

Higher-order model checking meets implicit automata

(work in progress)

Lê Thành Dũng (Tito) Nguyễn — nltd@nguyentito.eu — Aix-Marseille Univ. (new!)
with Abhishek De (Birmingham), Charles Grellois (Sheffield) & Cécilia Pradic (Swansea)

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Model checking (disclaimer: I don't know anything about it)

A basic setting:

- represent possible system behaviors for time $t \rightarrow +\infty$ as a language $L \subseteq \Sigma^\omega$
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- represent “nice” wanted behaviors as $\mathcal{L}(\varphi)$ for some specification φ
typically, φ is a formula in some temporal *logic*
 - “no bad things happen in finite time”
 - “every open is followed by a close”
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The model-checking problem: “are all possible behaviors nice?”

$$L \stackrel{?}{\subseteq} \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$$

A variant of model checking

System behavior = just one infinite tree T

Branching may be used for conditionals (if/then/else),
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\rightsquigarrow system representation = finite description of tree with *decidable MSO theory*

Which infinite trees have a decidable MSO theory?

- Some open problems, for instance automatic structures
- A big class of trees equivalently described by
 - higher-order pushdown automata (related to Muchnik iteration)
 - tree→graph transductions + graph→tree unfolding: “Caucal hierarchy” (2002)
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unsafe HORS = *simply typed λ -calculus* with *recursive* definitions
 \rightsquigarrow verification of functional programs! (tested on subsets of OCaml)

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(in practice, higher-order fixpoint logic seems to work better for model-checking functional programs: cf. recent work of Kobayashi et al.)

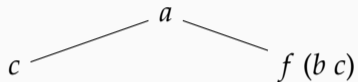
Simply typed λ -terms with recursion generating infinite trees

let rec $f = \lambda x. a x (f (b x))$ in $f c$

$f c$

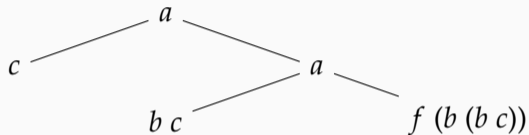
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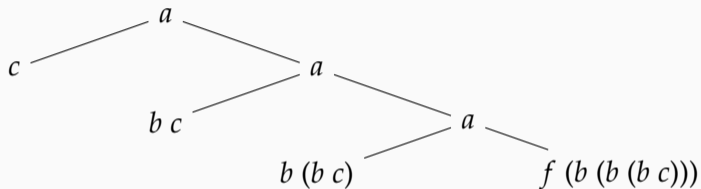
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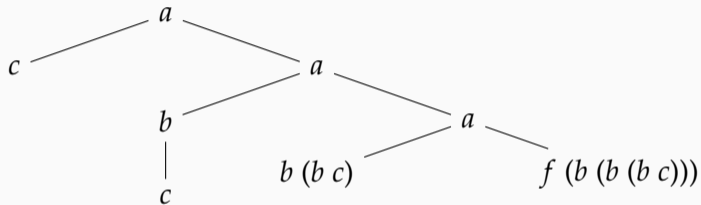
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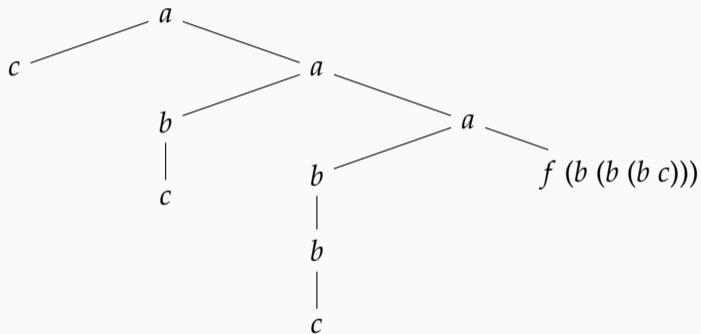
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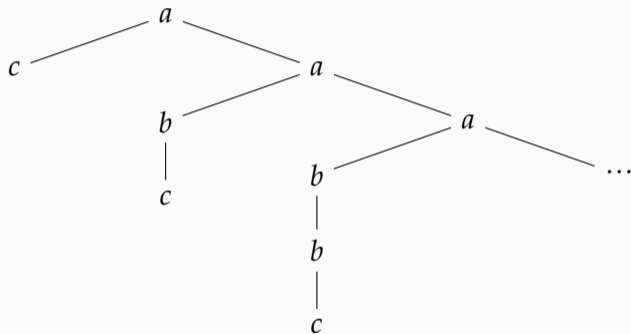
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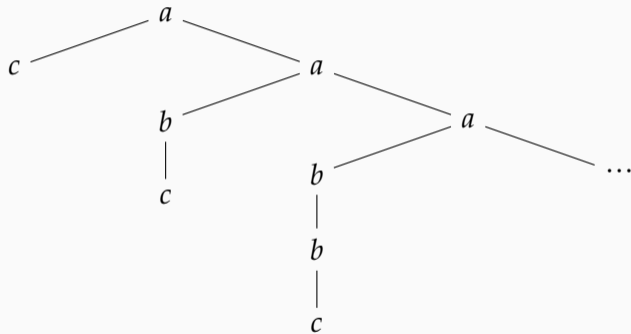
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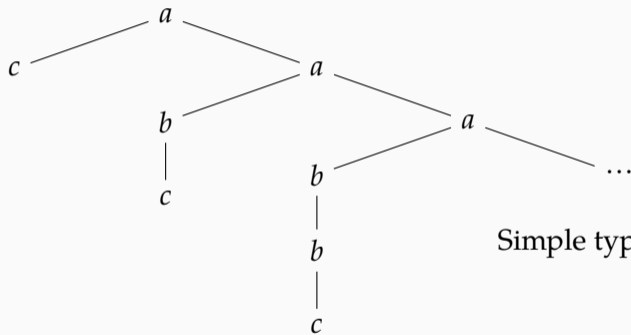
Simply typed λ -terms with recursion generating infinite trees

