



# **Denotational Semantics for Abadi and Leino's Logic of Objects**

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## 1 Introduction

When Hoare presented his seminal work about an *axiomatic basis of computer programming* [7], high-level languages had just started to gain broader acceptance. While programming languages are evolving ever more rapidly, verification techniques seem to be struggling to keep up. For object-oriented languages several formal systems have been proposed, e.g. [2, 6, 13, 12, 5, 20, 17]. A “standard” comparable to the Hoare-calculus for imperative While-languages [4] has not yet emerged. Nearly all the approaches listed above are designed for class-based languages (usually a sub-language of sequential Java), where method code is known statically.

One notable exception is Abadi and Leino’s work [2] where a logic for an object-based language is introduced that is derived from the imperative object calculus with first-order types, **imp**, [1]. In object-based languages, every object contains its own suite of methods. Operationally speaking, the store for such a language contains code (and is thus called *higher-order store*) and modularity is for free simply by the fact that all programs can depend on the objects’ code in the store. We therefore consider object-based languages ideal for studying modularity issues that occur also in class-based languages. Class-based programs can be compiled into object-based ones (see [1]), and object-based languages can naturally deal with classes defined on-the-fly, like inner classes and classes loaded at run-time (cf. [14, 15]).

Abadi and Leino’s logic is a Hoare-style system, dealing with partial correctness of object expressions. Their idea was to enrich object types by method specifications, also called *transition relations*, relating pre- and post-execution states of program statements, and *result specifications* describing the result in case of program termination. Informally, an object satisfies such a specification

$$A \quad [f_i: A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}]$$

if it has fields  $f_i$  satisfying  $A_i$  and methods  $m_j$  that satisfy the transition relation  $T_j$  and, in case of termination of the method invocation, their result satisfies  $B_j$ . However, just as a method can use the *self*-parameter, we can assume that an object  $a$  itself satisfies  $A$  in both  $B_j$  and  $T_j$  when establishing that  $A$  holds for  $a$ . This yields a powerful and convenient proof principle for objects.<sup>1</sup>

We are going to present a new proof using a (untyped) denotational semantics (of the language and the logic) to define validity. Every program and every specification have a meaning, a *denotation*. Those of specifications are simply predicates on (the domain of) objects. The properties of these predicates provide

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<sup>1</sup>This also works for class-based languages. But an easier solution for those is to interpret class specifications as mutually defined predicates over classes (and their class names).

a description of inherent limitations of the logic. Such an approach is not new, it has been used e.g. in LCF, a logic for functional programs [10].

The difficulty in this case is to establish predicates that provide the powerful reasoning principle for objects. Reus and Streicher have outlined in [16] how to use some classic domain theory [11] to guarantee existence and uniqueness of appropriate predicates on (isolated) objects. In an object-calculus program, however, an object may depend on other objects (and its methods) in the store. So object specifications must depend on specifications of other objects in the store which gives rise to “store specifications” (already present in the work of Abadi and Leino).

For the reasons given above, this paper is not “just” an application of the ideas in [16]. Much care is needed to establish the important invariance property of Abadi-Leino logic, namely that proved programs preserve store specifications. Our main achievement, in a nutshell, is that we have successfully applied the ideas of [16] to the logic of [2] to obtain a soundness proof that can be used to *analyse this logic* and to *develop similar but more powerful program logics* as well.

Our soundness proof is not just “yet another proof” either. We consider it complementary (if not superior) to the one in [2] which relies on the operational semantics of the object calculus and does not assign proper “meaning” to specifications. Our claim is backed up by the following reasons:

- By using denotational semantics we can introduce a clear notion of validity with no reference to derivability. This helps clarifying *what the proof is actually stating* in the first place.
- We can extend the logic easily e.g. for recursive specifications. This has been done for the Abadi-Leino logic in [8] but for a slightly different language with nominal subtyping.
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$a, b ::=$	$x$	variable
	$\text{true} \mid \text{false}$	booleans
	$\text{if } x \text{ then } a \text{ else } b$	conditional
	$\text{let } x = a \text{ in } b$	let
	$[f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}]$	object construction
	$x.f$	field selection
	$x.f := y$	field update
	$x.m$	method invocation

T 1. Syntax

recursive specifications can be introduced (Section 6) and discuss the benefits of the denotational approach (Section 7).

When presenting the language and logic, we deliberately keep close to the original presentation [2].

## 2 The Object Calculus

Below, we review the language of [2], which is based on the imperative object calculus of Abadi and Cardelli [1]. Following [16] we give a denotational semantics in Section 2.2.

### 2.1 Syntax

Let  $\text{Var}$ ,  $\text{M}$  and  $\text{F}$  be pairwise disjoint, countably infinite sets of *variables*, *method names* and *field names*, respectively. Let  $x, y$  range over  $\text{Var}$ , let  $m \in \text{M}$  and  $f \in \text{F}$ . The language is defined by the grammar in Tab. 1.

Variables are (immutable) identifiers, the semantics of booleans and conditional is as usual. The object expression  $\text{let } x = a \text{ in } b$  first evaluates  $a$  and then evaluates  $b$  with  $x$  bound to the result of  $b$ .

Object construction  $[f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}]$  allocates new storage

let construct<sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket x \rrbracket &= (x, \text{ }) \text{ if } x \in \text{dom}(\text{ }) \\
&= (\text{error}, \text{ }) \text{ otherwise} \\
\llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket &= (\text{true}, \text{ }) \\
\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket &= (\text{false}, \text{ }) \\
\llbracket \text{if } x \text{ then } b_1 \text{ else } b_2 \rrbracket &= \begin{cases} \llbracket b_1 \rrbracket & \text{if } \llbracket x \rrbracket = (\text{true}, \text{ }) \\ \llbracket b_2 \rrbracket & \text{if } \llbracket x \rrbracket = (\text{false}, \text{ }) \\ (\text{error}, \text{ }) & \text{if } \llbracket x \rrbracket = (v, \text{ }) \text{ for } v \in \text{BVal} \end{cases} \\
\llbracket \text{let } x = a \text{ in } b \rrbracket &= \text{let } (v, \text{ }) = \llbracket a \rrbracket \text{ in } \llbracket b \rrbracket [x := v] \\
\llbracket [f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}] \rrbracket &= (l, \llbracket l := (o_1, o_2) \rrbracket) \text{ if } x_i \in \text{dom}(\text{ })
\end{aligned}$$

We will also use a projection to the part of the store that contains data in Val only (i.e., forget about the closures that live in the store),  $\text{St}_{\text{Val}} : \text{St} \rightarrow \text{St}_{\text{Val}}$  defined by  $(\text{val}) .l.f = .l.f$ , where  $\text{St}_{\text{Val}} = \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Rec}_{\text{F}}(\text{Val}))$ . We refer to  $\text{val}()$  as the *flat part* of  $\text{St}$ .

**Example 2.1.** We extend the syntax with integer constants and operations, and consider an object-based modelling of a bank account as an example:

```
acc(x)  [balance = 0,
         deposit10 = (y)let z = y.balance+10 in y.balance:=z,
         interest = (y)let r = x.manager.rate in
                   let z = y.balance * r/100 in y.balance:=z]
```

Note how the self parameter  $y$  is used in both methods to access the `balance` field. Object `acc` depends on a “managing” object  $x$  in the context that provides the interest rate, through a field manager



components, which will be justified by our semantics.

Intuitively, `true` and `false` satisfy *Bool*, and an object satisfies the specification  $A = [f_i: A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}]$  if it has fields  $f_i$  satisfying  $A_i$  and methods  $m_j$  that satisfy the transition relation  $T_j$  and, in case of termination of the method invocation, their result satisfies  $B_j$ . Corresponding to the fact that a method  $m_j$  can use the *self*-parameter  $y_j$ , in both  $T_j$  and  $B_j$  it is possible to refer to the ambient object  $y_j$ .

