

DENOTATIONAL SEMANTICS

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Lectures for Part II CST 2025/2026

Proposition

For any **closed** PCF term t and value v of **ground** type $\gamma \in \{\text{nat}, \text{bool}\}$

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket = \llbracket v \rrbracket \quad \Rightarrow \quad t \Downarrow_{\gamma} v$$

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- We introduced the **formal approximation** relation for every type τ and context Γ :

$$\triangleleft_\tau \subseteq \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \times \text{PCF}_\tau$$

$$\triangleleft_\Gamma \subseteq \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \times \text{PCF}_\Gamma$$

where PCF_Γ is the set of substitutions $\cdot \vdash \sigma : \Gamma$

- We reduced the proof of adequacy to the fundamental property

Fundamental Property

$\llbracket t \rrbracket \triangleleft_\tau t$ for every $t \in \text{PCF}_\tau$

RECAP: FORMAL APPROXIMATION

For $\cdot \vdash t : \tau$ and $d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$ we define:

$$d \triangleleft_{\text{nat}} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} (d \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \underline{d})$$

$$d \triangleleft_{\text{bool}} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} (d = \text{true} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{true}) \wedge (d = \text{false} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{false})$$

$$d \triangleleft_{\tau \rightarrow \tau'} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} \forall e \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket. \forall u \in \text{PCF}_{\tau'} . (e \triangleleft_{\tau} u \Rightarrow d(e) \triangleleft_{\tau'} t u)$$

RECAP: FORMAL APPROXIMATION

For $\cdot \vdash t : \tau$ and $d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$ we define:

$$d \triangleleft_{\text{nat}} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} (d \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \underline{d})$$

$$d \triangleleft_{\text{bool}} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} (d = \text{true} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{true}) \wedge (d = \text{false} \Rightarrow t \Downarrow_{\text{bool}} \text{false})$$

$$d \triangleleft_{\tau \rightarrow \tau'} t \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall e \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket. \forall u \in \text{PCF}_{\tau'} . (e \triangleleft_{\tau} u \Rightarrow d(e) \triangleleft_{\tau'} t u)$$

while for $\cdot \vdash \sigma : \Gamma$ and $\rho \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$, we define:

$$\rho \triangleleft_{\Gamma} \sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma). \rho(x) \triangleleft_{\Gamma(x)} \sigma(x)$$

1. For every closed term $\cdot \vdash t : \tau$, the set $S = \{d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \mid d \triangleleft_\tau t\}$
 - 1.1 contains the bottom element $\perp_{\llbracket \tau \rrbracket}$;
 - 1.2 it is down-closed ($d \in S \wedge d' \sqsubseteq d \implies d' \in S$);
 - 1.3 it is chain-closed.

1. For every closed term $\cdot \vdash t : \tau$, the set $S = \{d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \mid d \triangleleft_\tau t\}$

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1.3 it is chain-closed.

2. For every type τ and element $d \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$,

2.1 If $\forall v. (t \Downarrow_\tau v \implies t' \Downarrow_\tau v)$ then $d \triangleleft_\tau t \implies d \triangleleft_\tau t'$

2.2 If $t' \rightsquigarrow_\tau t$ then $d \triangleleft_\tau t \implies d \triangleleft_\tau t'$

THE FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTY

For any

- context Γ and type τ
- term t such that $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$
- environment $\rho \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$
- substitution $\cdot \vdash \sigma : \Gamma$

we have that

$$\rho \triangleleft_{\Gamma} \sigma \implies \llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho) \triangleleft_{\tau} t[\sigma].$$

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Proof

We proceed by induction on $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$ to show

$$\Psi(\Gamma, t, \tau) \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall \rho. \forall \sigma. (\rho \triangleleft_{\Gamma} \sigma \implies \llbracket t \rrbracket(\rho) \triangleleft_{\tau} t[\sigma])$$

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

THE TYPING DERIVATION

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

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

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