

2. Semantics of Functional Programs

up to now: defined syntax of Haskell

now: Semantics of Haskell

needed to implement compilers/interpreters and to know when a program is correct.

2 ways to define the semantics of programming languages:

Q2 • denotational semantics: define semantics by a mapping from constructs of the prog. language to mathematical objects

Q3 • operational semantics: define semantics by providing an interpreter for the language. Every other interpreter should behave in the same way.

2.1: Mathematical Foundations

2.2: Def. of Semantics of Haskell

2.1. Complete Partial Orders and Fixpoints

2.1.1: math. objects needed for Haskell expressions

2.1.2: — " ————— Haskell functions

2.1.3: How can one infer the semantics of a recursively defined Haskell function?

2.1.1. Partially Defined Values

Goal: Define a mapping Val that maps every Haskell-expression to a mathematical object.

For an expression $\underline{\text{exp}}$, $\text{Val}(\underline{\text{exp}})$ should be the meaning/semantics of $\underline{\text{exp}}$.

Ex: Haskell-expression 5 is mapped to the number 5 ,
i.e.: $\text{Val}(5) = 5$.

What about Haskell-functions?

$\text{square} :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$

$\text{square } x = x * x$

$\text{Val}(\text{square})$ is the function that takes a number n from \mathbb{Z} and returns $n \cdot n$.

What about the following non-terminating fct?

$\text{non_term} :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$

$\text{non_term } x = \text{non_term } (x + 1)$

What is $\text{Val}(\text{non_term } 0)$?

To express undefinedness, we introduce a special undefined value \perp ("bottom").

Then $\text{Val}(\text{non_term } 0) = \text{Val}(\text{non_term } 1) = \perp$.

So far the semantics of Haskell, we need mathematical objects like \mathbb{Z} , \perp , \mathbb{B} , tuples, functions, etc.

↑
Booleans

We ^{will} only define semantics for well-typed expressions.

At the moment, we disregard polymorphism and assume that every expression has a unique type. For each type we now define a domain of mathematical objects, such that Val maps expressions of this type to objects of the corresponding domain.

Domain for type Int: $\mathbb{Z}_\perp = \{\perp_{\mathbb{Z}}, 0, 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots\}$

Domain for type Bool: $\mathbb{B}_\perp = \{\perp_{\mathbb{B}}, \text{True}, \text{False}\}$

Similarly for Char, Float, ...

For every domain D we use a partial ordering \sqsubseteq_D which compares elements of D by their definedness.

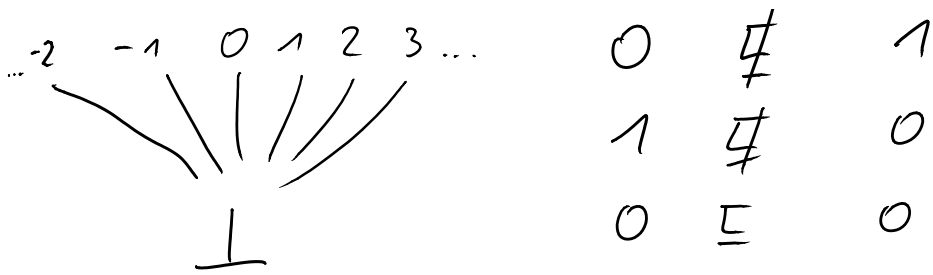
So $x \sqsubseteq_D y$ means that $x, y \in D$ and x is less defined or equal to y .

So for \mathbb{Z}_\perp we have: $\perp_{\mathbb{Z}_\perp} \sqsubseteq_{\mathbb{Z}_\perp} 0$ (Slide 29)

$$\perp \sqsubseteq 1$$

$$0 \not\sqsubseteq 1$$

... -2 -1 0 1 2 3 ...
 $\setminus \quad \setminus \quad / \quad / \quad /$



Such domains are called flat, because elements are either completely defined or completely undefined.

" \sqsubseteq " is partial because there are elements that can't be compared with " \sqsubseteq " (e.g., $0 \not\sqsubseteq 1$, $1 \not\sqsubseteq 0$).

An order (ordering) is a relation with certain properties.

(1) $x \sqsubseteq x$ reflexivity

(2) $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq z$ implies $x \sqsubseteq z$ transitivity

(3) $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq x$ implies $x = y$ antisymmetry

A transitive antisymmetric relation is called an ordering.

Thus: \sqsubseteq is a reflexive ordering

\mathbb{Z}_{\perp} , \mathbb{B}_{\perp} , \mathbb{C}_{\perp} , \mathbb{F}_{\perp} are flat domains. \mathbb{F} is the set of floating point numbers

$C = \{ 'a', 'b', \dots \}$ set of characters

Def. 2.1.1 (\sqsubseteq on base domains)

Let D be a base domain (i.e., \mathbb{Z}_{\perp} , \mathbb{B}_{\perp} , \mathbb{C}_{\perp} , \mathbb{F}_{\perp}).

