

OCaml_{light} (ESOP '08) is a formal semantics for a substantial subset of the Objective Caml core language, suitable for writing and verifying real programs.

OCaml_{*light*} key points

- Written in Ott
 - Faithful to Objective Caml (very nearly)
 - Type soundness proof mechanized in HOL
(Coq and Isabelle/HOL definitions generated too)
 - Operational semantics validated on test programs
 - Small-step operational semantics (131 rules)
 - Type system (179 rules, below)

- definitions:
 - variant data types (e.g., type $t = I$ of int | C of char),
 - record types (e.g., type $t = \{f : \text{int}; g : \text{bool}\}$),
 - parametric type constructors (e.g., type $'a t = C$ of $'a$),
 - type abbreviations (e.g., type $'a t = 'a * int$),
 - mutually recursive combinations of the above (excepting abbreviations),
 - exceptions, and values;
 - expressions for type annotations, sequencing, and primitive values (functions, lists, tuples, and records);
 - with (record update), if, while, for, assert, try, and raise expressions;
 - let-based polymorphism with an SML-style value restriction;
 - mutually-recursive function definitions via let rec;
 - pattern matching, with nested patterns, as patterns, and “or” (|) patterns;
 - mutable references with ref, !, and :=;
 - polymorphic equality (the Objective Caml = operator);
 - 31-bit word semantics for ints (using an existing HOL library); and
 - IEEE-754 semantics for floats (using an existing HOL library).

The OCaml_{light} Operational Semantics (131 rules)