

Deriving Pretty-Big-Step Semantics from Small-Step Semantics

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Small-step or big-step semantics?

For expressions $e \in Expr$ and values $v \in Val$

- ▶ Small-step – relates **partly evaluated** expressions
- ▶ Big-step – relates expressions to **final values**

$$e \rightarrow e'$$

$$e \Rightarrow v$$

Small-step vs. big-step SOS

Language syntax

$$\text{Expr} \ni e ::= v \mid t$$
$$\text{Val} \ni v ::= n \in \mathbb{N} \quad \text{Term} \ni t ::= \text{plus}(e, e)$$

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$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$
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→ solves the duplication problem for abrupt termination

Small-step with abrupt termination

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{throw}, \tau \rangle \rightarrow \langle 0, \text{exc} \rangle} \text{[THROW]} \quad \boxed{\langle e, a \rangle \rightarrow \langle e', a' \rangle}$$

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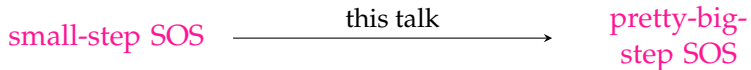
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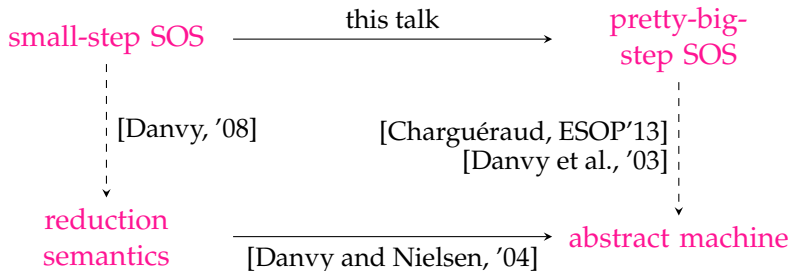
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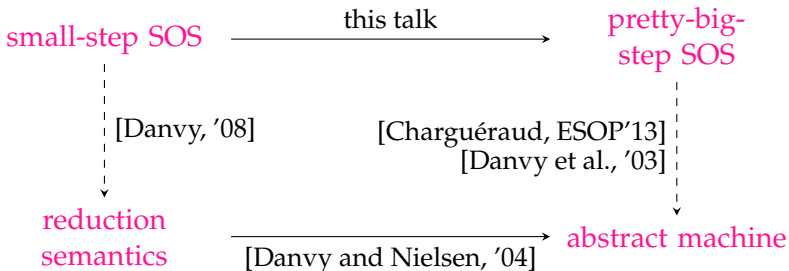
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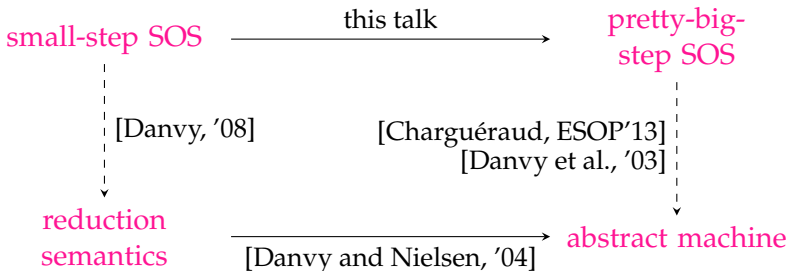
We don't have to choose!



Talk overview:

- ▶ **refocusing**: derivation producing pretty-big-step semantics from small-step semantics

We don't have to choose!