$a : o \rightarrow o \rightarrow o, b : o \rightarrow o, c : o \vdash \text{let rec } f = \lambda x. a x (f (b x)) \text{ in } f c : o$



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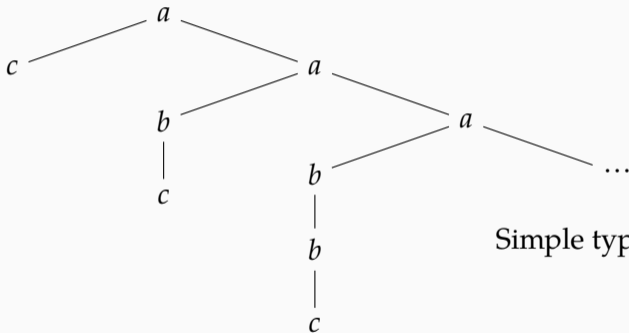
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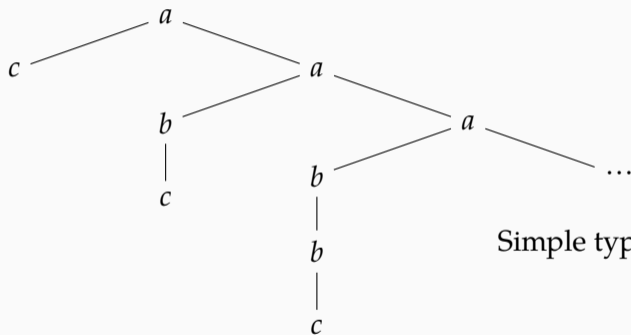


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Decidability of MSO logic over such trees: flagship success of *denotational semantics*

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idea best illustrated by a theorem on finite words, w/o recursion: next slide 5/13

Defining languages in the simply typed λ -calculus

Church encodings of binary strings [Böhm & Berarducci 1985]