Let  $\Gamma$  range over *specification contexts*  $x_1:A_1, \dots, x_n:A_n$ . A specification context is *well-formed* if no variable  $x_i$  occurs more than once, and the free variables of  $A_k$  are contained in the set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}\}$ . In writing  $\Gamma, x:A$  we will always assume that  $x$  does not appear in  $\Gamma$ . Sometimes we write  $\epsilon$  for the empty context. Given  $\Gamma$ , we write  $[\Gamma]$  for the list of variables occurring in  $\Gamma$ :

$$[x_1:A_1, \dots, x_n:A_n] = x_1, \dots, x_n$$

If clear from context, we use the notation  $\bar{x}$  for a sequence  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , and similarly  $\bar{x} : \bar{A}$  for  $x_1:A_1, \dots, x_n:A_n$ . To make the notions of well-formed specifications and well-formed specification contexts formal, there are judgements for

- well-formed transition relations:

$$x_1, \dots, x_n \vdash T_i \quad 1, \dots, x_n$$

is covariant along method specifications and transition relations, and invariant in field specifications. Observe that  $\bar{x} \vdash A_1 \prec A_2$  in particular implies  $\bar{x} \vdash A_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .

In the logic, judgements of the form  $\Gamma \vdash a:A::T$  can be derived, where  $\Gamma$  is a well-formed specification context,  $a$  is an object expression,  $A$  is a specification, and  $T$  is a transition relation. The rules guarantee that all the free variables of  $a$ ,  $A$  and  $T$  appear in  $[\Gamma]$ . We use the following transition relations in the rules:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 T_{\text{res}}(e) \quad \text{result} = e \\
 T_{\text{obj}}(\mathbf{f}_i = x_i)^{i=1..n} \quad \begin{array}{l}
 x_i.f.\text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(x) \quad \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(x) \quad \text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(x, f) = \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(x, f) \\
 \neg \text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(\text{result}) \quad \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(\text{result}) \\
 x_i.f.x \quad \text{result} \\
 (\text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(x) \quad \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(x) \quad \text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(x, f) = \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(x, f)) \\
 \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(\text{result}, \mathbf{f}_1) = x_1 \quad \dots \quad \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(\text{result}, \mathbf{f}_n) = x_n
 \end{array} \\
 T_{\text{upd}}(x, f, e) \quad \begin{array}{l}
 x.\text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(x) \quad \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(x) \quad \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(x, f) = e \\
 x_i.f.(x \quad x \quad f \quad f) \quad \text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(x, f) = \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(x, f)
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

subsumption

$$\frac{[\Gamma] \ A \prec \ A \quad \Gamma \ a:A::T \quad [\Gamma] \ A \quad [\Gamma] \ T \quad \text{to} \ T \quad T}{\Gamma \ a:A::T}$$

variable

$$\frac{\Gamma \ \text{ok} \ x:A \ \text{in} \ \Gamma}{\Gamma \ x:A::T_{\text{res}}(x)}$$

booleans

$$\frac{\Gamma \ \text{ok}}{\Gamma \ \text{false}:Bool::T_{\text{res}}(\text{false})} \quad \frac{\Gamma \ \text{ok}}{\Gamma \ \text{true}:Bool::T_{\text{res}}(\text{true})}$$

conditional

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} A[\text{true}/x] \quad A_t[\text{true}/x] \ \text{and} \ A[\text{false}/x] \quad A_f[\text{false}/x] \\ T[\text{true}/x] \quad T_t[\text{true}/x] \ \text{and} \ T[\text{false}/x] \quad T_f[\text{false}/x] \\ \Gamma \ x:Bool::T_{\text{res}}(x) \quad \Gamma \ a:A_t::T_t \quad \Gamma \ b:A_f::T_f \end{array}}{\Gamma \ \text{if} \ x \ \text{then} \ a \ \text{el} \ \text{se} \ b:A::T}$$

let

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \ a:A::T \quad \Gamma, x:A \quad b:B::T \quad [\Gamma] \ B \quad [\Gamma] \ T \\ \text{to} \ T \ [\text{sel}_{\text{int}}(\cdot, \cdot)/\text{sel}_{\text{post}}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{alloc}_{\text{int}}(\cdot)/\text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(\cdot), x/\text{result}] \\ T \ [\text{sel}_{\text{int}}(\cdot, \cdot)/\text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{alloc}_{\text{int}}(\cdot)/\text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(\cdot)] \quad T \end{array}}{\Gamma \ \text{let} \ x = a \ \text{in} \ b:B::T}$$

object construction

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} A \quad [f_i:A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j:(y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}] \\ \Gamma \ x_i:A_i::T_{\text{res}}(x_i)^{i=1..n} \quad \Gamma, y_j:A \quad b_j:B_j::T_j^{j=1..m} \end{array}}{\Gamma \ [f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}]:A::T_{\text{obj}}(f_i = x_i^{i=1..n})}$$

field selection

$$\frac{\Gamma \ x:[f:A]::T_{\text{res}}(x)}{\Gamma \ x.f:A::T_{\text{res}}(\text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(x, f))}$$

field update

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} A \quad [f_i:A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j:(y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}] \\ \Gamma \ x:A::T_{\text{res}}(x) \quad \Gamma \ y:A_k::T_{\text{res}}(y) \end{array}}{\Gamma \ x.f_k := y:A::T_{\text{upd}}(x, f_k, y)} \quad 1 \quad k \quad n$$

method invocation

$$\frac{\Gamma \ x:[m:(y)A::T]::T_{\text{res}}(x)}{\Gamma \ x.m:A[x/y]::T[x/y]}$$

T 3. Inference rules of Abadi-Leino logic

$T_{\text{deposit}}(y) \quad z.z = \text{sel}_{pre}(y, \text{balance})$   
 $T_{\text{upd}}(y, \text{balance}, z + 10)$

$T_{\text{interest}}(x, y) \quad z.z = \text{sel}_{pre}(y, \text{balance})$   
 $m.m = \text{sel}_{pre}(x, \text{manager})$   
 $r.r = \text{sel}_{pre}(m, \text{rate})$   
 $T_{\text{upd}}(y, \text{balance}, z + r/100)$

$T_{\text{create}}(x) \quad T_{\text{obj}}(\text{balance} = 0)$

$A_{\text{Account}}(x) \quad [\text{balance} : \text{Int},$   
 $\text{deposit} : (y)[] :: T_{\text{deposit}}(y),$   
 $\text{interest} : (y)[] :: T_{\text{interest}}(x, y)]$

$A_{\text{AccFactory}} \quad [\text{manager} : [\text{rate} : \text{Int}],$   
 $\text{create} : (x)A_{\text{Account}}(x) :: T_{\text{create}}(x)]$

$A_{\text{Manager}} \quad [\text{rate} : \text{Int},$   
 $\text{accFactory} : A_{\text{AccFactory}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket \bar{x} \ e \rrbracket &: \text{Env}^+ \rightarrow \text{St}_{\text{Val}} \rightarrow \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{St}_{\text{Val}} \rightarrow (\text{Val} + \text{F}) \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ x \rrbracket \ v &= \begin{cases} (x) & \text{if } x \in \text{dom}(\cdot) \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ f \rrbracket \ v &= f \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{result} \rrbracket \ v &= v \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{true} \rrbracket \ v &= \text{true} \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{false} \rrbracket \ v &= \text{false} \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(e_0, e_1) \rrbracket \ v &= \begin{cases} .l.f & \text{if } \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_0 \rrbracket \ v = l \ \text{Loc and} \\ & \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_1 \rrbracket \ v = f \ \text{F are defined} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(e_0, e_1) \rrbracket \ v &= \begin{cases} .l.f & \text{if } \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_0 \rrbracket \ v = l \ \text{Loc and} \\ & \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_1 \rrbracket \ v = f \ \text{F are defined} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket \bar{x} \ T \rrbracket &: \text{Env}^+ \rightarrow \text{P}(\text{St}_{\text{Val}} \times \text{Val} \times \text{St}_{\text{Val}}) \\
(\cdot, v, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_0 = e_1 \rrbracket \ i & \text{ both } \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_0 \rrbracket \ v \ \text{and } \llbracket \bar{x} \ e_1 \rrbracket \ v \ \text{are defined} \\
& \text{and equal, or both undefined} \\
(\cdot, v, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(e) \rrbracket \ i & \llbracket \bar{x} \ e \rrbracket \ v \in \text{dom}(\cdot) \\
(\cdot, v, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(e) \rrbracket \ i & \llbracket \bar{x} \ e \rrbracket \ v \in \text{dom}(\cdot) \\
(\cdot, v, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x} \ x.T \rrbracket \ i & \text{ for all } u \in \text{Val} + \text{F}. (\cdot, v, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x}, x \ T \rrbracket [x := u]
\end{aligned}$$

#### T 4. Meaning of expressions and transition relations

the transition relations is untyped, the types of the free variables are not relevant. The interpretation of object specifications  $\bar{x} \ A$ ,

$$\llbracket \bar{x} \ A \rrbracket : \text{Env} \rightarrow \text{P}(\text{Val} \times \text{St})$$

is given in Tab. 5.