Talk overview:

- ▶ **refocusing**: derivation producing pretty-big-step semantics from small-step semantics
- ▶ **correctness**: proof method and Coq mechanisation

Refocusing

from small-step to pretty-big-step evaluation

Small-step SOS evaluation

Evaluation rules

$$\boxed{e \rightarrow e'} \quad \boxed{e \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \Downarrow v}{t \Downarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

$$\frac{}{v \Downarrow v} \text{ [REFLV]}$$

Small-step SOS evaluation

Evaluation rules

$$\boxed{e \rightarrow e'} \quad \boxed{e \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \Downarrow v}{t \Downarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \Downarrow v} \text{ [REFLV]}$$

Derivation tree structure

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{A}}{\Gamma} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{B} \quad \frac{\frac{\vdots}{\Psi}}{\Delta} \text{ [TRANS]}}{\Psi} \text{ [TRANS]}}{\Delta} \text{ [TRANS]}}{\Gamma} \text{ [TRANS]}}{\Gamma} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

Refocusing in SOS

Small-step \longrightarrow pretty-big-step SOS by

1. introduce refocusing rule
2. specialize congruence rules
3. specialize evaluation rules

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Fully automatic: prototyped in Prolog, used to generate prototype interpreters

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Fully automatic: prototyped in Prolog, used to generate prototype interpreters

1. Introduce refocusing rule

Evaluation rules

$$\boxed{e \rightarrow e'} \quad \boxed{e \rightsquigarrow n}$$

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [REFLV]}$$

Idea: allow big-steps anywhere

$$\frac{t \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightarrow v} \text{ [REFOCUS]}$$

1. Introduce refocusing rule

Evaluation rules

$$\boxed{e \rightarrow e'} \quad \boxed{e \rightsquigarrow n}$$

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$$\frac{t \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightarrow v} \text{ [REFOCUS]}$$

Derivation tree structure

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{C} \quad \frac{\vdots \quad \dots}{\Phi}}{\text{[TRANS]}} \quad \frac{\Psi}{\frac{B}{\frac{A}{\Gamma}}}}{\text{[REFOCUS]}} \quad \frac{\Delta}{\text{[TRANS]}}$$

1. Introduce refocusing rule

Evaluation rules

$$\boxed{e \rightarrow e'} \quad \boxed{e \rightsquigarrow n}$$

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [REFLV]}$$

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Derivation tree structure

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{C} \quad \frac{\vdots \quad \dots}{\Phi}}{\Psi} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{[r] \frac{B}{A}}{\Gamma} \text{ [REFOCUS]} \quad \Delta}{\Gamma} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

1. Introduced refocusing rule

Evaluation rules

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \searrow v}{t \searrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \searrow v} \text{ [REFLV]} \quad \frac{t \searrow v}{t \rightarrow v} \text{ [REFOCUS]}$$

Potential issues?

1. Introduced refocusing rule

Evaluation rules

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \searrow v}{t \searrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \searrow v} \text{ [REFLV]} \quad \frac{t \searrow v}{t \rightarrow v} \text{ [REFOCUS]}$$

Potential issues?

- ▶ mutually inductive \rightarrow and \searrow

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Evaluation rules

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Potential issues?

- ▶ **mutually inductive** \rightarrow and \searrow
- ▶ **nondeterministic choice** between ordinary and refocused steps

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Potential issues?

- ▶ **mutually inductive** \rightarrow and \searrow
- ▶ **nondeterministic choice** between ordinary and refocused steps
- ▶ **non-termination** for left-recursive interpretation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{[TRANS]} \frac{\vdots}{t \searrow v} \\ \text{[REFOCUS]} \frac{t \rightarrow v}{t \rightarrow v} \quad v \searrow v \\ \text{[TRANS]} \frac{}{t \searrow v} \end{array}$$

Refocusing in SOS

Small-step \longrightarrow pretty-big-step SOS by

1. introduce refocusing rule
2. specialize congruence rules
3. specialize evaluation rules

2. Specialize congruence rules

Congruence rules

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1]} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightarrow e'_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e'_2)} \text{ [PLUS2]}$$

2. Specialize congruence rules

Congruence rules

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1]} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightarrow e'_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e'_2)} \text{ [PLUS2]}$$

Specialization for full evaluation of subterms:

