

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS

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Lectures for Part II CST 2025/2026

THE LANGUAGE PCF

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SYNTAX

Types:

$$\tau ::= \text{nat} \mid \text{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

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Terms:

$$\begin{aligned} t \quad ::= \quad & 0 \mid \text{succ}(t) \mid \text{pred}(t) \mid \\ & \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{zero?}(t) \mid \text{if } t \text{ then } t \text{ else } t \\ & x \mid \text{fun } x:\tau. t \mid t t \mid \text{fix}(t) \end{aligned}$$

TYPES AND TERMS OF PCF

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- λ -calculus + base types/functions + **fix**
- tiny ML (without references, ADTs, polymorphism...)

Variables and terms: up to α -equivalence

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Substitution: $t[u/x]$

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Typing contexts: $\Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x:\tau$

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Typing contexts: $\Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x:\tau$

- partial maps from variable to types
- finite lists $x_1:\tau_1, \dots, x_n:\tau_n$

$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau}$ The term t has type τ in context Γ

$$\text{ZERO} \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 0 : \text{nat}}$$

$$\text{SUCC} \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{succ}(t) : \text{nat}}$$

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$$\text{TRUE} \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{bool}}$$

$$\text{FALSE} \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{false} : \text{bool}}$$

$$\text{ISZ} \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{zero?}(t) : \text{bool}}$$

$$\text{IF} \frac{\Gamma \vdash b : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash t : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash t' : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } b \text{ then } t \text{ else } t' : \tau}$$

TYPING FOR PCF (II)

$$\text{VAR} \frac{\Gamma(x) = \tau}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau}$$

$$\text{FUN} \frac{\Gamma, x:\sigma \vdash t : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x:\sigma. t : \sigma \rightarrow \tau}$$

$$\text{APP} \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash u : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash f u : \tau}$$

$$\text{FIX} \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \tau \rightarrow \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fix}(f) : \tau}$$

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$$\text{PCF}_{\Gamma, \tau} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{t \mid \Gamma \vdash t : \tau\}$$

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The **only** programs we care about are the well-typed ones!

Lemma

If $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$ and $\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash t' : \tau'$ both hold, then so does $\Gamma \vdash t'[t/x] : \tau'$.

THE LANGUAGE PCF

OPERATIONAL SEMANTICS

Values:

$$v ::= 0 \mid \underbrace{\text{succ}(v)}_{\underline{n}} \mid \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \underbrace{\text{fun } x:\tau. t}_{\text{All functions } (< \text{fun } >)}$$

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We will only evaluate **closed term** to **values**.

$$\text{VAL} \frac{\vdash v : \tau}{v \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

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$$\text{SUCC} \frac{t \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v}{\text{succ}(t) \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \text{succ}(v)}$$

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PCF EVALUATION

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$$\text{IFT} \frac{b \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{true} \quad t_1 \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{\text{if } b \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

$$\text{IFF} \frac{b \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{false} \quad t_2 \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{\text{if } b \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

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$$\text{FUN} \frac{t \Downarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \text{fun } x : \sigma . t' \quad t'[u/x] \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{t u \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

$$\text{FIX} \frac{t(\text{fix}(t)) \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{\text{fix}(t) \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

EXAMPLE: ADDITION

Addition can be defined by recursion on the second argument.

It must satisfy the fixed point equation for $x, y : \text{nat}$:

$$\text{plus } x \ y = \text{if } \text{zero?}(y) \text{ then } x \text{ else } \text{succ}(\text{plus } x \ \text{pred}(y))$$

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We may then define in context $x : \text{nat}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{plus}_x &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fix}(\text{fun}(p:\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat})(y:\text{nat}). \\ &\quad \text{if } \text{zero?}(y) \text{ then } x \text{ else } \text{succ}(p \ \text{pred}(y))) \end{aligned}$$

and then bind the variable x to get:

$$\text{plus} = \text{fun } x:\text{nat}. \text{plus}_x \tag{1}$$

$$\text{FUN} \frac{\text{plus} \Downarrow \text{fun } x:\text{nat. plus}_x \quad \text{plus}_{\underline{3} \underline{1}} \Downarrow \underline{4}}{\text{plus } \underline{3} \underline{1} \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \underline{4}}$$