We begin with a number of observations about the interpretation.

**Lemma 3.2.** *For all specifications  $\bar{x} \ A$ , all  $\text{St}$  and environments  $\cdot$  we have  $(\text{error}, \cdot) \llbracket \bar{x} \ A \rrbracket$ .*

*Proof.* Immediate from the definition of  $\llbracket \bar{x} \ A \rrbracket$ .

**Lemma 3.3 (Soundness of Subspecification).** *Suppose  $\bar{x} \ A <: B$ . Then, for all environments  $\cdot$ ,  $\llbracket \bar{x} \ A \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \bar{x} \ B \rrbracket$  for values  $\bar{v}$ .*

*Proof.* This follows by induction on the derivation of  $\bar{x} \ A <: B$ . The cases for reflexivity and transitivity are immediate. For the case where both  $A$  and  $B$  are object specifications we need a similar lemma for transition relations:

If  $\bar{x} \ T$  and  $\bar{x} \ T$  then  $\cdot \circ T \rightarrow T$  implies

$$\llbracket \bar{x} \ T \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \bar{x} \ T \rrbracket \quad (3)$$

$\llbracket \bar{x} \ A \rrbracket : \text{Env} \rightarrow \text{P}(\text{Val} \times \text{St})$

$\llbracket \bar{x} \ \text{Bool} \rrbracket = \text{BVal} \times \text{St}$

$\llbracket \bar{x} \ [f_i: A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j: (y_j)] \rrbracket$

#### 4.1 Result Specifications, Store Specifications and a Tentative Semantics

A store specification  $\Sigma$  assigns *closed* specifications  $A$  to (a finite set of) locations:

**Definition 4.1 (Store Specification).** A record  $\Sigma \in \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Spec})$  is a store specification if for all  $l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$ ,  $\Sigma.l = A$  is a closed object specification.

Because we focus on closed specifications in the following, we need a way to turn the components  $B_j$  of a specification  $[f_i: A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}]$  (which closed1

Observe that for all  $A$ , if  $\Sigma \sqsubseteq \Sigma'$  then  $\|A\|_{\Sigma} \sqsubseteq \|A\|_{\Sigma'}$ . We obtain the following lemma about *context extensions*.

**Lemma 4.5 (Context Extension).** *If  $\Gamma \sqsubseteq \Gamma'$  and  $\Gamma, x:A \text{ ok}$  and  $v \Vdash \|A\|_{\Gamma'}$  then  $\llbracket x := v \rrbracket \Vdash \|\Gamma, x:A\|_{\Sigma}$ .*

*Proof.* The result follows immediately from the definition once we show  $\llbracket x := v \rrbracket \Vdash \|\Gamma\|_{\Sigma}$ . This can be seen to hold since  $x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma)$ , hence for all  $y:B$  in  $\Gamma$  we know that  $x$  is not free in  $B$  and we must have  $B[\llbracket x := v \rrbracket/\Gamma] \sqsubseteq B[\ /\Gamma]$ .

We want to interpret store specifications as predicates over stores, as follows.

**Definition 4.6 (Store Predicate, Tentative).** *Let  $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{St})^{\text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Spec})}$  denote the collection of predicates on  $\mathbf{St}$ , indexed by store specifications. We define a functional  $\Phi : \mathcal{P}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$  as follows.*

$\Phi(Y, X)_{\Sigma} :$   
 $l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$  where  $\Sigma.l = [f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m}] :$   
**(F)**  $\llbracket l.f_K \rrbracket$



resulting object has to be allocated in the store, and so a proper extension of the original store specification  $\Sigma$  has to be found.

So let  $A_0 = [\mathbf{m}_1 : (y)[]::False]$  and  $A_{i+1} = [\mathbf{m}_1 : (y)A_i::True]$ . In particular, this means that the method  $\mathbf{m}_1$  of objects satisfying  $A_0$  *must* diverge. The method  $\mathbf{m}_1$  of an object satisfying  $A_i$  returns an object satisfying  $A_{i-1}$ . Hence, for such objects  $x$ , it is possible to have method calls  $x.\mathbf{m}_1.\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_1$  at most  $i$  times, of which the  $i$ -th call must necessarily diverge (the others may or may not terminate). The example below uses the fact that we can construct an ascending chain of objects for which the first  $i - 1$  calls indeed terminate, and therefore do *not* satisfy  $A_{i-1}$ . Then, the limit of this chain is an object  $x$  for which an arbitrary number of calls  $x.\mathbf{m}_1.\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_1$  terminates, and which therefore does not satisfy *any* of the  $A_i$ :

Set  $\Sigma_i = \Sigma, l : A_i$  and let  $\_ \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  denote some store satisfying  $\Sigma$ . Moreover, define

$$i = \{l_0 = \{\mathbf{m}_0 = \_.(l_i \_ + i)\}\}$$

where  $l_0 = \{l = \{\mathbf{m}_1 = \_.\}\}$  and  $l_{i+1} = \{l = \{\mathbf{m}_1 = \_.(l_i \_ + i)\}\}$ , and let  $\_ = i$ . Finally, define  $X, Y \in \mathcal{P}$  by

$$X_{\Sigma_i} = \{\_ + i\}, \text{ for } i \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$X_{\hat{\Sigma}} = \_, \text{ for all other } \hat{\Sigma}$$

$$Y_{\Sigma} = \{\}$$

$$Y_{\hat{\Sigma}} = \_, \text{ for all other } \hat{\Sigma}$$

By construction, both  $X$  and  $Y$  are admissible in every component  $\hat{\Sigma}$ . By induction one obtains  $l_0 \_ \_ \dots$ , therefore  $l_0 \_ \_ \dots$  in  $\Phi(Y, X)_{\Sigma}$ . Hence we must show  $\_ \Phi(Y, X)_{\Sigma}$ . But this is not the case, since it would entail, by **(M2)** and

$$l.\mathbf{m}_0(\_) = i \_ i.l.\mathbf{m}_0(\_) = (l_i \_ + i)$$

that there exists  $\Sigma \_ \Sigma$  such that  $\_ + i \_ X_{\Sigma}$ . Clearly this is not the case, since  $\_ + i \_$  is *strictly* greater than every  $\_ + i$  and therefore not in any of the  $X_{\Sigma_i}$ .

### 4.3 A Refined Semantics of Store Specifications

We refine the definition of store predicates by replacing the existential quantifier in **(M2)** of Definition 4.6 by a *Skolem function*, as follows: We call the elements of the (recursively defined) domain

$$\text{RSF} = \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Rec}_{\text{M}}(\text{St} \times \text{RSF} \times \text{Spec} \quad \text{Spec} \times \text{RSF})) \quad (4)$$

*choice functions*, or *Skolem Functions*. The intuition is that, given a store  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$ , if  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  with choice function  $\_$ , for some extension  $\Sigma \_ \Sigma$  and the

method invocation  $.l.m(\sigma)$  terminates, then  $.l.m(\sigma, \sigma', \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \sigma')$  yields a store specification  $\Sigma \sqsubseteq \Sigma'$  such that  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  (and  $\sigma$  is a choice function for the extension  $\Sigma'$  of  $\Sigma$ ). This is again an abstraction of the actual store  $\sigma$ , this time abstracting the *dynamic effects* of methods wrt. allocation, on the level of store specifications. Note that the argument store  $\sigma$  is needed in general to determine the resulting extension of the specification, since allocation behaviour may depend on the actual values of fields, for example.

We use the domain  $\mathbf{RSF}$  of choice functions explicitly in the interpretation of store specifications below. This has the effect of constraining the existential quantifier to work *uniformly* on the elements of increasing chains, hence precluding the counter-example to admissibility of the previous subsection.

