Topic 8

Full Abstraction

Proof principle

For all types τ and closed terms $M_1, M_2 \in \mathrm{PCF}_\tau$,

$$[\![M_1]\!] = [\![M_2]\!] \text{ in } [\![\tau]\!] \implies M_1 \cong_{\mathrm{ctx}} M_2 : \tau \ .$$

Hence, to prove

$$M_1 \cong_{\mathrm{ctx}} M_2 : \tau$$

it suffices to establish

$$[\![M_1]\!] = [\![M_2]\!] \text{ in } [\![\tau]\!] \ .$$

Full abstraction

A denotational model is said to be *fully abstract* whenever denotational equality characterises contextual equivalence.

Full abstraction

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- The domain model of PCF is *not* fully abstract.

  In other words, there are contextually equivalent PCF terms with different denotations.

Failure of full abstraction, idea

We will construct two closed terms

$$T_1, T_2 \in \mathrm{PCF}_{(bool \to (bool \to bool)) \to bool}$$

such that

$$T_1 \cong_{\mathrm{ctx}} T_2$$

and

$$[\![T_1]\!] \neq [\![T_2]\!]$$

- We achieve $T_1 \cong_{\mathrm{ctx}} T_2$ by making sure that

$$\forall\, M \in \mathrm{PCF}_{bool \to (bool \to bool)}\, (\, T_1\, M \not\Downarrow_{bool} \;\&\; T_2\, M \not\Downarrow_{bool}\,)$$

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Hence,

$$[\![T_1]\!]([\![M]\!]) = \bot = [\![T_2]\!]([\![M]\!])$$

for all $M \in \mathrm{PCF}_{bool \to (bool \to bool)}$.

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$$\forall\, M \in \mathrm{PCF}_{bool \to (bool \to bool)} \,(\, T_1\, M \not\Downarrow_{bool} \,\&\, T_2\, M \not\Downarrow_{bool} \,)$$

  Hence,

$$[\![T_1]\!]([\![M]\!]) = \bot = [\![T_2]\!]([\![M]\!])$$

  for all $M \in \mathrm{PCF}_{bool \to (bool \to bool)}$.

- We achieve $[\![T_1]\!] \neq [\![T_2]\!]$ by making sure that

$$[\![T_1]\!](por) \neq [\![T_2]\!](por)$$

  for some *non-definable* continuous function

$$por \in (\mathbb{B}_\bot \to (\mathbb{B}_\bot \to \mathbb{B}_\bot)) \ .$$

Parallel-or function

is the unique continuous function $por : \mathbb{B}_\perp \to (\mathbb{B}_\perp \to \mathbb{B}_\perp)$ such that

$$\begin{array}{lcl} por\ \ true\ \perp & = & true \\ por\ \perp\ true & = & true \\ por\ \ false\ \ false & = & false \end{array}$$

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In which case, it necessarily follows by monotonicity that

$$\begin{array}{lclclcl} por\ \ true\ \ true & = & true & \qquad & por\ \ false\ \ \perp & = & \perp \\ por\ \ true\ \ false & = & true & & por\ \ \perp\ \ false & = & \perp \\ por\ \ false\ \ true & = & true & & por\ \ \perp\ \ \perp & = & \perp \end{array}$$

Undefinability of parallel-or

Proposition. *There is no closed PCF term*

$$P : bool \to (bool \to bool)$$

satisfying

$$[\![P]\!] = por : \mathbb{B}_\perp \to (\mathbb{B}_\perp \to \mathbb{B}_\perp)\ .$$

Parallel-or test functions

Parallel-or test functions

For $i = 1, 2$ define

$$
\begin{aligned}
T_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \quad & \mathbf{fn}\, f : bool \to (bool \to bool)\,.\\
& \quad \mathbf{if}\ (f\ \mathbf{true}\ \Omega)\ \mathbf{then}\\
& \qquad \mathbf{if}\ (f\ \Omega\ \mathbf{true})\ \mathbf{then}\\
& \qquad\quad \mathbf{if}\ (f\ \mathbf{false}\ \mathbf{false})\ \mathbf{then}\ \Omega\ \mathbf{else}\ B_i\\
& \qquad \mathbf{else}\ \Omega\\
& \quad \mathbf{else}\ \Omega
\end{aligned}
$$

where $B_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{true}$, $B_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{false}$,
and $\Omega \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{fix}(\mathbf{fn}\, x : bool\,.\, x)$.

Failure of full abstraction

Proposition.

$$T_1 \cong_{\mathrm{ctx}} T_2 : (bool \to (bool \to bool)) \to bool$$

$$[\![T_1]\!] \neq [\![T_2]\!] \in (\mathbb{B}_\perp \to (\mathbb{B}_\perp \to \mathbb{B}_\perp)) \to \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

PCF+por

Expressions $\quad M ::= \cdots \mid \mathbf{por}(M, M)$

Typing
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M_1 : bool \quad \Gamma \vdash M_2 : bool}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{por}(M_1, M_2) : bool}$$

Evaluation

$$\frac{M_1 \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{true}}{\mathbf{por}(M_1, M_2) \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{true}} \qquad \frac{M_2 \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{true}}{\mathbf{por}(M_1, M_2) \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{true}}$$

$$\frac{M_1 \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{false} \quad M_2 \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{false}}{\mathbf{por}(M_1, M_2) \Downarrow_{bool} \mathbf{false}}$$

Plotkin's full abstraction result

The denotational semantics of PCF+por is given by extending that of PCF with the clause

$$[\![\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{por}(M_1, M_2)]\!](\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} por\big([\![\Gamma \vdash M_1]\!](\rho)\big)\big([\![\Gamma \vdash M_2]\!](\rho)\big)$$

This denotational semantics is fully abstract for contextual equivalence of PCF+por terms:

$$\Gamma \vdash M_1 \cong_{\text{ctx}} M_2 : \tau \;\Leftrightarrow\; [\![\Gamma \vdash M_1]\!] = [\![\Gamma \vdash M_2]\!].$$