

from Festschrift for Peter D. Mosses

An
Action Semantics
based on
Two Combinators



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Denotational Semantics

- Model: λ -abstraction and application
- Style: direct vs. continuation
- Example: Java (excerpt)

```
eval [[ Name ( Arglist ) ]] env econt sto =  
  eval [[ Arglist ]] env econt1 sto where  
    econt1 =  $\lambda(\text{vals}, \text{typs}, \text{sto}_1). \text{meth}(\text{env}, \text{scont}, \text{sto}_1)$  where  
      sig = getSigs(vals) and  
      meth = env.getMethod(fst (id[[Name]] env), sig) and  
      scont =  $\lambda(\text{env}_2, \text{sto}_2).$   
        econt(env2[\&returnVal], env2[\&returnType], sto2)
```

Denotational Semantics

- Example: Scheme 5 (excerpt)

$\phi \in F$	$= L \times (E^* \rightarrow K \rightarrow C)$	procedure values
$\epsilon \in E$	$= Q + H + R + E_p + E_v + E_s + M + F$	expressed values
$\sigma \in S$	$= L \rightarrow (E \times T)$	stores
$\rho \in U$	$= \text{Ide} \rightarrow L$	environments
$\theta \in C$	$= S \rightarrow A$	command continuations
$\kappa \in K$	$= E^* \rightarrow C$	expression continuations
A		answers
X		errors

7.2.3. Semantic functions

$\mathcal{K} : \text{Con} \rightarrow E$
$\mathcal{E} : \text{Exp} \rightarrow U \rightarrow K \rightarrow C$
$\mathcal{E}^* : \text{Exp}^* \rightarrow U \rightarrow K \rightarrow C$
$\mathcal{C} : \text{Com}^* \rightarrow U \rightarrow C \rightarrow C$

$$\mathcal{E}[(E_0 \ E^*)] =$$

$$\lambda \rho \kappa . \mathcal{E}^*(\text{permute}(\langle E_0 \rangle \S E^*))$$

$$\rho$$

$$(\lambda \epsilon^* . ((\lambda \epsilon^* . \text{apply}(\epsilon^* \downarrow 1) (\epsilon^* \uparrow 1) \kappa)$$

$$(\text{unpermute } \epsilon^*)))$$

$$\mathcal{E}[(\text{lambda } (I^*) \Gamma^* E_0)] =$$

$$\lambda \rho \kappa . \lambda \sigma .$$

$$\text{new } \sigma \in L \rightarrow$$

$$\text{send}(\langle \text{new } \sigma \mid L,$$

$$\lambda \epsilon^* \kappa' . \# \epsilon^* = \# I^* \rightarrow$$

$$\text{tievals}(\lambda \alpha^* . (\lambda \rho' . \mathcal{C}[\Gamma^*] \rho' (\mathcal{E}[E_0] \rho' \kappa'))$$

$$(\text{extends } \rho \ I^* \ \alpha^*))$$

$$\epsilon^*,$$

$$\text{wrong "wrong number of arguments"} \rangle$$

$$\text{in } E)$$

$$\kappa$$

$$(\text{update}(\text{new } \sigma \mid L) \text{ unspecified } \sigma),$$

$$\text{wrong "out of memory"} \ \sigma$$

Action Semantics

- Example: Java (excerpt)

evaluate $\llbracket E:\text{Expression} \text{ "." } I:\text{Identifier} \text{ "(" } A:\text{Arguments?} \text{ ")" } \rrbracket =$

- evaluate E and then
- respectively evaluate A

then

- enact the application of
the instance-method I of the class of the given object#1
to the given (object, value^{*})
- or
- check there is given (null-reference, value^{*}) then
escape with a throw of

- the instance methods of $\llbracket M:\text{Modifier}^* R:(\text{"void"} \mid \text{Type}) I:\text{Identifier}$
 $\text{"(" } F:\text{Formal-Parameters? ")} T:\text{Throws-Clause?}$
 $B:\text{Block} \rrbracket =$
 - if "static" is in the set of M then
 - the empty-map
 - else
 - the map of the method-token of I to
 - the closure of the abstraction of
 - furthermore
 - bind this-token to the given object#1 and
 - produce the field-variable-bindings
 - of the given object#1
 - before
 - give the rest of the given data then
 - respectively formally bind F
 - hence
 - execute B
 - trap a return then give the returned-value of it .