**Definition 4.7 (Store Predicate).** Let  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{St} \times \mathbf{RSF})^{\text{ReLoc}(Spec)}$  denote the collection of families of subsets of  $\mathbf{St} \times \mathbf{RSF}$ , indexed by store specifications. We define a functional  $\Phi : \mathbf{P}^{op} \times \mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}$  as follows.

$(\sigma, \sigma') \in \Phi(Y, X)_\Sigma :$

- (1)  $\text{dom}(\Sigma) = \text{dom}(\sigma)$  and  $\forall l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma). \text{dom}(\sigma_2(\Sigma.l)) = \text{dom}(\sigma.l)$ , and
- (2)  $\forall l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$  where  $\Sigma.l = [f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m}]$

we obtain  $\|A_i\|_\Sigma$  by assumption  $(j_i, j_j) \in \Phi(Y, X)_\Sigma$ . Next, suppose  $\Sigma$   
 $\Sigma, (i, j) \in Y_\Sigma$  and  $\text{L.m}_j(i) = (v_i, \dots)$ . By definition of  $\Sigma_k$  and  
 continuity, we must have  $\text{L.m}_j(i) = (v_i, \dots)$  for sufficiently large  $k$ , and

$$(v_i, \dots) = \text{L.m}_j(i) = \text{L.m}_j(i)$$

By assumption, for all sufficiently large  $k$ ,  $\text{L.m}_j(i, \dots, \Sigma) = (\Sigma_k, \dots)$  with  
 $\Sigma_k \subseteq \Sigma$  and

$$\bullet (v_i, \dots, v_i, \dots) \in T_j[l/T]$$

$F_{\text{St,RSF}}(e, e)(\cdot, \cdot) = \Phi(Y, X)_{\Sigma}$  which proves (

## 5 Soundness

### 5.1 Preliminaries

Recall from the previous section that the semantics of store specifications is defined in terms of the semantics  $\|A\|_\Sigma$  for result specifications  $A$  that does not mention  $\text{St}$  at all. The following key lemma establishes the relation between store specifications and object specifications  $\llbracket A \rrbracket$  as defined in Section 3.3:

**Lemma 5.1.** *For all object specifications  $A$ , store specifications  $\Sigma$ , stores  $\sigma$ , and locations  $l$ , if  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  and  $l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$  such that  $\Sigma.l \prec: A$  then  $(l, \sigma) \in \llbracket A \rrbracket$ .*

*Proof.* By induction on the structure of  $A$ . Because  $A$  is an object specification it is necessarily of the form

$$A = [f_i: A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m}]$$

We have to show that  $(l, \sigma) \in \llbracket A \rrbracket$ , i.e., that

- $(\sigma.l.f_i) \in \llbracket A_i \rrbracket$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and
- if  $\sigma.l.m_j(\sigma) = (v, \sigma')$  then  $(v, \sigma') \in \llbracket y_j B_j \rrbracket(y_j \mapsto l)$  and  $(\text{val } \sigma', v, \text{val } \sigma') \in \llbracket y_j T_j \rrbracket(y_j \mapsto l)$  for all  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .

From the subtyping relation and  $\Sigma.l \prec: A$  we find

$$\Sigma.l \llbracket f_i: A_i^{i=1..n+p}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1..m+p} \rrbracket$$

where  $y_j B_j \prec: B_j$  and  $y_j \text{ to } T_j \prec: T_j$ .

For the first part, by Definition 4.7 (F) and  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  we have  $\sigma.l.f_i \in \llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\Sigma$ . If  $A_i$  is *Bool* then from  $\llbracket \text{Bool} \rrbracket_\Sigma = \text{BVal}$ , hence,  $(\sigma.l.f_i) \in \llbracket \text{Bool} \rrbracket$ . Otherwise  $A_i$  is an object specification and the definition of  $\llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\Sigma$  implies

$$\Sigma.l(\sigma.l.f_i) \prec: A_i$$

again by Definition 4.7 (F). Hence by induction hypothesis we obtain  $(\sigma.l.f_i) \in \llbracket A_i \rrbracket$  as required.

For the second part, suppose that  $\sigma.l.m_j(\sigma) = (v, \sigma')$ . From Definition 4.7 part (M2) and (M3), and the assumption  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$ , we find  $v \in B_j[l/y_j]$

$\llbracket B_j[l/y_j] \rrbracket$ . Thus,

$$(v, \sigma) \models \llbracket B_j[l/y_j] \rrbracket = \llbracket y_j \ B_j \rrbracket(y_j \ l) \quad \text{Lemma 4.2}$$

$$\llbracket y_j \ B_j \rrbracket(y_j \ l) \quad \text{Lemma 3.3}$$

as required.

Finally, by Definition 4.7 (**M1**) we obtain

$$(\text{val } v, \text{val } \sigma) \models \llbracket T_j[l/y_j] \rrbracket = \llbracket y_j \ T_j \rrbracket(y_j \ l) \quad \text{Lemma 4.2}$$

$$\llbracket y_j \ T_j \rrbracket(y_j \ l) \quad \text{soundness of } \text{fo}$$

This concludes the proof.

We can now define the semantics of judgements of Abadi-Leino logic and prove the key lemma.

**Definition 5.2 (Validity).**  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$  if and only if for all store specifications  $\Sigma \in \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Spec})$ , for all  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_{\Sigma}$  and all  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$ , if  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = (v, \sigma)$

Thus,

$$\left( \text{Val } i, \mathcal{V}, \text{Val } i, \text{Val } i \right) \\ \llbracket \bar{x}, x \ T \ [\text{sel}_{int}(\cdot, \cdot) / \text{sel}_{post}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{alloc}_{int}(\cdot) / \text{alloc}_{post}(\cdot), x / \text{result}] \rrbracket [x := v]$$

since there are no occurrences of  $\text{sel}_{post}(\cdot, \cdot)$ ,  $\text{alloc}_{post}(\cdot)$   $_{post}$   $_{post}$





Note that by the subtyping rules,  $A \leq Bool$  if and only if  $A = Bool$ . In this case (S3) follows directly from (S3'). In the case where  $A$  is an object specification, assumption  $[\Gamma] \leq A$  and Lemma 4.2 entail  $A \leq [\Gamma]$ . Transitivity of  $\leq$  and (S3') then prove (S3), by the definition of  $\llbracket A \leq [\Gamma] \rrbracket_\Sigma$ .

• **Var**

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$  has been derived by an application of the (Var) rule. Further, assume

(H2)  $\Sigma$  is a store specification

(H3)  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\Sigma$

Define the (partial continuous) map  $\text{SF}$  by

$$(\text{SF} \sigma, \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \sigma)$$

Now suppose  $\Sigma \leq \Sigma, (\sigma, \Sigma) \in \text{fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  and  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = (v, \sigma)$ . Then, by the variable rule, we find that  $a$  is necessarily a variable  $x$ . Further we obtain  $x:A$  in  $\Gamma, T \vdash T_{\text{res}}(x)$ , and the semantics gives  $(v, \sigma) = \llbracket a \rrbracket = (x, \sigma)$ , i.e.,

$$v = (x) \text{ and } \sigma = \sigma$$

By definition of  $\text{SF}$  above,

(S1)  $(\text{SF} \sigma, \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \sigma)$

(S2)  $(\sigma, \Sigma) \in \text{fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$ , by  $\sigma = \sigma$  and assumption  $(\sigma, \Sigma) \in \text{fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$

(S3)  $v \leq \llbracket A \leq [\Gamma] \rrbracket_\Sigma$ , by  $v = (x)$  and (H3)

(S4)  $(\text{val}(\sigma), v, \text{val}(\sigma)) \in \llbracket [\Gamma] \vdash T_{\text{res}}(x) \rrbracket$ , by the definition of  $\llbracket [\Gamma] \vdash T \rrbracket$  in Tab. 4, and  $\sigma = \sigma$  and  $v = (x)$ .

as required.