EVALUATION (I)

$$\text{FUN} \frac{\text{plus} \Downarrow \text{fun } x:\text{nat}. \text{plus}_x \quad \text{plus}_{\underline{3}} \underline{1} \Downarrow \underline{4}}{\text{plus } \underline{3} \underline{1} \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \underline{4}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{VAL} \frac{}{(\text{fun } p:\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}. \dots) \Downarrow \dots} \quad \text{VAL} \frac{}{(\text{fun } y:\text{nat}. \dots)[\text{plus}_x/p] \Downarrow r_x} \\ \text{FUN} \frac{}{(\text{fun}(p:\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat})(y:\text{nat}). \dots) \text{plus}_x \Downarrow r_x} \\ \text{FIX} \frac{\text{plus}_x \Downarrow \underbrace{\text{fun } y:\text{nat}. \text{if zero?}(y) \text{ then } x \text{ else succ}(\text{plus}_x \text{ pred}(y))}_{r_x}}{} \end{array}$$

EVALUATION (II)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{FUN} \frac{\text{plus}_{\underline{3}} \Downarrow r_{\underline{3}}}{\text{if zero?}(\underline{1}) \text{ then } \underline{3} \text{ else succ}(\text{plus}_{\underline{3}} \text{ pred}(\underline{1})) \Downarrow \underline{4}} \\
 \text{IFF} \frac{\text{ZEROS} \frac{\text{VAL} \frac{\underline{1} \Downarrow \underline{1}}{\underline{1} \Downarrow \underline{1}}}{\text{zero?}(\underline{1}) \Downarrow \text{false}} \quad \text{SUCC} \frac{\text{...} \frac{\text{PRED} \frac{\text{...}}{\text{pred}(\underline{1}) \Downarrow \underline{0}}}{\text{zero?}(\text{pred}(\underline{1})) \Downarrow \text{true}}}{\text{plus}_{\underline{3}} \text{ pred}(\underline{1}) \Downarrow \underline{3}}}{\text{succ}(\text{plus}_{\underline{3}} \text{ pred}(\underline{1})) \Downarrow \underline{4}} \\
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 \end{array}$$

DIVERGENCE

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$$t : \tau \quad \wedge \quad \nexists v. t \Downarrow_\tau v$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\text{fun } x:\tau. x \Downarrow \text{fun } x:\tau. x \quad \text{fix}(\text{fun } x:\tau. x) \Downarrow v}{(\text{fun } x:\tau. x) (\text{fix}(\text{fun } x:\tau. x)) \Downarrow v} \quad \mathcal{P}}{\text{fix}(\text{fun } x:\tau. x) \Downarrow v}$$

$$\text{FUN-CBN} \frac{t \Downarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \text{fun } x:\sigma. t' \quad t'[u/x] \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{t \ u \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

$$\text{FUN-CBV} \frac{t \Downarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \text{fun } x:\sigma. t' \quad u \Downarrow_{\sigma} v' \quad t'[v'/x] \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{t \ u \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

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What does $(\text{fun } x:\text{nat}. 0) \Omega_{\text{nat}}$ denote?

CALL-BY-NAME AND CALL-BY-VALUE

$$\text{FUN-CBN} \frac{t \Downarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \text{fun } x:\sigma. t' \quad t'[u/x] \Downarrow_{\tau} v}{t u \Downarrow_{\tau} v}$$

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What does $(\text{fun } x:\text{nat}. 0) \Omega_{\text{nat}}$ denote?

In call-by-value, all functions are **strict**... but the least-fixed points of a strict function is **always** $\perp$!

Small-step $t \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} u$:

$$\frac{}{(\text{fun } x:\sigma. t) u \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} t[u/x]}$$

$$\frac{t \rightsquigarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} t'}{t u \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} t' u}$$

...

Small-step $t \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} u$:

$$\frac{}{(\text{fun } x:\sigma. t) u \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} t[u/x]} \qquad \frac{t \rightsquigarrow_{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} t'}{t u \rightsquigarrow_{\tau} t' u} \qquad \dots$$

We have $t \Downarrow_{\tau} v$ iff $t \rightsquigarrow_{\tau}^{\star} u$.