A Naive Action Semantics

- A “lightweight” version
- Facets
- Yielders
- Action with only two combinators
 - ✓ andthen
 - ✓ or

Facets

- a Strachey-like characteristic domain
 - ✓ a collection of data values
- transient facet
 - ✓ short-lived data
 - ✓ produced, copied, and consumed during computation
 - ✓ functional facet (values) + declarative facet (bindings)
- persistent facet
 - ✓ long-lived, fixed data structures
 - ✓ referenced and updated during computation
 - ✓ imperative facet (stores)

Functional Facet

- A monoid of $\mathcal{F} = (F, :, \langle \rangle)$ where

$F = \text{List}(\text{Transient})$

$\text{Transient} = F \cup D \cup \text{Expressible} \cup \text{Closure}$

$\text{Closure} = \text{Set}(\text{Transient}) \times \text{Identifier} \times \text{Action}$

- ✓ $:$ is a sequence append
- ✓ $\langle \rangle$ is an empty sequence

- Example

$\langle 2, \text{cell99}, \{(\underline{x}, \text{cell99})\} \rangle$

Identifier = identifiers

Action = text of actions

Cell = storage locations

Int = integers

Expressible = $\text{Cell} \cup \text{Int}$

Declarative Facet

- A monoid of $\mathcal{D} = (D, +, \{\})$ where

$D = \text{Set}(\text{Identifier} \times \text{Denotable})$

$\text{Denotable} = \text{Transient}$

$\text{Identifier} = \text{identifiers}$

- ✓ bindings

$$\rho = \{(I_0, n_0), (I_1, n_1), \dots, (I_m, n_m) \dots\}$$

- ✓ $+$ is a binding override

For values ρ_1 and ρ_2 ,

$$\rho_1 + \rho_2 = \rho_2 \cup \{(I_j = n_j) \in \rho_1 \mid I_j \notin \text{domain}(\rho_2)\}$$

- ✓ $\{\}$ is an empty binding

Imperative Facet

- A monoid of $\mathcal{J} = (I, *, [])$ where

$$\sigma = [l_0 \mapsto n_0, l_1 \mapsto n_1, \dots, l_k \mapsto n_k],$$

$$| l_i \in \text{Cell and } n_i \in \text{Storable}$$

$$I = \text{Cell} \rightarrow \text{Storable}$$

$$\text{Storable} = \text{Int}$$

$$\text{Cell} = \text{storage locations}$$

$$\text{Int} = \text{integers}$$

$$\text{Expressible} = \text{Cell} \cup \text{Int}$$

Composition, $\sigma_1 * \sigma_2$, is function union

$[]$ is the empty map.

Compound Facet

For *distinct* facets, $\mathcal{F} = (F, \circ_F, id_F)$ and $\mathcal{G} = (G, \circ_G, id_G)$,

$$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{G} = (\{\{f, g\} \mid f \in F, g \in G\}, \circ_{FG}, \{id_F, id_G\})$$

where $\{f_1, g_1\} \circ_{FG} \{f_2, g_2\} = \{f_1 \circ_F f_2, g_1 \circ_G g_2\}$

Yielders

- Operations on values within a facet
- Computed at earlier binding times (compile-time)
 - ✓ type checking, constant folding, partial evaluation
- Functional-facet yielders

primitive constant: $\overline{\Gamma \vdash k : k}$

n-ary operation (e.g., addition): $\frac{\Gamma \vdash y_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Delta \vdash y_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \cup \Delta \vdash \text{add } y_1 y_2 : \text{add}(\tau_1, \tau_2)}$

indexing: $\frac{1 \leq i \leq m}{\langle \tau_1, \dots, \tau_m \rangle \vdash \#i : \tau_i}$ Note: it abbreviates $\#1$

sort filtering: $\frac{\Gamma \vdash y : \Delta \quad \Delta \leq T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{is}^T y : \Delta}$ where \leq is defined in Section 10

Yielders

- Declarative-facet yielders

- ✓ binding lookup

$$\frac{(l, \tau) \in \rho}{\rho \vdash \text{find } l : \tau}$$

- ✓ binding creation

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash y : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{bind } l y : \{(l, \tau)\}}$$