• **Const**

Similar to the previous case: Suppose (H1):  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$  has been derived by an application of the rule for true, i.e.,  $a$  is true,  $A$  is *Bool* and  $T$  is  $T_{\text{res}}(\text{true})$ . Now assume

(H2)  $\Sigma$  is a store specification

(H3)  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\Sigma$

and define  $\text{SF}$  by

$$(\text{SF} \sigma, \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \sigma)$$

We must show (S1)-(S4). So let  $\Sigma \leq \Sigma, (\sigma, \Sigma) \in \text{fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  and suppose  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = (v, \sigma)$ . By definition of the denotational semantics,  $(v, \sigma) = \llbracket a \rrbracket = (\text{true}, \sigma)$ . Hence, by definition of  $\text{SF}$ ,

(S1)  $(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}, \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \hat{\sigma})$

(S2)  $(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}) = (\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$

(S3)  $v = \text{true} \quad \text{BVal} = \|A\|$

(S4)  $(\text{val}(\hat{\sigma}), \text{true}, \text{val}(\hat{\sigma})) \llbracket [\ ] \ T_{\text{res}}(\text{true}) \rrbracket$  by definition

as required. The case where  $a$  is false is analogous.

• **Conditional**

By a case distinction, depending on whether the value of the guard  $x$  is *true* or *false*.

• **Let**

Suppose (H1)  $\Gamma \quad a : A :: T$  has been derived by an application of the (Let) rule. Hence,  $a$  is  $\text{let } x = a_1 \text{ in } a_2$ . Assume that

(H2)  $\Sigma$  is a store specification, and

(H3)  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_{\Sigma}$

Now recall the rule for this case,

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \quad a_1 : A_1 :: T_1 \quad \Gamma, x : A_1 \quad a_2 : A :: T_2 \quad [\Gamma] \quad A \quad [\Gamma] \quad T \\ \text{to } T_1[\text{sel}_{\text{int}}(\cdot, \cdot) / \text{sel}_{\text{post}}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{alloc}_{\text{int}}(\cdot) / \text{alloc}_{\text{post}}(\cdot), x / \text{result}] \\ T_2[\text{sel}_{\text{int}}(\cdot, \cdot) / \text{sel}_{\text{pre}}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{alloc}_{\text{int}}(\cdot) / \text{alloc}_{\text{pre}}(\cdot)] \quad T \end{array}}{\Gamma \quad \text{let } x = a_1 \text{ in } a_2 : A :: T}$$

By the premiss of this rule we must have

(H1')  $\Gamma \quad a_1 : A_1 :: T_1$

(H1'')  $\Gamma, x : A_1 \quad a_2 : A :: T_2$

By induction hypothesis applied to (H1') there is  $\hat{\sigma}_1$  RSF s.t. for all  $\Sigma \models \Sigma$ ,

$(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$  with  $\llbracket a_1 \rrbracket = (\hat{v}, \hat{\sigma})$ , the conclusions of the lemma hold:

(S1') there exists  $\hat{\Sigma} \models \Sigma$  and  $\hat{\sigma}$  RSF s.t.  $(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}, \Sigma) = (\hat{\Sigma}, \hat{\sigma})$

(S2')  $(\hat{\sigma}, \hat{\sigma}) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\hat{\Sigma}}$

(S3')  $\hat{v}1(\cdot)$  all

(S1'') there exists  $\Sigma$   $\hat{\Sigma}$  and  $\text{RSF}$  s.t.  $\hat{\nu}(\hat{\cdot}, \hat{\cdot}, \hat{\Sigma}) = (\Sigma, \cdot, \cdot)$

(S2'')  $(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$

(S3'')  $\nu \models A[ [x := v]/\Gamma, x:A_1 ]_{\Sigma}$

(S4'')  $(\text{val}(\hat{\cdot}), \nu, \text{val}(\cdot)) \models [[\Gamma, x:A_1] \ T_2]$

Now define  $\text{SF}$  for all  $\cdot, \cdot$  and  $\Sigma$  by

$(\cdot, \cdot, \Sigma) =$

(S4)  $(\text{val}(\cdot), v, \text{val}(\cdot)) \llbracket \Gamma \vdash T \rrbracket$ , by (9)

as required.

• **Object**

Suppose (H1):  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$  has been derived by an application of rule the (object construction) rule. Necessarily  $a \llbracket [f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}] \rrbracket$ . Suppose that

(H2)  $\Sigma$  is a store specification

(H3)  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\Sigma$

We recall the object introduction rule,

$$\frac{A \llbracket [f_i : A_i^{i=1..n}, m_j : (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{j=1..m}] \rrbracket \quad \Gamma \vdash x_i : A_i :: T_{\text{res}}(x_i)^{i=1..n} \quad \Gamma, y_j : A \vdash b_j : B_j :: T_j^{j=1..m}}{\Gamma \llbracket [f_i = x_i^{i=1..n}, m_j = (y_j)b_j^{j=1..m}] : A :: T_{\text{obj}}(f_1 = x_1 \dots f_n = x_n) \rrbracket}$$

from which we see that  $A$  is  $[f_i : A_i, m_j : B_j :: T_j]$ , that  $T$  is  $T_{\text{obj}}(f_1 = x_1 \dots f_n = x_n)$  and that

(H1')  $\Gamma \vdash x_i : A_i :: T_{\text{res}}(x_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$

(H1'')  $\Gamma, y_j : A \vdash b_j : B_j :: T_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq m$

We have to show that there is SF s.t. for all  $\Sigma \vdash \Sigma, (\cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  with  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = (v, \cdot)$ , (S1)-(S4) hold.

From (H3) and Lemma 4.5 we know that for all  $\hat{\Sigma} \vdash \Sigma$  and  $l_0 \in \text{dom}(\hat{\Sigma})$ ,

$$[y_j := l_0] \llbracket \Gamma, y_j : A \rrbracket_{\hat{\Sigma}, l_0 : A}$$

Hence by induction hypothesis on (H1''), there is  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{l_0}^j$  SF for all  $1 \leq j \leq m$  s.t. for all  $\Sigma_1 \vdash (\hat{\Sigma}, l_0 : A \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket)$ , for all  $(\cdot_1, \cdot_1) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\hat{\Sigma}, l_0 : A \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket}$  with  $\llbracket b_j \rrbracket [y_j := l_0]_{\cdot_1} = (v_2, \cdot_2)$ , we obtain the conclusions (S1)-(S4) of the lemma, i.e.,

(S1') there exists  $\Sigma_2 \vdash \Sigma_1$  and  $\cdot_2 \text{ RSF}$  s.t.  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{l_0}^j(\cdot_1, \cdot_1, \Sigma_1) = (\Sigma_2, \cdot_2)$

(S2')  $(\cdot_2, \cdot_2) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma_2}$

(S3')  $v_2 \llbracket B_j \rrbracket [y_j := l_0] / \Gamma, y_j : A \rrbracket_{\Sigma_2}$

(S4')  $(\text{val}(\cdot_1), v_2, \text{val}(\cdot_2)) \llbracket [\Gamma, y_j : A \vdash T_j] \rrbracket [y_j := l_0]$

We have  $\llbracket l_0 = [m_j = \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{l_0}^j]^{j=1..m} \rrbracket \text{ RSF}$ , therefore we can define SF by

We show that (S1)–(S4) hold. Let  $\Sigma = \Sigma, (v, \dots) \in \text{fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  and suppose  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = (v, \dots)$ . By 9J/F90 9.963 T050S1

(F) By assumption (H1') and  $\|\Gamma\|_\Sigma$  we know that there is  $A_i <: A_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  s.t.  $x_i:A_i$  in  $\Gamma$ . Hence,

$$l_0.f_i = (x_i) \quad A_i \quad \Sigma \quad \|A_i\|_\Sigma \quad \|A_i\|_\Sigma$$

(M) Let  $1 \leq j \leq m$ . Suppose  $\Sigma_1 \leq \Sigma$ , let  $(\nu_1, \nu_1) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma_1}$  and suppose  $l_0.m_j(\nu_1) = (\nu_2, \nu_2)$ . Since  $l_0.m_j = \llbracket b_j \rrbracket [y_j := l_0]_{\nu_1}$  and  $\Sigma_1 \leq \Sigma$ , the assumption  $(\nu_1, \nu_1) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma_1}$  and the construction of  $\Sigma_2$  and  $(\nu_2, \nu_2)$  s.t.

$$l_0.m_j(\nu_1, \nu_1, \Sigma_1) = l_0^j(\nu_1, \nu_1, \Sigma_1) = (\Sigma_2, \nu_2), \text{ by } (S1')$$

$$(\nu_2, \nu_2) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma_2}, \text{ by } (S2')$$

$$\nu_2 \quad B_j \llbracket [y_j := l_0]/\Gamma, y_j:A \rrbracket_{\Sigma_2} = B_j \llbracket \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket [l_0/y_j] \rrbracket_{\Sigma_2}, \text{ by } (S3')$$

and the substitution lemma, Lemma 4.2

$$(\text{val}(\nu_1), \nu_2, \text{val}(\nu_2)) \llbracket \llbracket \Gamma, y_j:A \rrbracket T_j \rrbracket [y_j := l_0] \text{ which equals } \llbracket T_j \rrbracket \llbracket \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket [l_0/y_j] \rrbracket, \text{ by } (S4') \text{ and the substitution lemma}$$

Thus we have shown  $(\nu_1, \nu_1) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$ , i.e., (S2) holds.

