

Compositional Type Systems for Stack-Based Low-Level Languages

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- Here, we develop these ideas further, and consider an operand stack based language PUSH
 - More demanding since stack errors can occur
 - Makes sense to study type systems for attesting code safety

- The instructions $instr \in \mathbf{Instr}$ are given by the grammar

$$instr ::= \text{load } x \mid \text{store } x \mid \text{push } n \\ \mid \text{add} \mid \text{eq} \mid \dots \mid \text{goto } \ell \mid \text{gotoF } \ell$$

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- States (ℓ, ζ, σ) are triples of a label (value of the pc), stack and store. Stacks are lists of integers and booleans. Store is a mapping from register names to values.

Single-step reduction rules of PUSH

$$\frac{(l, \text{store } x) \in c \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}}{c \vdash (l, n :: \zeta, \sigma) \rightarrow (l + 1, \zeta, \sigma[x \mapsto n])} \text{store}$$

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The associated multi-step reduction relation \rightarrow^* is the reflexive-transitive closure of the single-step relation.

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$$sc ::= (\ell, instr) \mid \mathbf{0} \mid sc_0 \oplus sc_1$$

- Domain $\text{dom}(sc)$ of a piece of code sc is the set of all labels in the code
- A piece of code is wellformed iff the labels of all of its instructions are different

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 - We introduce a special abnormal evaluation relation.
 - (Alternatively, the evaluation relation could be indexed by a doubleton)

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$$\frac{\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \zeta' \in (\mathbb{Z} \cup \mathbb{B})^*. \zeta \neq n :: \zeta'}{(l, \zeta, \sigma) \succ (l, \text{store } x) \rightarrow (l, \zeta, \sigma)}$$

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- Normal termination guarantees the pc to be outside of the domain of the code in the final state.
- Abnormal termination guarantees the pc to be in the domain of the code in the final state.
- The semantics of a structured piece of code does not depend on the way it is structured

From natural semantics to Hoare logic

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- State contains a pc value and a stack; we use individual constants pc and st to refer to them in assertions.
- The logic we define is an error-free partial-correctness logic.

Hoare rules

$$\frac{\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (pc = l \wedge Q[pc, st \mapsto l + 1, x :: st]) \\ \vee (pc \neq l \wedge Q) \end{array} \right\}}{(l, \text{load } x) \{ Q \}}$$

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Example

$$\frac{\{ pc = 1 \wedge \text{head}(x :: st) = 5 \}}{(1, \text{load } x) \{ \text{head}(st) = 5 \}}$$

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$$\frac{\{pc \in \text{dom}(sc_0) \wedge P\} sc_0 \{P\} \quad \{pc \in \text{dom}(sc_1) \wedge P\} sc_1 \{P\}}{\{P\} sc_0 \oplus sc_1 \{pc \notin \text{dom}(sc_0) \wedge pc \notin \text{dom}(sc_1) \wedge P\}}$$

...

Theorem (Soundness of Hoare logic)

If $\{P\} \text{sc} \{Q\}$ and $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \models_{\alpha} P$, then

- *for any (ℓ', ζ', σ') such that $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \succ\text{sc} \rightarrow (\ell', \zeta', \sigma')$, we have $(\ell', \zeta', \sigma') \models_{\alpha} Q$*
- *and (ii) there is no (ℓ', ζ', σ') such that $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \succ\text{sc} \rightarrow (\ell', \zeta', \sigma')$.*

Theorem (Completeness of Hoare logic)

If, for any (ℓ, ζ, σ) and α such that $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \models_{\alpha} P$, it holds that

- *for any (ℓ', ζ', σ') such that $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \succ\text{sc} \rightarrow (\ell', \zeta', \sigma')$, we have $(\ell', \zeta', \sigma') \models_{\alpha} Q$*
- *there is no (ℓ', ζ', σ') such that $(\ell, \zeta, \sigma) \succ\text{sc} \rightarrow (\ell', \zeta', \sigma')$*

then $\{P\} \text{sc} \{Q\}$.

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- Intuitive meaning of a typing: if a given piece of code is run from an initial state in a given pretype, then
 - if it terminates normally, the final state is in the posttype
 - it cannot terminate abnormally.

Type system for SPUSH for error-freedom

- Value types $\tau \in \mathbf{ValType}$ and stack types $\Psi \in \mathbf{StackType}$ are defined by the grammars

$$\tau ::= \perp \mid \text{int} \mid \text{bool} \mid ?$$
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- A state type Π is wellformed iff no label in it labels more than one stack type
- We will use the notation $\Pi \upharpoonright_L$ for the restriction of a state type Π to a domain $L \subseteq \mathbf{Label}$, i.e.,
 $\Pi \upharpoonright_L =_{\text{df}} \{(l, \Psi) \mid (l, \Psi) \in \Pi, l \in L\}$.