PCF is **Turing-complete**: for every partial recursive function ϕ , there is a PCF term $\underline{\phi} \in \text{PCF}_{\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}}$ such that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, if $\phi(n)$ is defined then $\underline{\phi} \underline{n} \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \underline{\phi(n)}$.

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(Later on: $\phi = \llbracket \underline{\phi} \rrbracket$).

Evaluation in PCF is **deterministic**: if both $t \Downarrow_{\tau} v$ and $t \Downarrow_{\tau} v'$ hold, then $v = v'$.

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By (rule) induction on evaluation $\Downarrow$:

$$P(t, \tau, v) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall v' \in \text{PCF}_{\tau}. (t \Downarrow_{\tau} v' \Rightarrow v = v')$$

Intuition: there is always exactly one rule which applies.

THE LANGUAGE PCF

CONTEXTUAL EQUIVALENCE

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The intuitive notion of **program equivalence** for programmers.

But what's a complete program? What's an observable result?

“Term with a hole”:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C} ::= & - \mid \text{succ}(\mathcal{C}) \mid \text{pred}(\mathcal{C}) \mid \text{zero?}(\mathcal{C}) \mid \\ & \text{if } \mathcal{C} \text{ then } t \text{ else } t \mid \text{if } t \text{ then } \mathcal{C} \text{ else } t \mid \text{if } t \text{ then } t \text{ else } \mathcal{C} \mid \\ & \text{fun } x:\tau. \mathcal{C} \mid \mathcal{C} \, t \mid t \, \mathcal{C} \mid \text{fix}(\mathcal{C}) \end{aligned}$$

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Typing extended to evaluation contexts: $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$.

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Gamma, \tau} - : \tau} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash u : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} u : \tau_2} \qquad \dots$$

CONTEXTUAL EQUIVALENCE

Given a type τ , a typing context Γ and terms $t, t' \in \text{PCF}_{\Gamma, \tau}$, **contextual equivalence**, written $\Gamma \vdash t \cong_{\text{ctx}} t' : \tau$ is defined to hold if for all evaluation contexts $\mathcal{C}$ such that $\cdot \vdash_{\Gamma, \tau} \mathcal{C} : \gamma$, where γ is `nat` or `bool`, and for all values $v \in \text{PCF}_{\gamma}$,

$$\mathcal{C}[t] \Downarrow_{\gamma} v \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{C}[t'] \Downarrow_{\gamma} v.$$

When Γ is the empty context, we simply write $t \cong_{\text{ctx}} t' : \tau$ for $\cdot \vdash t \cong_{\text{ctx}} t' : \tau$.

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Divergence is implicitly covered.

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS FOR PCF

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INTRODUCING DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS

THE AIMS OF DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS

- a mapping of PCF types τ to domains $\llbracket \tau \rrbracket$;
- a mapping of PCF contexts Γ to domains $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$;
- a mapping of closed, well-typed PCF terms $\cdot \vdash t : \tau$ to elements $\llbracket t \rrbracket \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$;
- denotation of open terms $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$ will be continuous functions $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$

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- a mapping of PCF types τ to domains $\llbracket \tau \rrbracket$;
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- denotation of open terms $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$ will be continuous functions $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$

Compositionality: $\llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket t' \rrbracket \Rightarrow \llbracket C[t] \rrbracket = \llbracket C[t'] \rrbracket$.

Soundness: for any type τ , $t \Downarrow_{\tau} v \Rightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket$.

Adequacy: for $\gamma = \text{bool}$ or nat , if $t \in \text{PCF}_{\gamma}$ and $\llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket$ then $t \Downarrow_{\gamma} v$.

ADEQUACY FOR FUNCTION TYPES?