#### • Method Invocation

Suppose  $\Gamma \quad a : A :: T$  is derived by an application of the method invocation rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \quad x:[m : (y)A :: T] :: T_{\text{res}}(x)}{\Gamma \quad x.m:A [x/y] :: T [x/y]}$$

Necessarily  $a$  is of the form  $x.m$  and there are  $A$  and  $T$  s.t.  $A \leq A [x/y]$  and  $T \leq T [x/y]$ . So suppose

(H1)  $\Gamma \quad a : A [x/y] :: T [x/y]$

(H2)  $\Sigma$  is a store specification

(H3)  $\|\Gamma\|_\Sigma$

Define  $\text{SF}$  using “self-application” of the argument,

$$(\nu, \nu, \Sigma) = \nu.(x).m(\nu, \nu, \Sigma) \quad (12)$$

Now let  $\Sigma \leq \Sigma$ ,  $(\nu, \nu) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  and suppose  $\llbracket a \rrbracket = \nu.(x).m(\nu) = (\nu, \nu)$  terminates. We show that (S1)-(S4) hold.

By the hypothesis of the method invocation rule,

$$\Gamma \quad x:[m : (y)A :: T] :: T_{\text{res}}(x) \quad (H1')$$

Since this implies  $x:B \leq \Gamma$  for some  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \quad B <: [m : (y)A :: T]$ , by assumption (H3) this entails

$$\Sigma.(x) <: [m : (y)A :: T] \llbracket \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rrbracket$$

i.e., there are  $A_i, A, B_j$  and  $T_j, T$  such that

$$\Sigma. (x) \quad [f_i:A_i, m_j: (y_j)B_j :: T_j, m: (y)A :: T]$$

where

$$y \ A \prec: A \ [/\Gamma] \text{ and } \text{to } T \quad T \ [/\Gamma] \quad (13)$$

Now assumption  $(\text{ , }) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$  with equation (12) implies that there are  $\Sigma, \text{ , s.t.}$

$$(S1) \quad (\text{ , , } \Sigma) = \text{.}(\text{ (x)}) \cdot \text{m}(\text{ , , } \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \text{ , })$$

$$(S2) \quad (\text{ , , }) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_\Sigma$$

$$(S3') \quad v \ \|A \ [ (x)/y]\|_\Sigma$$

$$(S4') \quad (\text{ val}(\text{ ,}), v, \text{ val}(\text{ ,})) \ \|T \ [ (x)/y]\|$$

By transitivity of  $\prec:$ , equation (13), Lemma 4.2 and (S3')

$$v \ A \ [/\Gamma][ (x)/y] \ \Sigma$$

Since  $A \ [/\Gamma, (x)/y] \ A \ [x/y][/\Gamma]$  we also have

$$(S3) \quad v \ \|A \ [x/y][/\Gamma]\|_\Sigma = \|A \ [/\Gamma]\|_\Sigma$$

Similarly, by (13) and (S4'),

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{ val}(\text{ ,}), v, \text{ val}(\text{ ,})) \ \|T \ [ (x)/y]\| \ \|T \ [/\Gamma][ (x)/y]\| \\ = \|[/\Gamma] \ T[x/y]\| \end{aligned} \quad (S4)$$

which was to show.

- **Field Selection**

Similar.  $\text{ can be chosen as } (\text{ , , } \Sigma) = (\text{ , } \Sigma).$

- **Field Update**

Suppose

$$(H1) \quad \Gamma \ a$$

In particular,  $a$  is of the form  $x.f_k := y$  and  $T$  is  $T_{\text{upd}}(x, f_k, y)$ . From the semantics of  $\llbracket a \rrbracket$ , this means  $v = (x) \text{ Loc}$  and

$$= [v := .v[f_k := (y)]] \quad (14)$$

We show that (S1)-(S4) hold.

By (H3),  $(x) \llbracket A[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma} = \llbracket A[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma}$ . Then by construction of  $\cdot$ , and (14),

$$(S1) \quad (\cdot, \cdot, \Sigma) = (\Sigma, \cdot)$$

$$(S3) \quad v = (x) \llbracket A[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma}$$

$$(S4) \quad (\text{val}(\cdot), v, \text{val}(\cdot)) \llbracket [\Gamma] \ T \rrbracket, \text{ from the semantics given in Tab. 4}$$

It remains to show (S2),  $(\cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$ .

By assumption  $(\cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$ , condition (1) of Definition 4.7 is satisfied. As for condition (2), suppose  $l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$  s.t.

$$\Sigma.l \ [g_i: A_i^{i=1..p}, n_j: (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{1..q}]$$

(F) We distinguish two cases:

- Case  $l = (x)$  and  $g_i = f_k$ . Then, by (14),  $.l.g_i = (y)$ . By (H3),  $(x) \llbracket A[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma} = \llbracket A[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma}$ , which entails

$$\Sigma.l <: A[\ /\Gamma]$$

and in particular, by the definition of the subspecification relation,  $A_k \leq A_k[\ /\Gamma]$ . Note that *invariance of subspecification* in the field components is needed to conclude this. Now again by (H3),

$$(y) \llbracket A_k[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma} = \llbracket A_k[\ /\Gamma] \rrbracket_{\Sigma} = A_k \Sigma$$

Hence,  $.l.g_i \leq A_i \Sigma$  as required.

- Case  $l = (x)$  or  $g_i = f_k$ . Then  $.l.g_i = .l.g_i$ , by (14). Hence, by assumption  $(\cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$ , we have  $.l.g_i \leq A_i \Sigma$ .

(M) Let  $\Sigma = \Sigma$ , let  $(\cdot_1, \cdot_1) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$  and suppose  $.l.n_j(\cdot_1) = (v_2, \cdot_2)$ . Then, by assumption  $(\cdot, \cdot) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma}$  and the fact that  $.l.n_j = .l.n_j$  by (14), we obtain that  $.l.n_j(\cdot_1, \cdot_1, \Sigma) = (\Sigma_2, \cdot_2)$  s.t.  $\Sigma_2 \leq \Sigma$  and

$$(M1) \quad (\text{val}(\cdot_1), v_2, \text{val}(\cdot_2)) \llbracket T_j[l/y_j] \rrbracket$$

$$(M2) \quad (\cdot_2, \cdot_2) \text{ fix}(\Phi)_{\Sigma_2}$$

$$(M3) \quad v_2 \leq B_j[l/y_j]_{\Sigma_2}$$

as required.

which concludes the proof.



### 5.3 Soundness Theorem

With Lemma 5.1 and Lemma 5.4, proved in Subsections 5.1 and 5.2, it is now easy to establish our main result:

**Theorem 5.5 (Soundness).** *If  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$  then  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash a : A :: T$ , and let  $\Sigma \vdash \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Spec})$  be a store specification and suppose  $\text{Env} \vdash \text{Env}$  s.t.

ness”.

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{A}, \underline{B} ::= & \quad | \text{Bool} \quad | \quad [f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m}] \quad | \quad \mu(X)\underline{A} \\ A, B ::= & \underline{A} \quad | \quad X \end{aligned}$$

where  $X$  ranges over an infinite set  $TyVar$  of specification variables.  $X$  is bound in  $\mu(X)A$ , and as usual we identify specifications up to the names of bound variables.