\simeq fold_right on a list of characters (generalizable to any alphabet; $\text{Nat} = \text{Str}_{\{1\}}$):

$$\overline{011} = \lambda f_0. \lambda f_1. \lambda x. f_0 (f_1 (f_1 x)) : \text{Str}_{\{0,1\}}[\tau] = (\tau \rightarrow \tau) \rightarrow (\tau \rightarrow \tau) \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

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Example: $t = \lambda s. s \text{ id not true} : \text{Str}_{\{0,1\}}[\text{Bool}] \rightarrow \text{Bool}$ (even number of 1s)

$$t \overline{011} \longrightarrow_{\beta} \overline{011} \text{ id not true} \longrightarrow_{\beta} \text{id (not (not true))} \longrightarrow_{\beta} \text{true}$$

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Theorem (Hillebrand & Kanellakis 1996)

All regular (i.e. MSO-definable) languages, and only those, can be defined this way.

Proof of STLC-definable \implies regular, by semantic evaluation

Theorem (Hillebrand & Kanellakis, LICS'96)

For any type A and any simply typed λ -term $t : \text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau] \rightarrow \text{Bool}$, the language $\mathcal{L}(t) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid t\bar{w} \rightarrow_\beta^* \text{true}\}$ is regular.

Part 1 of proof.

Fix a type τ . Any denotational semantics $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ quotients words:

$$w \in \Sigma^* \rightsquigarrow \bar{w} : \text{Str}[\tau] \rightsquigarrow \llbracket \bar{w} \rrbracket_{\text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau]} \in \llbracket \text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau] \rrbracket$$

$\llbracket \bar{w} \rrbracket_{\text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau]}$ determines behavior of w w.r.t. all $\text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau] \rightarrow \text{Bool}$ terms:

$$w \in \mathcal{L}(t) \iff t\bar{w} \rightarrow_\beta^* \text{true} \iff \underbrace{\llbracket t\bar{w} \rrbracket = \llbracket t \rrbracket(\llbracket \bar{w} \rrbracket)}_{\text{assuming } \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket \neq \llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket} = \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket$$

Goal: to decide $\mathcal{L}(t)$, compute $w \mapsto \llbracket \bar{w} \rrbracket$ in some denotational model.

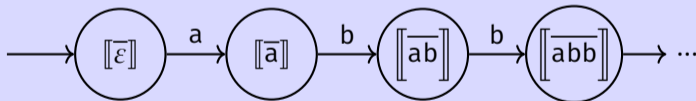
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Part 2 of proof.

We use $\llbracket - \rrbracket : \text{STLC} \rightarrow \text{FinSet}$ to build a DFA with states $Q = \llbracket \text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau] \rrbracket$, acceptance as $\llbracket t \rrbracket(-) = \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket$.



$$w \in \mathcal{L}(t) \iff \llbracket t \rrbracket \left(\llbracket \bar{w} \rrbracket_{\text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau]} \right) = \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket \iff w \text{ accepted.} \quad \square$$

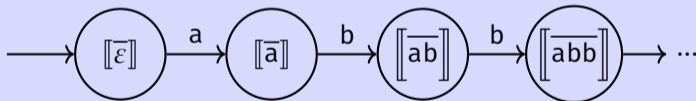
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Takeaways from the Hillebrand–Kanellakis theorem

From the theorem statement

analogous to implicit complexity (e.g. “Light Linear Logic captures P”)

~> *implicit automata* research programme (N. & Pradic), for instance:

star-free languages in a non-commutative linear¹ λ -calculus (ICALP'20)

¹Affine in the paper, strictly linear in my PhD dissertation.

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From the proof: connection with finite automata via finitary semantics

↷ for MSO on ∞ trees: alternating parity automata \leftrightarrow bespoke semantics

→ decidability proofs for trees generated by $ST\lambda C$ +recursion

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Combining the two: *implicit automata over infinite words/trees*

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Our main goal

Conjecture

If $f: \Sigma^\omega \rightarrow \Gamma^\omega$ is computed by some infinitary simply typed λ -term $t: \text{Str}_\Sigma[\tau] \rightarrow \text{Str}_\Gamma$, then for every ω -regular $L \subseteq \Gamma^\omega$, the preimage $f^{-1}(L)$ is also ω -regular.