- ✓ copy

$$\frac{}{\rho \vdash \text{currentbindings} : \rho}$$

- Example

$$\frac{\{(x, n_0), (z, n_2)\} \vdash \text{find } x : n_0 \quad \langle n_1 \rangle \vdash \text{it} : n_1}{\{\langle n_1 \rangle, \{(x, n_0), (z, n_2)\}\} \vdash \text{add}(\text{find } x) \text{ it} : \text{add}(n_0, n_1)}$$

Actions

- Compute on facets
- Structural actions

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash y : \Delta \quad \Delta \in \mathcal{G}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{give}_{\mathcal{G}} y \Rightarrow \Delta}$$

$$\overline{\vdash \text{complete} \Rightarrow \text{completing}}$$

- Imperative-facet actions

$$\frac{c \notin \text{domain}(\sigma)}{\sigma \vdash \text{allocate} \Rightarrow \langle c \rangle, \sigma * [c \mapsto ?]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash y : c \quad c \leq \text{Cell}}{\Gamma \cup \sigma \vdash \text{lookup } y \Rightarrow \langle \sigma(c) \rangle}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash y_1 : c \quad c \leq \text{Cell} \quad \Gamma_2 \vdash y_2 : \tau \quad \tau \leq \text{Storable}}{\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \cup \sigma \vdash \text{update } y_1 y_2 \Rightarrow \sigma[c \mapsto \tau]}$$

Actions

- Closure construction yielder

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash y : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \text{recabstract}_{\mathcal{G}} I y a : [\Delta \downarrow_{\mathcal{G}}, I, a]_{\mathcal{G}}} \quad \text{where } \mathcal{G} \text{ names only transient facets}$$

- Closure application action

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \Gamma_1 \vdash y_1 : [\Delta, I, a]_{\mathcal{G}} \\ \Gamma_2 \vdash y_2 : \tau \\ \Gamma = \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \end{array} \quad \langle \tau \rangle \circ (\Delta \cup (\Gamma \downarrow_{\sim \mathcal{G}})) \circ \{(I, [\Delta, I, a]_{\mathcal{G}})\} \vdash a \Rightarrow \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \text{exec } y_1 y_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma}$$

Note: y_2 is optional.

- Example

$\text{recabstract}_D f \text{ currentbindings } (\text{give}_{\mathcal{F}}(\text{add}(\text{find } \mathbf{x}) \text{ it}))$

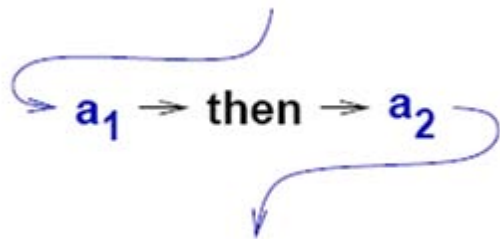
Weakening & Strengthening Rules

- weaken-L:
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a \Rightarrow \Delta}{\Sigma \cup \Gamma \vdash a \Rightarrow \Delta}$$
 - ✓ an action can consume more facets than what are needed to construct an action, no harm occurs
- strengthen-R:
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a \Rightarrow \Delta \quad \Gamma \cup \sigma = \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash a \Rightarrow \Delta \cup \sigma} \quad \text{where } \sigma \in \mathcal{I}$$
 - ✓ an action whose input includes a persistent value, passes forwards that value unaltered.
- Example: $\{(x, 2)\} \vdash \text{give}_F(\text{find } x) \Rightarrow 2$
 - ✓ weaken-L
$$\langle \rangle, \{(x, 2)\}, \sigma_0 \vdash \text{give}_F(\text{find } x) \Rightarrow 2$$
 - ✓ strengthen-R
$$\langle \rangle, \{(x, 2)\}, \sigma_0 \vdash \text{give}_F(\text{find } x) \Rightarrow 2, \sigma_0$$

Facet Flows

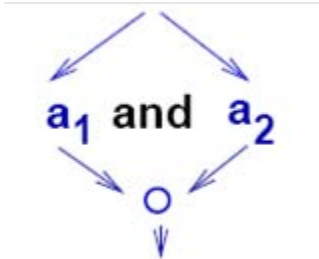
- Sequential

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \Rightarrow \Delta \quad \Delta \vdash a_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \text{ then } a_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma}$$



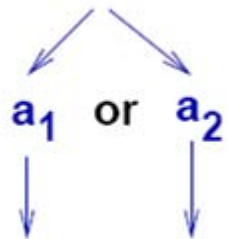
- Parallel

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash a_2 \Rightarrow \Delta_2}{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \text{ and } a_2 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \circ \Delta_2}$$