In addition to specification contexts  $\Gamma$  we introduce contexts  $\Delta$  that contain specification variables with an upper bound,  $X <: A$ , where  $A$  is either another variable or  $\text{ok}$ . In the rules of the logic we replace  $\Gamma \dots$  by  $\Gamma; \Delta \dots$ , and the definitions of well-formed specifications and well-formed specification contexts are extended, similar to the case of recursive types [1].

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad Y \quad X \quad \Gamma \quad \text{ok}}{\Gamma; \Delta, X <: Y \quad \text{ok}} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \text{ok} \quad X \quad \Gamma}{\Gamma; \Delta, X <: \quad \text{ok}}$$

and

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta, X <: A, \Delta \quad \text{ok}}{\Gamma; \Delta, X <: A, \Delta \quad X} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta, X <: \quad A}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu(X)A} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \text{ok}}{\Gamma; \Delta}$$

and we often write  $\Delta, X$  for  $\Delta, X <: \quad$ .

Subspecifications for recursive specifications are obtained by the “usual” recursive subtyping rule [3], and  $\text{ok}$  is the greatest specification,

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta, Y <: \quad, X <: Y \quad A <: B}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu X.A <: \mu Y.B} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad A}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <:}$$

As will be seen from the semantics below, in our model a recursive specification and its unfolding are not just isomorphic but equal, i.e.,  $\llbracket \mu X.A \rrbracket = \llbracket A[(\mu X.A)/X] \rrbracket$ . Because of this, we do not need to introduce *fold* and *unfold* terms: We can deal with (un)folding of recursive specifications through the subsumption rule once we add the following subspecifications,

$$\text{fold} \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu X.A}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad A[(\mu X.A)/X] <: \mu X.A} \quad \text{unfold} \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu X.A}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu X.A <: A[(\mu X.A)/X]}$$

We will prove their soundness below.

### 6.1 Existence of Store Specifications

Next, we adapt our notion of store specification to recursive specifications. The existence proof is very similar to the one given in Section 4, however, for completeness we spell it out in detail below.

**Definition 6.1.** A store specification is a record  $\Sigma \in \text{Rec}_{\text{Loc}}(\text{Spec})$  such that for each  $l \in \text{dom}(\Sigma)$ ,

$$\Sigma.l = \mu(X)[f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m}]$$

*is a closed (recursive) object specification.*

i.e.,  $f(x_i) = f(x_i)$ , the greatest fixed point can be obtained as

$$\text{gfp}(f) = \bigvee \{f^n(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} \quad (15)$$

where  $x$  is the greatest element of  $L$ : Writing  $x = \bigvee \{f^n(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  it is immediate that  $f(x) = \bigvee \{f^{n+1}(x) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\} = x$

P M .  $\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \ A \rrbracket$  preserves meets of descending chains:

$$\bigwedge_{i=0}^{\infty} \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \ A \rrbracket ( \downarrow_i ) = \downarrow_i \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \ A \rrbracket$$

In particular, this lemma shows that the greatest fixed point used in Definition 6.4 exists, by the observations made above.

*Proof.* We can show both properties simultaneously by induction on the structure of  $A$ . The only interesting case is where  $A$  is  $\mu(X)B$ .

To show the first part, **Monotonicity**, note that the assumption  $\downarrow_1 \downarrow_2$  entails

$$\downarrow_1[X = \downarrow_1] \downarrow_2[X = \downarrow_2] \text{ for all } \downarrow_1 \downarrow_2 \text{ } \mathit{Adm}(\mathit{Val} \times \mathit{St})$$

So for  $f_i : \mathit{Adm}(\mathit{Val} \times \mathit{St}) \rightarrow \mathit{Adm}(\mathit{Val} \times \mathit{St})$  defined by

$$f_i(\downarrow) = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta, X \ B \rrbracket \downarrow_i[X = \downarrow], \quad i = 1, 2$$

we obtain from the induction hypothesis on  $B$  that  $f_i$  is monotonic, preserves meets, and  $f_1 \downarrow f_2$ . By the observations made above,  $\mathit{gfp}$  is monotonic which yields  $\mathit{gfp}(f_1) \downarrow \mathit{gfp}(f_2)$ . Thus

$$\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \ \mu(X)B \rrbracket \downarrow_1 = \mathit{gfp}(f_1) \downarrow \mathit{gfp}(f_2) = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \ \mu(X)B \rrbracket \downarrow_2$$

which concludes the proof

**Lemma 6.6 (Substitution).** *For all  $\Gamma; \Delta, X \vdash A$ ,  $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash B$ , and  $\sigma$ ,*

$$\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta, X \vdash A \rrbracket (\llbracket X = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \vdash B \rrbracket \rrbracket) = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \vdash A[B/X] \rrbracket$$

*Proof.* By induction on  $A$ .

### 6.3 Syntactic Approximations

Recall the statement of Lemma 5.1, one of the key lemmas in the proof of the soundness theorem:

$$\text{for all } \sigma, \Sigma, l \text{ and } A, \text{ if } \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket \text{ and } \Sigma.l \prec A \text{ then } (l, \sigma) \llbracket A \rrbracket \quad (18)$$

In Section 5 this was proved by induction on the structure of  $A$ . This inductive proof cannot be extended directly to prove a corresponding result for recursive specifications: The recursive unfolding in cases **(F)** and **(M3)** of Definition 6.2 would force a similar unfolding of  $A$  in the inductive step, thus not necessarily decreasing the size of  $A$ .

Instead, we consider finite approximations as in [3], where we get rid of recursion by unfolding a finite number of times and then replacing all remaining occurrences of recursion by  $\perp$ . We call a specification *non-recursive* if it does not contain any occurrences of specifications of the form  $\mu(X)B$ .

**Definition 6.7 (Approximations).** *For each  $A$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define  $A|_k B$ .*

Proof.

$$\frac{\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i^{i=1\dots n+p} \quad \Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i <: A_i^{i=1\dots n} \quad \Gamma, y_j \quad T_j^{j=1\dots m+q} \quad \Gamma, y_j \quad T_j^{j=1\dots m}}{\Gamma, y_j; \Delta \quad B_j^{j=m+1\dots m+q} \quad \Gamma, y_j; \Delta \quad B_j <: B_j^{j=1\dots m} \quad \text{fo } T_j \quad T_j^{j=1\dots m}}}{\Gamma; \Delta \quad [f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n+p}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m+q}] <: [f_i: A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j: (y_j)B_j::T_j^{j=1\dots m}]}$$

T 6. The generalised object subspecification rule

invariance in field specifications. For example, if  $A \quad [f_1 : X, f_2 : Bool]$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(X)\mu(Y)A|^2 &= [f_1 : \mu(X)\mu(Y)A, f_2 : Bool]^2 \\ &= [f_1 : \mu(X)\mu(Y)A|^1, f_2 : Bool]^1 \\ &= [f_1 : [f_1 : \mu(X)\mu(Y)A, f_2 : Bool]^1, f_2 : Bool] \\ &= [f_1 : [f_1 : \mu(X)\mu(Y)A|^0, f_2 : Bool]^0, f_2 : Bool] \\ &= [f_1 : [f_1 : \quad, f_2 : \quad], f_2 : Bool] \end{aligned}$$

By inspection of the rules,  $\mu(X)\mu(Y)A <: \mu(X)\mu(Y)A|^2$  requires to show

$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad [f_1 : [f_1 : \mu(X)\mu(Y)A, f_2 : Bool], f_2 : Bool] <: [f_1 : [f_1 : \quad, f_2 : \quad], f_2 : Bool]$$

for appropriate  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ . But subspecifications of object specifications can only be derived for equal components  $f_1$  with the rules of Sect. 3.

Therefore we consider the more generous subspecification relation that also allows subspecifications in field components, by replacing the rule for object specifications with the one given in Table 6.

We write  $<:$  for this relation, and observe that  $A <: B$  implies  $A <: B$ . It is still sufficient to guarantee soundness in our case as will be shown below. First, we obtain the following approximation lemma for the  $<:$  relation.

**Lemma 6.8 (Approximation).** *For all specifications  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A$ , the following hold.*

1. For all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <: A|^k$ .
2. For all  $k, l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A|^k <: A^{k+l}$ .
3. If  $A$  is non-recursive then there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $k \geq n$ ,  $A <: A|^k$ .