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Proof method for conjecture?

Finitary semantics of infinitary ST λ C with parity conditions \rightsquigarrow colors

A colored denotational semantics

Cartesian closed categories (CCCs): semantics of simply typed λ -calculus

Coloring modality for k colors in a CCC \mathcal{C} [Melliès 2017; Walukiewicz 2019]

$\Box A = \underbrace{A \times \dots \times A}_{k+1 \text{ times}} + \text{comultiplication } \Box A \rightarrow \Box \Box A$ taking max of indices

\Box is a linear exponential comonad $\implies \mathcal{C}_{\Box}$ is also a CCC

- (Scott model of linear logic) $_{\Box}$ with clever interpretation of recursion
= Grellois and Melliès's (2015) colored semantics for deciding MSO
- interpretation in $\text{Scott}_{\Box} = \text{int. in Scott} \circ$ ("coloring translation" i.e. int. in Λ_{\Box})
over $\text{ST}\lambda\text{C}$ (w/o recursion), where $\Lambda = \text{syntactic (or initial) CCC}$

The coloring translation, purely syntactically

On types: $\hat{o} = o$ and $\widehat{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} = \underbrace{\hat{\sigma} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \hat{\sigma}}_{k+1 \text{ times}} \rightarrow \hat{\tau}$.

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash x : \tau} \rightsquigarrow \overline{\hat{\Gamma}, x^{(0)} : \hat{\tau}, \dots, x^{(k)} : \hat{\tau} \vdash x^{(0)} : \hat{\tau}} \\ \frac{\Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash t : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t : \sigma \rightarrow \tau} \rightsquigarrow \frac{\hat{\Gamma}, x^{(0)} : \hat{\sigma}, \dots, x^{(k)} : \hat{\sigma} \vdash \hat{t} : \hat{\tau}}{\hat{\Gamma} \vdash \widehat{\lambda x. t} = \lambda x^{(0)}. \dots \lambda x^{(k)}. \hat{t} : \widehat{\sigma \rightarrow \tau}} \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash u : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash tu : \tau} \rightsquigarrow \frac{\hat{\Gamma} \vdash \hat{t} : \widehat{\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \quad \hat{\Gamma} \vdash \uparrow_0 \hat{u} : \hat{\sigma} \quad \dots \quad \hat{\Gamma} \vdash \uparrow_k \hat{u} : \hat{\sigma}}{\hat{\Gamma} \vdash \widehat{t\hat{u}} = \hat{t}(\uparrow_0 \hat{u}) \dots (\uparrow_k \hat{u}) : \hat{\tau}} \end{array}$$

where $\uparrow_c \hat{u} = \hat{u}[x^{(i)} := x^{(\max(c,i))} \mid x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma), i = 0, \dots, k]$.

Going infinitary

Important remark

The syntactic presentation of the coloring translation extends effortlessly to *infinitary* simply typed λ -terms, by reading the rules coinductively.

colored Scott semantics only exists for $ST\lambda C$ +recursion; we would like to *define*:

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Conjecture (needed to get invariance for infinitary colored Scott)

The infinitary colored translation with boundary is compatible with $\rightarrow_{\beta}^{\infty}$.

Conjecture

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- would give us a well-behaved colored Scott semantics of infinitary $ST\lambda C$
- as a consequence we could prove our “implicit ω -automata” conjecture
- for more details (e.g. intersection types): cf. our ITRS’24 abstract

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Some points to remember

- Which infinite structures have decidable MSO theory? (for verification)
→ simply typed λ -calculus + recursion provides a large class of trees
(*higher-order model checking* — also reprovable from above conjecture!)
- regular languages in $ST\lambda C$ [Hillebrand & Kanellakis 1996] \rightsquigarrow implicit automata
+ its proof: evaluation in a finitary semantics

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