightarrow_g \quad \begin{array}{c} J \\ | \\ K \\ | \\ K \\ | \\ c \end{array}$$

and we have the same choice again.

Evaluation policies

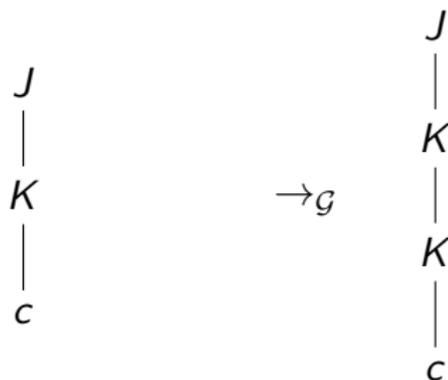


In case we always rewrite K (**innermost strategy**), the rewriting diverges and produces \perp .

For more about this, see

Axel Haddad, *IO vs OI in Higher-Order Recursion Schemes*

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Value tree of a recursion scheme

We want to define the **value tree** $\llbracket \mathcal{G} \rrbracket$ of the scheme as the one obtained by the “most productive reduction”.

The definition is order-theoretical, and hides this notion of reduction.

Value tree of a recursion scheme

Given a term of $\Lambda(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{N} \cup \Sigma)$, define t^\perp by induction as follows:

- $a^\perp = a$ for every $a \in \Sigma$
- $(t_1 t_2)^\perp = (t_1)^\perp (t_2)^\perp$ if $(t_1)^\perp \neq \perp$
- in every other case, $t^\perp = \perp$

Roughly speaking, seeing t as a tree, t^\perp is obtained from t by replacing every non-terminal by \perp and removing the subtree that was rooted on this non-terminal.

Value tree of a recursion scheme

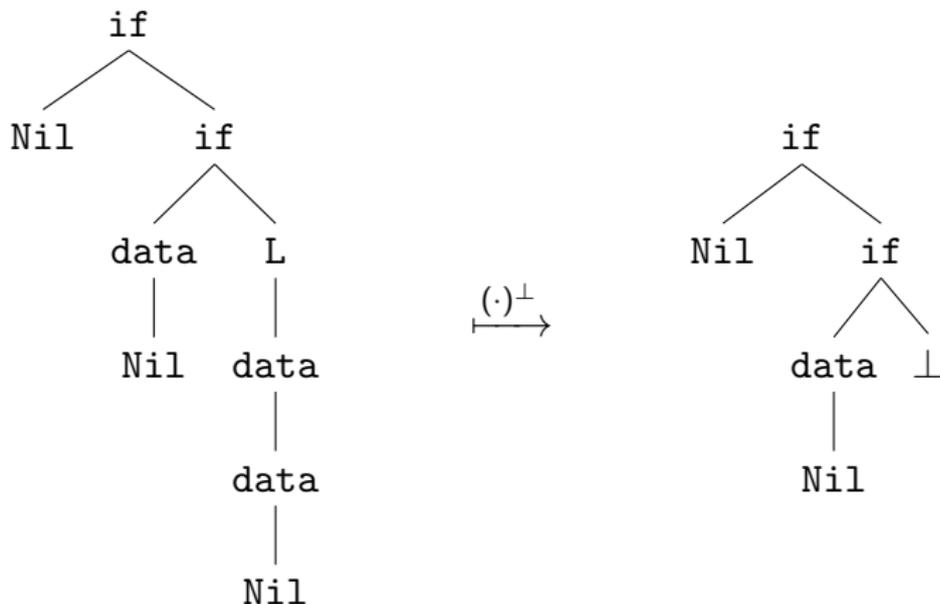
Consider for example



The erasing operation $(\cdot)^\perp$ maps it to



Value tree of a recursion scheme



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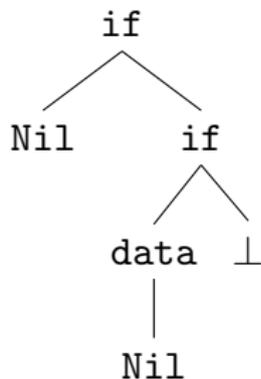
Define the order \preceq over $\Sigma \uplus \{\perp\}$ by

$$\forall a \in \Sigma \quad \perp \preceq a$$

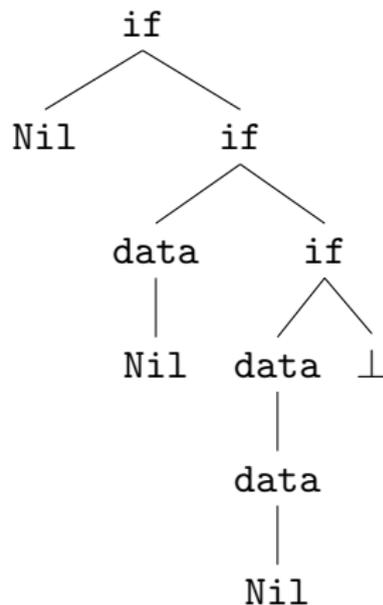
and generalize it to $(\Sigma \uplus \{\perp\})$ -labelled ranked trees as follows: $t \preceq t'$ iff $Dom(t) \subseteq Dom(t')$ and

$$\forall w \in Dom(t) \quad t(w) \preceq t'(w')$$

Value tree of a recursion scheme



\approx



Value tree of a recursion scheme

The resulting order is a **dcpo** (directed complete partial order).