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$$\langle \Pi \rangle =_{\text{df}} \{(\ell, \psi) \mid (\ell, \Psi) \in \Pi, \psi \in \langle \Psi \rangle\}$$

Subtyping rules

$$\overline{\tau \leq \tau}$$

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$$\overline{\tau \leq ?}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\Psi \leq \Psi} \\ \overline{\tau \leq \tau} \quad \overline{\perp \leq \tau} \quad \overline{\tau \leq ?} \\ \frac{\Psi \leq \Psi'' \quad \Psi'' \leq \Psi'}{\Psi \leq \Psi'} \quad \overline{\perp :: \Psi \leq \perp} \quad \overline{\tau :: \perp \leq \perp} \end{array}$$

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Typing rules

$$\frac{}{(l, \text{load } x) : \bigcup \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \{(l, \Psi) \mid (l+1, \tau :: \Psi) \in \Pi, \text{int} \leq \tau\} \\ \{(l, *) \mid (l+1, *) \in \Pi \cup \Pi \uparrow_{\overline{\{l}\}}\} \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \Pi}$$

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$$\frac{\Pi'_0 \leq \Pi_0 \quad \text{sc} : \Pi_0 \longrightarrow \Pi_1 \quad \Pi_1 \leq \Pi'_1}{\text{sc} : \Pi'_0 \longrightarrow \Pi'_1}$$

Abstract natural semantics

- The type system is sound wrt the natural semantics, but it isn't (cannot) be complete.

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Example

```
1 push false
2 gotoF 4
3 store x
```


Abstract natural semantics

- The type system is sound wrt the natural semantics, but it isn't (cannot) be complete.
 - We define *abstract* natural semantics to show the completeness of the type system
 - The abstract semantics is a straightforward rewrite of the concrete semantics to work on abstract states

Abstract natural semantics of SPUSH

- Abstract states $(l, \psi) \in \mathbf{AbsState}$ are pairs of labels and abstract stacks: $\mathbf{AbsState} =_{df} \mathbf{Label} \times \mathbf{AbsStack}$.
Abstract stack is a stack of (names of) value types:
 $\mathbf{AbsStack} =_{df} \{\text{int}, \text{bool}\}^*$.
- Abstract natural semantics rules:

$$\frac{}{(l, \psi) \succ (l, \text{load } x) \rightarrow (l + 1, \text{int} :: \psi)}$$

$$\frac{}{(l, \text{int} :: \psi) \succ (l, \text{store } x) \rightarrow (l + 1, \psi)}$$

$$\frac{\forall \psi' \in \{\text{int}, \text{bool}\}^*. \psi \neq \text{int} :: \psi'}{(l, \psi) \succ (l, \text{store } x) \rightarrow \nrightarrow (l, \psi)}$$

...

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- Typing is sound wrt the concrete and abstract natural semantics.
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- Typing is sound wrt the concrete and abstract natural semantics.
- Typing is complete wrt abstract natural semantics.
- Besides type systems for stack and type error freedom, compositional type systems presenting data flow analysis can also be devised

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- An example - type system for secure information flow

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AbsState $=_{df}$ **Label** $\times D \times$ **AbsStack** \times **AbsStore**.
- An abstract stack is a list of security levels. An abstract store records the security levels of the variables.

Abstract natural semantics fo secure information flow

$$\frac{}{(l, d, \psi, \Sigma) \succ (l, \text{load } x) \rightarrow (l + 1, d, \Sigma(x) \vee d :: \psi, \Sigma)} \text{load}_{\text{ans}}$$

$$\frac{}{(l, d, d' :: \psi, \Sigma) \succ (l, \text{store } x) \rightarrow (l + 1, d, \psi, \Sigma[x \mapsto d' \vee d])} \text{store}_{\text{ans}}$$

...

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \ell \in \text{dom}(\text{sc}_i) \quad (l, d, \psi, \Sigma) \succ \text{sc}_i \rightarrow (l'', d'', \psi'', \Sigma'') \\ (l'', d'', \psi'', \Sigma'') \succ \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \rightarrow (l', d', \psi', \Sigma') \quad \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \text{ single-exit} \end{array}}{(l, d, \psi, \Sigma) \succ \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \rightarrow (l', d, \psi', \Sigma')} \oplus_{\text{ans}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \ell \in \text{dom}(\text{sc}_i) \quad (l, d, \psi, \Sigma) \succ \text{sc}_i \rightarrow (l'', d'', \psi'', \Sigma'') \\ (l'', d'', \psi'', \Sigma'') \succ \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \rightarrow (l', d', \psi', \Sigma') \quad \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \text{ multiple-exit} \end{array}}{(l, d, \psi, \Sigma) \succ \text{sc}_0 \oplus \text{sc}_1 \rightarrow (l', d', \psi', \Sigma')} \oplus_{\text{ans}}$$

...

Types system for secure information flow

$$\frac{}{(l, \text{store } x) : \bigcup \Pi \upharpoonright_{\{\ell\}} \xrightarrow{\text{store}_{\text{ts}}} \Pi} \{(\ell, \Sigma(x) \wedge d, \Sigma(x) :: \Psi, \Sigma) \mid (\ell + 1, d, \Psi, \Sigma) \in \Pi\} \longrightarrow \Pi$$

...

$$\frac{sc_0 : \Pi \upharpoonright_{\text{dom}(sc_0)} \longrightarrow \Pi \quad sc_1 : \Pi \upharpoonright_{\text{dom}(sc_1)} \longrightarrow \Pi \quad sc_0 \oplus sc_1 \text{ multiple-exit}}{sc_0 \oplus sc_1 : \Pi \longrightarrow \Pi \upharpoonright_{\text{dom}(sc_0 \oplus sc_1)}} \oplus_{\text{ts}}$$

Conclusion

- The original idea of structuring low level languages to obtain a compositional Hoare logic applies to stack based languages.
- The logic can be weakened to type system attesting code safety, but also to type systems reflecting dataflow analysis.
- Abnormal termination can be handled without a problem.