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1]}$$

2. Specialize congruence rules

Congruence rules

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1]} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightarrow e'_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e'_2)} \text{ [PLUS2]}$$

Specialization for full evaluation of subterms:

$$\frac{\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{t_1 \rightarrow v_1} \text{ [REFOCUS]}}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1]}$$

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Specialization for full evaluation of subterms:

$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1']}$$

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Congruence rules

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2. Specialized congruence rules

Language syntax

$$\text{Expr} \ni e ::= v \mid t$$
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Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$
$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1']} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightsquigarrow v_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, v_2)} \text{ [PLUS2']}$$

Evaluation rules

$$\frac{t' \rightarrow e' \quad e \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]} \quad \frac{}{v \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [REFLV]}$$

2. Specialized congruence rules

Subterms are now evaluated

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{\vdots}}{[r'_2] \frac{\Xi}{B}}}{[r'_1] \frac{\Psi}{A}} \frac{\Phi}{\Gamma} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

2. Specialized congruence rules

Subterms are now evaluated

$$\frac{\frac{\vdots}{[r'_2] \frac{\Xi}{B}} \quad \Phi}{[TRANS]} \quad \frac{\frac{\Psi}{A}}{\Gamma} \quad \Delta \quad [TRANS]$$

2. Specialized congruence rules

Subterms are now evaluated

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{\vdots}}{[r'_2] \frac{\Xi}{B}}}{[r'_1] \frac{\Psi}{A}} \frac{\Phi}{\Gamma} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

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Subterms are now evaluated

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdots}{\vdots}}{[r'_2] \frac{\Xi}{B}}}{[r'_1] \frac{\Psi}{A}} \frac{\Phi}{\Gamma} \quad [\text{TRANS}]$$

But

- ▶ mutually inductive \rightarrow and \searrow

Refocusing in SOS

Small-step \longrightarrow pretty-big-step SOS by

1. introduce refocusing rule
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3. specialize evaluation rules

3. Specialize evaluation rules

Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1']} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightsquigarrow v_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, v_2)} \text{ [PLUS2']}$$

Specialization by unfolding [TRANS] wrt [PLUS1']

$$\frac{t \rightarrow e' \quad e' \rightsquigarrow v}{t \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [TRANS]}$$

3. Specialize evaluation rules

Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1']} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightsquigarrow v_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, v_2)} \text{ [PLUS2']}$$

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3. Specialize evaluation rules

Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$

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Specialization by unfolding [TRANS] wrt [PLUS1']

$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1 \quad \text{plus}(v_1, e_2) \rightsquigarrow v}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightsquigarrow v} \text{ [TRANS-PLUS1']}$$

3. Specialize evaluation rules

Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightsquigarrow v_1}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, e_2)} \text{ [PLUS1']} \quad \frac{t_2 \rightsquigarrow v_2}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \rightarrow \text{plus}(v_1, v_2)} \text{ [PLUS2']}$$

Specialization by unfolding [TRANS] wrt [PLUS1']

$$\frac{t_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad \text{plus}(v_1, e_2) \Downarrow v}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \Downarrow v} \text{ [PBPLUS1]}$$

3. Specialize evaluation rules

Rules

$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\text{plus}(n_1, n_2) \rightarrow n} \text{ [PLUS]}$$

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Rules for \rightarrow become **redundant!**

3. Specialized evaluation rules

Language syntax

$$\text{Expr} \ni e ::= v \mid t$$
$$\text{Val} \ni v ::= n \in \mathbb{N} \quad \text{Term} \ni t ::= \text{plus}(e, e)$$

Pretty-big-step rules

$$\frac{}{v \Downarrow v} \text{ [PBREFLV]}$$
$$e \Downarrow v$$
$$\frac{t_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad \text{plus}(v_1, e_2) \Downarrow v}{\text{plus}(t_1, e_2) \Downarrow v} \text{ [PBPLUS1]}$$
$$\frac{t_2 \Downarrow v_2 \quad \text{plus}(v_1, v_2) \Downarrow v}{\text{plus}(v_1, t_2) \Downarrow v} \text{ [PBPLUS2]}$$
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Language syntax