$v \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fun } x:\text{nat.} (\text{fun } y:\text{nat.} y) \ 0$ and $v' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fun } x:\text{nat.} \ 0.$

Proof principle: to show

$$t_1 \cong_{\text{ctx}} t_2 : \tau$$

it suffices to establish

$$\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

THE POWER OF DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS

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$\mathcal{C}[t_1] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v \Rightarrow \llbracket \mathcal{C}[t_1] \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket$	(soundness)
$\Rightarrow \llbracket \mathcal{C}[t_2] \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket$	(compositionality on $\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket$)
$\Rightarrow \mathcal{C}[t_2] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v$	(adequacy)

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}[t_1] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v &\Rightarrow \llbracket \mathcal{C}[t_1] \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket && \text{(soundness)} \\ &\Rightarrow \llbracket \mathcal{C}[t_2] \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket && \text{(compositionality on } \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \text{)} \\ &\Rightarrow \mathcal{C}[t_2] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v && \text{(adequacy)} \end{aligned}$$

and symmetrically for $\mathcal{C}[t_2] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}[t_1] \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} v$, and similarly for **bool**.

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Denotational equality is **sound**, but is it **complete**?

Does equality in the model imply contextual equivalence?

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Does equality in the model imply contextual equivalence?

Full abstraction.

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS FOR PCF

DEFINITION

$$\llbracket \text{nat} \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{N}_{\perp}$$

(flat domain)

$$\llbracket \text{bool} \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{B}_{\perp}$$

(flat domain)

$$\llbracket \tau \rightarrow \tau' \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau' \rrbracket$$

(function domain)

$$\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma)} \llbracket \Gamma(x) \rrbracket \quad (\text{environment})$$

$$\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma)} \llbracket \Gamma(x) \rrbracket \quad (\text{environment})$$

- $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket = \mathbb{1}$ (one element set)
- $\llbracket x:\tau \rrbracket = (\{x\} \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket) \cong \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$
- $\llbracket x_1:\tau_1, \dots, x_n:\tau_n \rrbracket \cong \llbracket \tau_1 \rrbracket \times \dots \times \llbracket \tau_n \rrbracket$

To every typing judgement

$$\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$$

we associate a continuous function

$$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash t : \tau \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

between domains. In other words,

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket : \text{PCF}_{\Gamma, \tau} \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

DENOTATION OF OPERATIONS ON $\mathbb{B}$ AND $\mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{succ} : & \mathbb{N} & \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ & n & \mapsto n + 1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{pred} : & \mathbb{N} & \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ & n + 1 & \mapsto n \\ & 0 & \text{undefined} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{zero?} : & \mathbb{N} & \rightarrow \mathbb{B} \\ & 0 & \mapsto \text{true} \\ & n + 1 & \mapsto \text{false} \end{array}$$

DENOTATION OF OPERATIONS ON $\mathbb{B}$ AND $\mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{succ}_{\perp} : \mathbb{N}_{\perp} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N}_{\perp} \\ n &\mapsto n + 1 \\ \perp &\mapsto \perp \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pred}_{\perp} : \mathbb{N}_{\perp} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N}_{\perp} \\ n + 1 &\mapsto n \\ 0 &\mapsto \perp \\ \perp &\mapsto \perp \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{zero?}_{\perp} : \mathbb{N}_{\perp} &\rightarrow \mathbb{B}_{\perp} \\ 0 &\mapsto \text{true} \\ n + 1 &\mapsto \text{false} \\ \perp &\mapsto \perp \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \llbracket 0 \rrbracket(\rho) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & 0 & \in \mathbb{N}_\perp \\ \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket(\rho) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \text{true} & \in \mathbb{B}_\perp \\ \llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket(\rho) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \text{false} & \in \mathbb{B}_\perp \end{array}$$

DENOTATION OF OPERATIONS ON $\mathbb{B}$ AND $\mathbb{N}$

$$\llbracket 0 \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0 \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true} \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false} \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{succ}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{succ}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{pred}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{pred}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{zero?}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{zero?}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{succ}(t) \rrbracket = \text{succ}_\perp \circ \llbracket t \rrbracket$$

DENOTATION OF OPERATIONS ON $\mathbb{B}$ AND $\mathbb{N}$

$$\llbracket 0 \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 0 \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{true} \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{false} \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{succ}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{succ}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{pred}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{pred}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{N}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{zero?}(t) \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{zero?}_\perp(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \quad \in \mathbb{B}_\perp$$

$$\llbracket \text{if } b \text{ then } t \text{ else } t' \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{if}(\llbracket b \rrbracket(\rho), \llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho), \llbracket t' \rrbracket(\rho)) \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket \text{if } b \text{ then } t \text{ else } t' \rrbracket = \text{if} \circ \langle \llbracket b \rrbracket, \langle \llbracket t \rrbracket, \llbracket t' \rrbracket \rangle \rangle$$