Then for all $d, d' \in D$ we have: $d \sqsubseteq_D d'$ iff $d = \perp_D$ or $d = d'$.

Such domains are called flat.

"if and only if"

Now we want to look at a domain for tuple expressions.

If $\underline{exp}_1, \underline{exp}_2, \dots, \underline{exp}_n$ are expressions where
 $\text{Val}(\underline{exp}_1) \in D_1, \dots, \text{Val}(\underline{exp}_n) \in D_n$ then

$\text{Val}((\underline{exp}_1, \dots, \underline{exp}_n)) \in D_1 \times \dots \times D_n.$

So the Cartesian product of domains is again a domain.

Def 2.1.2 (Product Domains)

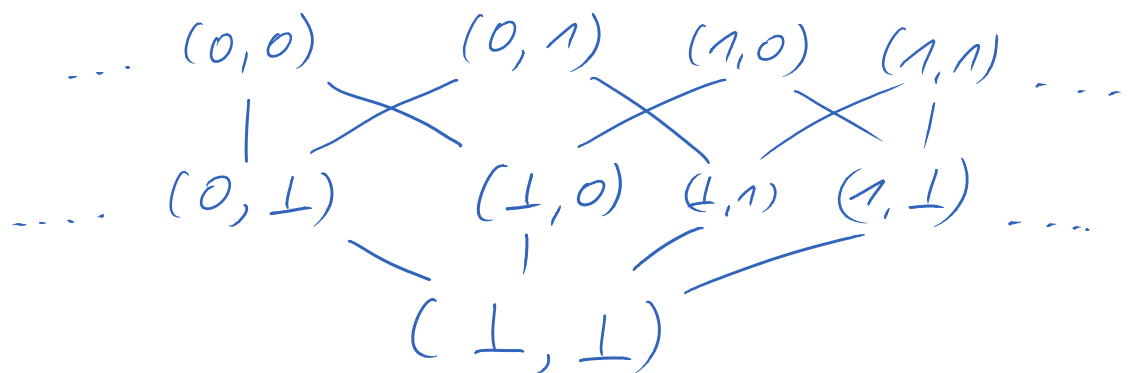
Let D_1, \dots, D_n be domains, where $n \geq 2$. Then $D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$ is also a domain. We define

$(d_1, \dots, d_n) \in_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} (d'_1, \dots, d'_n)$ iff $d_i \in_{D_i} d'_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Thus, the smallest element of $D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$ is

$$\perp_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} = (\perp_{D_1}, \dots, \perp_{D_n}).$$

Ex: $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$



Now we have 3 degrees of definedness.

\sqsubseteq is still a reflexive ordering (on product domains)

Lemma 2.1.3 (\sqsubseteq on product domains)

If all \sqsubseteq_{D_i} are reflexive orderings, then $\sqsubseteq_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n}$ is also reflexive ordering.

Proof:

Reflexivity: $(d_1, \dots, d_n) \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} (d_1, \dots, d_n)$, since $d_1 \sqsubseteq_{D_1} d_1, \dots, d_n \sqsubseteq_{D_n} d_n$, which holds by reflexivity of $\sqsubseteq_{D_1}, \dots, \sqsubseteq_{D_n}$.

Transitivity: Let $(d_1, \dots, d_n) \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} (d'_1, \dots, d'_n)$ and $(d'_1, \dots, d'_n) \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} (d''_1, \dots, d''_n)$.

By definition, we have $d_i \sqsubseteq_{D_i} d'_i$ and $d'_i \sqsubseteq_{D_i} d''_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. Since \sqsubseteq_{D_i} is transitive, we have $d_i \sqsubseteq_{D_i} d''_i$. This implies $(d_1, \dots, d_n) \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \times \dots \times D_n} (d''_1, \dots, d''_n)$.

Antisymmetry: analogous. □

For expressions of function type, we also regard functions from D_1 to D_2 (for domains D_1, D_2).

(The corresponding function domain will only consist of a subset of the functions from $D_1 \rightarrow D_2$.)

But \sqsubseteq can easily be defined for functions as well.

Def 2.1.4 (\sqsubseteq on functions)

Let f, g be functions from a domain D_1 to a domain D_2 . Then we define $f \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2} g$ iff $f(d) \sqsubseteq_{D_2} g(d)$ for all $d \in D_1$.

Thus, the smallest function from D_1 to D_2 (denoted $\perp_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2}$) is the function that returns \perp_{D_2} for all arguments (of D_1).

For functions, there can even be infinite chains such that

$$f_0 \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2} f_1 \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2} f_2 \sqsubseteq_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2} \dots$$

Lemma 2.1.5 (\sqsubseteq on functions)

If \sqsubseteq_{D_2} is a reflexive ordering, then $\sqsubseteq_{D_1 \rightarrow D_2}$ is also a reflexive ordering.

Proof: Similar to Lemma 2.1.3

□