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Pretty-big-step rules with abrupt termination

$$\frac{\langle v, \tau \rangle \Downarrow \langle v, \tau \rangle}{\langle v, \tau \rangle \Downarrow \langle v, \tau \rangle} \text{[PBREFLV]} \quad \frac{\langle e, \text{exc} \rangle \Downarrow \langle e, \text{exc} \rangle}{\langle e, \text{exc} \rangle \Downarrow \langle e, \text{exc} \rangle} \text{[PBREFLE]} \quad \boxed{\langle e, a \rangle \Downarrow o}$$
$$\frac{\langle t_1, \tau \rangle \Downarrow \langle e'_1, a \rangle \quad \langle \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2), a \rangle \Downarrow o}{\langle \text{plus}(t_1, e_2), \tau \rangle \Downarrow o} \text{[PBPLUS1]}$$
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$$\frac{n = n_1 + n_2}{\langle \text{plus}(n_1, n_2), \tau \rangle \Downarrow \langle n, \tau \rangle} \text{[PBPLUS]} \quad \frac{}{\langle \text{throw}, \tau \rangle \Downarrow \langle 0, \text{exc} \rangle} \text{[THROW]}$$

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Correctness

proof method, criteria, and Coq mechanisation

<http://plancomps.org/bachpoulsen2013a/coq>

Soundness of derived pretty-big-step relation (\Downarrow)

Soundness theorem

$e \Downarrow v$ implies $e \rightarrow^* v$.

Proof. By structural rule induction, transitivity of \rightarrow^* , and congruence lemmas [Leroy and Grall, '09].

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Reflexive-transitive correspondence lemma

$e \Downarrow v$ iff $e \rightarrow^* v$.

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Congruence lemma (example)

$e_1 \rightarrow^* e'_1$ implies $\text{plus}(e_1, e_2) \rightarrow^* \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)$.

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$e_1 \rightarrow^* e'_1$ implies $\text{plus}(e_1, e_2) \rightarrow^* \text{plus}(e'_1, e_2)$.

Observation: refocusing is sound for **compositional** rules.

Completeness of derived pretty-big-step relation (\Downarrow)

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$e \rightarrow^* v$ implies $e \Downarrow v$.

Proof. By structural rule induction and big-step decomposition [Leroy and Grall, '09].

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Big-step decomposition lemma

$e \rightarrow e'$ and $e' \Downarrow v$ implies $e \Downarrow v$.

Completeness of derived pretty-big-step relation (\Downarrow)

Completeness theorem

$e \rightarrow^* v$ implies $e \Downarrow v$.

Proof. By structural rule induction and big-step decomposition [Leroy and Grall, '09].

Big-step decomposition lemma

$e \rightarrow e'$ and $e' \Downarrow v$ implies $e \Downarrow v$.

Observation: refocusing is complete for **deterministic** semantics.

Scaling to other language features

Refocusing an ML-like language with

- ▶ applicative environment
- ▶ imperative store
- ▶ abrupt termination

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- ✓ non-compositional **catch** rule; required auxiliary similarity lemmas; see

<http://plancomps.org/bachpoulsen2014a/coq>

Conclusion and further directions

In this talk:

- ▶ Small-step vs. big-step? **We don't have to choose!**
 - ▶ **pretty-big-step** rules are **automatically derivable** from **small-step** rules
- ▶ Correctness:
 - ▶ **Soundness**: compositionality
 - ▶ **Completeness**: determinism

Further directions: **PLanCompS** (<http://plancomps.org>)

- ▶ component-based semantics
- ▶ **verification** (e.g., type soundness)
- ▶ **validation** (e.g., prototype interpreters)