Indeed, any non-empty set D of $(\Sigma \uplus \{\perp\})$ -labelled ranked trees such that

$$\forall t, u \in D \quad \exists v \in D \quad t \preceq v \text{ and } u \preceq v$$

has a supremum denoted $\bigvee D$.

Such a set is called a **directed set**.

Value tree of a recursion scheme

Given a scheme \mathcal{G} , its value tree $\llbracket \mathcal{G} \rrbracket$ is then defined as

$$\llbracket \mathcal{G} \rrbracket = \bigvee \{t^\perp \mid S \rightarrow_{\mathcal{G}}^* t\}$$

Exercise: check that this set is directed.

Examples of recursion schemes

Exercise: compute the value tree of the following recursion scheme:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L c \\ L &= \lambda x. a (L (b x)) (b x) \end{aligned}$$

Its branch language is $\{a^n b^n c \mid n \geq 1\}$.

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Exercise: compute the value tree of the following recursion scheme:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= L (C b b) \\ L &= \lambda\phi. a (L (C \phi \phi)) (c (\phi d)) \\ C &= \lambda\phi. \lambda\psi. \lambda x. \phi (\psi x) \end{aligned}$$

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Overview

- 1 Motivations of this group
- 2 Higher-order recursion schemes
- 3 λ -terms and recursion

A quick overview of λY -calculus

Let us first formalize the notion of substitution: in the following situation

$$(\lambda x. t) u$$

we apply u as argument to the term t , which contains a variable x depicting the argument it requires.

The application of these two terms can be understood as their **interaction** – which shall result in

$$t[x := u]$$

where in t the occurrences of the variable x representing its argument have been replaced by this argument u .

(we do not talk here about free/bounded variables, ... – this part of the talk is more informal)

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A quick overview of λY -calculus

The relation which realizes this interaction is called the β -reduction.
It is defined as:

$$(\lambda x. t) u \rightarrow_{\beta} t[x := u]$$

A quick overview of λY -calculus

Recall that the terms of the set $\Lambda(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{N} \cup \Sigma)$ are

- well-kinded terms
- where abstractions (λ) are only defined over variables (elements of \mathcal{V}).

If we consider instead $\Lambda(\mathcal{V} \cup \mathcal{N}, \Sigma)$, what is the difference ?

We can form terms where **non-terminals are abstracted**, as

$$\lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))}$$

which has kind

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A quick overview of λY -calculus

We denote that

$$\lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ (L (data } x \text{))} :: (\perp \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow \perp \rightarrow \perp$$

The notation $t :: \kappa$ means that $\text{kind}(t) = \kappa$. It was introduced by Kobayashi and Ong, again for mixing intersection types and simple types.

The relation $::$ can be understood as the simple typing relation.

A quick overview of λY -calculus

Due to the associativity to the right over kinds, the kind

$$(\perp \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow \perp \rightarrow \perp$$

coincides with the kind

$$(\perp \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow (\perp \rightarrow \perp)$$

which is of the form $\kappa \rightarrow \kappa$.

A quick overview of λY -calculus

We add to the calculus (to the syntax of terms) a family of operators

$$Y_{\kappa} \quad :: \quad (\kappa \rightarrow \kappa) \rightarrow \kappa$$

which act as fixpoint. This action is modelled by the relation δ of the λY -calculus:

$$Y M \rightarrow_{\delta} M (Y M)$$

A quick overview of λY -calculus

In our example:

$$Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \)$$
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$$Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (\text{L} \ (\text{data } x)) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (\text{L} \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (\text{L} \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\beta} \ \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (\text{L} \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \ (\text{data } x) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ \dots$$

A quick overview of λY -calculus

In our example:

$$Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\beta} \ \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \) \ (\text{data } x \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ \dots$$

A quick overview of λY -calculus

In our example:

$$Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\beta} \ \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (Y \ (\ \lambda L. \lambda x. \text{if } x \ (L \ (\text{data } x)) \) \) \ (\text{data } x)) \)$$
$$\rightarrow_{\delta} \ \dots$$

A quick overview of λY -calculus

We obtain a correspondence between recursion schemes and the λ -calculus with a fixpoint operator Y .

In a recursion scheme, the rewriting relation $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{G}}$ corresponds to a particular class of reduction strategies of the λY -calculus where everytime the relation of fixpoint expansion \rightarrow_{δ} , the β -reduction is applied to every position of the term where it can be used (they are called **redexes**).

This is why in some talks about semantic models we will use a fixpoint operator: in order to give a semantic account of the syntactic recursion given by the rewriting operation of recursion schemes.

Next time...

The next session is on December 11th.

We will talk about logic and automata: MSO, modal μ -calculus, alternating parity automata.

Thank you for coming !