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho(x) \qquad \in \llbracket \Gamma(x) \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket(\rho) = \pi_x(\rho)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket x \rrbracket(\rho) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho(x) && \in \llbracket \Gamma(x) \rrbracket \\ \llbracket t_1 \ t_2 \rrbracket(\rho) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket(\rho)) (\llbracket t_2 \rrbracket(\rho))\end{aligned}$$

$$\llbracket t_1 \ t_2 \rrbracket = \text{eval} \circ \langle \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket, \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket x \rrbracket(\rho) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho(x) && \in \llbracket \Gamma(x) \rrbracket \\ \llbracket t_1 t_2 \rrbracket(\rho) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket(\rho)) (\llbracket t_2 \rrbracket(\rho)) \\ \llbracket \text{fun } x:\tau. t \rrbracket(\rho) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket. \llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho, d)\end{aligned}$$

$$\llbracket \text{fun } x:\tau. t \rrbracket = \text{cur}(\llbracket t \rrbracket)$$

$$\llbracket \text{fix } f \rrbracket(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fix}(\llbracket f \rrbracket(\rho))$$

For any PCF term t such that $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$, the object $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ is well-defined and a continuous function $\llbracket t \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$.

For any PCF term t such that $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$, the object $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ is well-defined and a continuous function $\llbracket t \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$.

$$\text{If } t \in \text{PCF}_\tau: \quad \llbracket t \rrbracket \in \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket = \mathbb{1} \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \cong \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS FOR PCF

COMPOSITIONALITY

Suppose $t, u \in \text{PCF}_{\Delta, \sigma}$, such that

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket u \rrbracket : \llbracket \Delta \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket$$

Suppose moreover that $\mathcal{C}[-]$ is a PCF context such that $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$. Then

$$\llbracket \mathcal{C}[t] \rrbracket = \llbracket \mathcal{C}[u] \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket.$$

A DENOTATION FOR EVALUATION CONTEXTS

If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$, then define $\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket$ such that

$$\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket : (\llbracket \Delta \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket) \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

A DENOTATION FOR EVALUATION CONTEXTS

If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$, then define $\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket$ such that

$$\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket : (\llbracket \Delta \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket) \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket - \rrbracket(d) &= d \\ \llbracket \mathcal{C} \ t \rrbracket(d)(\rho) &= (\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket(d)(\rho))(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

A DENOTATION FOR EVALUATION CONTEXTS

If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$, then define $\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket$ such that

$$\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket : (\llbracket \Delta \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket) \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket - \rrbracket(d) &= d \\ \llbracket \mathcal{C} \ t \rrbracket(d)(\rho) &= (\llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket(d)(\rho))(\llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho)) \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \sigma} \mathcal{C} : \tau$ and $\Delta \vdash t : \sigma$, then

$$\llbracket \mathcal{C}[t] \rrbracket = \llbracket \mathcal{C} \rrbracket(\llbracket t \rrbracket)$$

SUBSTITUTION PROPERTY OF THE SEMANTIC FUNCTION

Assume

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma &\vdash u : \sigma \\ \Gamma, x : \sigma &\vdash t : \tau\end{aligned}$$

Then for all $\rho \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$

$$\llbracket t[u/x] \rrbracket(\rho) = \llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho[x \mapsto \llbracket u \rrbracket(\rho)]).$$

In particular when $\Gamma = \cdot$, $\llbracket t \rrbracket : \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$ and

$$\llbracket t[u/x] \rrbracket = \llbracket t \rrbracket(\llbracket u \rrbracket)$$

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS FOR PCF

SOUNDNESS

For all PCF types τ and all closed terms $t, v \in \text{PCF}_\tau$ with v a value, if $t \Downarrow_\tau v$ is derivable, then

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$$