- Conditional

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a_i \Rightarrow \Delta \quad i \in \{1, 2\}}{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \text{ or } a_2 \Rightarrow \Delta}$$



Universal Combinator

- $\text{and}_{\mathcal{G}}\text{then}$

- ✓ \mathcal{G} denotes the (compound) facet that is passed in parallel
- ✓ all other facets are passed sequentially

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \quad (\Gamma \downarrow_{\mathcal{G}}) \cup (\Delta_1 \downarrow_{\sim\mathcal{G}}) \vdash a_2 \Rightarrow \Delta_2}{\Gamma \vdash a_1 \text{ and}_{\mathcal{G}}\text{then } a_2 \Rightarrow \Delta_1 \downarrow_{\mathcal{G}} \circ \Delta_2}$$

- Full vs. Naïve

- ✓ $\text{then} = \text{and}_{\emptyset}\text{then}$
- ✓ $\text{and} = \text{and}_{\text{AllFacets}}\text{then}$

Example Language Syntax

Expression: $E ::= k \mid E_1 + E_2 \mid N$

Command: $C ::= N := E \mid C_1; C_2 \mid \text{while } E \text{ do } C \mid D \text{ in } C \mid \text{call } N(E)$

Declaration: $D ::= \text{val } I = E \mid \text{var } I = E \mid \text{proc } I_1(I_2) = C \mid \text{module } I = D \mid D_1; D_2$

Name: $N ::= I \mid N.I$

Identifier: I

Action Equations for Expression

evaluate : Expression $\rightarrow \mathcal{DI} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$

evaluate[[k]] = give _{\mathcal{F}} k

evaluate[[$E_1 + E_2$]] = (evaluate E_1 and _{$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}$} then evaluate E_2)
andthen give _{\mathcal{F}} (add (isInt #1) (isInt #2))

evaluate[[N]] = investigate N andthen lookup (isCell it)
or give _{\mathcal{F}} (isInt it)

investigate : Name $\rightarrow \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$

investigate[[I]] = give _{\mathcal{F}} (find I)

investigate[[$N.I$]] = investigate N then give _{\mathcal{D}} (isD it) then give _{\mathcal{F}} (find I)

Action Equations for Command

execute : Command $\rightarrow \mathcal{DI} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}$

execute[[*N* := *E*]] = (investigate *N* and _{$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}$} then evaluate *E*)
andthen update(isCell #1) #2

execute[[*C*₁; *C*₂]] = execute *C*₁ andthen execute *C*₂

execute[[while *E* do *C*]] = evaluate *E* andthen
((give _{\mathcal{F}} (isZero it) andthen complete)
or
(give _{\mathcal{F}} (isNonZero it) andthen execute *C*
andthen execute [[while *E* do *C*]]))

execute[[*D* in *C*]] = (give _{\mathcal{D}} currentbindings andthen elaborate *D*) then execute *C*

execute[[call *N*(*E*)]] = (investigate *N* and _{$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}$} then evaluate *E*)
andthen exec(isClosure #1) #2

Action Equations for Declaration

$\text{elaborate} : \text{Declaration} \rightarrow \mathcal{DI} \rightarrow \mathcal{DI}$

$\text{elaborate}[\text{val } I = E] = \text{evaluate } E \text{ and then give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ (bind } I \text{ it)}$

$\text{elaborate}[\text{var } I = E] = \begin{array}{l} \text{(evaluate } E \text{ and}_{\mathcal{FD}} \text{ then allocate)} \\ \text{and then (give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ (bind } I \text{ \#2) and}_{\mathcal{FD}} \text{ then update \#2 \#1)} \end{array}$

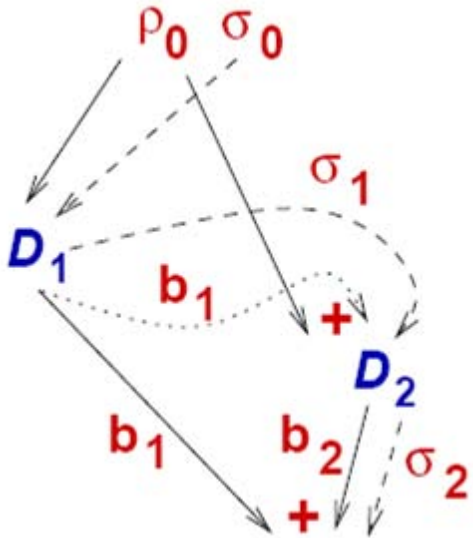
$\text{elaborate}[\text{proc } I_1(I_2) = C] = \text{give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_1 \text{ closure})$

where $\text{closure} = \text{recabstract}_{\mathcal{D}} I_1 \text{ (currentbindings)}$ $\begin{array}{l} \text{((give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ currentbindings} \\ \text{and}_{\mathcal{FD}} \text{ then give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_2 \text{ it))} \\ \text{then execute } C) \end{array}$