*Proof.* The proofs are by induction on the lexicographic order on  $k$  and the number of  $\mu$  in head position, then considering cases for the specification  $A$ . We only show the first claim, the others are similar.

Suppose  $k = 0$ , then the results follow immediately from  $A|^0 = A$ . For  $k > 0$ , the proof is by a case distinction on the shape of  $A$ :

- $A$  is  $\mu(X)A$ . Then  $A|^k = \mu(X)A|^k$  and the required subtyping follows from transitivity.
- $A$  is  $X$  or  $Bool$ . Similarly, from  $A|^k = X$  and  $A|^k = Bool$ , resp.

- $A$  is  $\mu(X)B$ . Then, by induction hypothesis,

$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad B[A/X] <: B[A/X]^k$$

By definition of approximations, the latter equals  $A^k$ . Moreover,

$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <: B[A/X]$$

by the (unfold) rule, and transitivity then yields  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <: A^k$ .

- $A$  is  $[f_i : A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j : (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{j=1\dots m}]$ . By definition,

$$A^k = [f_i : A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j : B_j^{j=1\dots m}]$$

By induction hypothesis we obtain that  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i <: A_i^{i=1\dots n}$  and that  $\Gamma, y_j; \Delta \quad B_j <: B_j^{j=1\dots m}$  which entails

$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad [f_i : A_i, m_j : B_j :: T_j] <: [f_i : A_i, m_j : B_j :: T_j]^k$$

by the (modified) subspecification rule, as required.

### Soundness of Subspecification

Soundness of subspecification is easily established:

**Lemma 6.9 (Soundness of  $<:$ ).** *If  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <: B$ ,  $\text{Env}$  and  $\Delta$  then  $\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad B \rrbracket$ .*

*Proof.* By induction on the derivation of  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A <: B$ .

- (Reflexivity) and (Transitivity) are immediate, as is (Top).
- (Fold) and (Unfold) follow from the fact that the denotation of  $\mu(X)A$  is indeed a fixed point,

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu(X)A \rrbracket &= \text{gfp}(\lambda X. \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta, X \quad A \rrbracket \ [X = \ ] ) && \text{by definition} \\ &= \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta, X \quad A \rrbracket \ ( [X = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad \mu(X)A \rrbracket \ ] ) && \text{fixed point} \\ &= \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A[\mu(X)A/X] \rrbracket && \text{Lemma 6.6} \end{aligned}$$

- For the case of (Object), we must have

$$A = [f_i : A_i^{i=1\dots n+p}, m_j : (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{j=1\dots m+q}]$$

and

$$B = [f_i : A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j : (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{j=1\dots m}]$$

such that  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i <: A_i$  and  $\Gamma, y_j; \Delta \quad B_j <: B_j$  and  $\text{to } T_j \quad T_j$ . By induction hypothesis,

$$\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i \rrbracket$$



and

$$\llbracket \Gamma, y_j; \Delta \vdash B_j \rrbracket ( [y_j := l] ) \quad \llbracket \Gamma, y_j; \Delta \vdash B_j \rrbracket ( [y_j := l] )$$

for all  $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m$  and  $l \in \text{Loc}$ . Moreover, by soundness of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  to we know

$$\llbracket \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, y_j \vdash T_j \rrbracket ( [y_j := \cdot] )$$

*Proof.* By induction on the lexicographic order on  $l$  and the number of  $\mu$  in head position.

- $l = 0$ . Clearly  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A[B/X]^0 <: \quad = A[B^k/X]^0$ .
- $l > 0$ . We consider possible cases for  $A$ .
  - $A$  is  $X$ . Then  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A[B/X]^l = B^l <: B^k = A[B^k/X]^l$ .
  - $A$  is  $\text{Bool}$  or  $Y \quad X$ . Then  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A[B/X]^l = A^l <: A^l = A[B^k/X]^l$ .
  - $A$  is  $[f_i : A_i^{i=1\dots n}, m_j : (y_j)B_j :: T_j^{j=1\dots m}]$ . Then, by induction hypothesis,
$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad A_i[B/X]^{l-1} <: A_i[B^k/X]^{l-1}$$

and

$$\Gamma, y_j : A; \Delta \quad B_j[B/X]^{l-1} <: B_j[B^k/X]^{l-1}$$

for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq m$ . Hence,

$$\Gamma; \Delta \quad A[B/X]^l <: [f_i : A_i[B^k/X], m_j : B_j[B^k/X]]^l = A[B^k/X]^l$$

- $A$  is  $\mu(Y)C$ , without loss of generality  $Y$  not free in  $B$ . Then by induction hypothesis we find  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad C[A/Y][B/X]^l <: C[A/Y][B^k/X]^l$ . Using properties of syntactic substitutions, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} A[B/X]^l &= \mu(Y)(C[B/X])^l \\ &= C[B/X][(\mu(Y)(C[B/X]))/Y]^l \\ &= C[B/X][(A[B/X])/Y]^l \\ &= C[A/Y][B/X]^l \end{aligned}$$

and analogously  $C[A/Y][B^k/X]^l = A[B^k/X]^l$ , which entails the result.

**Lemma 6.11 (Approximation of Specifications).** *For all  $\Gamma; \Delta \quad A$ ,  $\text{Env}$  and environments  $\Delta$ ,*

$$\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A \rrbracket = \bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A^k \rrbracket$$

*Proof.* By (19), all that remains to show is  $\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A \rrbracket = \bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A^k \rrbracket$ . We proceed by induction on the lexicographic order on pairs  $(M, A)$  where  $M$  is an upper bound on the number of  $\mu$ -binders in  $A$ . For the base case,  $M = 0$ , by Lemma 6.8(3) there exists  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $k \leq n$ ,  $A^k = A$ , and so in fact

$$\llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A \rrbracket = \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A^n \rrbracket = \bigwedge_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \llbracket \Gamma; \Delta \quad A^k \rrbracket$$

Now suppose that  $A$  contains at most  $M + 1$   $\mu$  binders. We consider cases for  $A$ .



#### 6.4 Soundness

After the technical development in the preceding subsection we can now prove (18). From this result the soundness proof of the logic extended with recursive specifications then follows, along the lines of the proof presented in Section 5 for finite specifications.

**Lemma 6.12.** *For all  $\Sigma, l$  and  $A$ , if  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  and  $\Sigma.l \prec: A$  then  $(l, \ ) \llbracket A \rrbracket$ .*

*Proof.* The proof proceeds by considering finite specifications first. This can be proved by induction on  $A$

arbitrary extensions  $\Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$ . This will account for the (specifications of) objects allocated between definition time and call time.

Clearly, not every predicate on stores is preserved. As we lack a semantic characterisation of those specifications that are syntactically definable (as  $\Sigma$ ), specification syntax appears in the definition of  $\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket$  (Def. 4.7). More annoyingly, field update requires subspecifications to be invariant in the field components, otherwise even type soundness is invalidated. We do not know how to express this property of object specifications semantically (on the level of predicates) and need to use the inductively defined subspecification relation instead.

The proof of Theorem 4.8, establishing the existence of store predicates, provides an explanation why transition relations of the Abadi-Leino logic express properties of the flat part of stores only: Semantically, a (sufficient) condition is that transition relations are upwards and downwards closed in their first and second store argument, respectively.

Abadi and Leino’s logic is peculiar in that verified programs need to preserve store specifications. Put differently, only properties which are in fact preserved can be expressed in the logic. In particular, specifications of field values are limited such that properties like e.g. `self.hd = self.tail.hd`, stating that a list is sorted, cannot be expressed. In future work we thus plan to investigate how a logic can be set up where

- methods are specified by pre-/post-conditions that explicitly state invariance properties during execution of the method code.
- methods can be specified by pre-/post-conditions that can refer to other methods. This is important for simulating methods that act like higher-order functions (e.g. the map function for lists).
- methods can have additional parameters.
- method update is allowed. In the setting of Abadi and Leino this would require that the new method body satisfies the old specification (in order to establish invariance). More useful would be a “behavioural” update where result and transition specifications of the overriding method are subspecifications of the original method.

The results established in this paper pave the way for the above line of research.

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