$\text{elaborate}[\text{module } I = D] = \text{elaborate } D \text{ then give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I \text{ currentbindings})$

$\text{elaborate}[D_1; D_2] = \begin{array}{l} \text{(elaborate } D_1 \\ \text{then (give}_{\mathcal{F}} \text{ currentbindings and give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ currentbindings))} \\ \text{and then ((give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ currentbindings and}_{\mathcal{FD}} \text{ then give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ it)} \\ \text{then elaborate } D_2) \end{array}$

Facet Flow of $D_1; D_2$



$$\mathcal{D}[[D_1; D_2]]\rho_0\sigma_0 = \text{let } b_1, \sigma_1 = \mathcal{D}[[D_1]]\rho_0\sigma_0 \\ \text{let } b_2, \sigma_2 = \mathcal{D}[[D_2]](\rho_0 + b_1)\sigma_1 \\ \text{in } b_1 + b_2, \sigma_2$$

$$\text{elaborate}[[D_1; D_2]] = \frac{\text{elaborate } D_1 \text{ before elaborate } D_2}{}$$

$$\text{elaborate}[[D_1; D_2]] = \begin{array}{l} \text{(elaborate } D_1 \\ \quad \text{then (give}_{\mathcal{F}} \text{ currentbindings and give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ currentbindings))} \\ \quad \text{andthen ((give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ currentbindings and}_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}} \text{ then give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{ it)} \\ \quad \quad \text{then elaborate } D_2) \end{array}$$

Mosses Abstraction

$$(p : \mathcal{G}) \Rightarrow a$$

- Example

$\overline{\text{give}_{\mathcal{F}}(\text{add } \#2 (\text{find } x))}$



$(\langle v, w \rangle : \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow (\{(x, d)\} : \mathcal{D}) \Rightarrow \text{give}_{\mathcal{F}}(\text{add } w \ d)$

Mosses Abstraction

$\text{elaborate}[\text{proc } I_1(I_2) = C] = \text{give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_1 \text{ closure})$

where $\text{closure} = \text{recabstract}_{\mathcal{D}} I_1 (\text{currentbindings})$ $\left(\begin{array}{l} ((\text{give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{currentbindings} \\ \text{and}_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}} \text{then give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_2 \text{ it})) \\ \text{then execute } C) \end{array} \right)$



$\text{elaborate}[\text{proc } I_1(I_2) = C] = (\text{rho} : \mathcal{D}) \Rightarrow \text{give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_1 \text{ closure})$
where $\text{closure} = \text{recabstract}_{\mathcal{D}} I_1 \text{ rho}$
 $\left((\langle \text{arg} \rangle : \mathcal{F}) \Rightarrow \right.$
 $\left. (\text{give}_{\mathcal{D}} \text{rho and}_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}} \text{then give}_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{bind } I_2 \text{ arg})) \right.$
 $\left. \text{then execute } C \right)$

Mosses Abstraction

elaborate[[D_1 ; D_2]] =

(elaborate D_1
then (give $_{\mathcal{F}}$ currentbindings and give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ currentbindings))
andthen ((give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ currentbindings and $_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}}$ then give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ it)
then elaborate D_2)



elaborate[[D_1 ; D_2]] = ($\rho_0 : \mathcal{D}$) =>

(elaborate D_1 then ($\rho_1 : \mathcal{D}$) => give $_{\mathcal{F}}$ ρ_1 and give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ ρ_1)

andthen

(($\langle \rho_1 \rangle : \mathcal{F}$) => (give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ ρ_0 and $_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{D}}$ then give $_{\mathcal{D}}$ ρ_1) then elaborate D_2)

Things to do

- Implementation in Haskell
- Theory of action equivalence
- Specify the semantics of real-life programming languages in action semantics

- Anyone?