

**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

**Winter 2024 Examination Period**

**SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Second Year PRACTICE Examination for the Degrees  
of  
Bachelor of Science  
Master of Engineering**

**COMS20007W  
Programming Languages and Computation**

**TIME ALLOWED:  
3 Hours**

**Answers to COMS20007W: Programming Languages and  
Computation**

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

**Q1.** This question is about syntax.

- \*(a) Consider the following grammar over terminal symbols  $\{a, b\}$ :

$$S \longrightarrow aSa \mid bSb \mid \epsilon$$

- i. Give two examples of words over  $\{a, b\}$  that are derivable in the grammar.
- ii. Give two examples of words over  $\{a, b\}$  that are not derivable in the grammar.
- iii. Is the following statement true or false? Every word derivable in the grammar has even length.

[5 marks]

**Solution:**

- i. For example:  $\epsilon$ ,  $aa$
- ii. For example:  $ab$ ,  $ba$
- iii. True

- \*(b) Consider each of the following grammars over the alphabet  $\{a, b, c\}$ . In each case, the start symbol is  $S$ .

1.

$$S \longrightarrow aSaS \mid bS \mid cS \mid \epsilon$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow TabbT \mid TbbaT \\ T &\longrightarrow aT \mid bT \mid cT \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

3.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow bTb \\ T &\longrightarrow aT \mid bT \mid cT \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

4.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow XSX \mid \epsilon \\ X &\longrightarrow a \mid b \mid c \end{aligned}$$

5.

$$S \longrightarrow bS \mid cS \mid \epsilon$$

Match each of the following descriptions of languages to the regular expression above that denotes it:

- i. The language of all words that start and end with  $b$ .
- ii. The language of all words that do not contain  $a$ .
- iii. The language of all even length words.
- iv. The language of all words containing an even number of  $a$ .
- v. The language of all words that either contain  $abb$  or  $bba$  as a substring.

[5 marks]

**Solution:**

- i. 3
- ii. 5
- iii. 4
- iv. 1
- v. 2

\* (c) Consider the following grammar for the syntax of Combinatory Logic:

$$M \longrightarrow \text{var} \mid k \mid s \mid M M \mid ( M )$$

whose 5 terminal symbols are:

$$\text{var} \quad k \quad s \quad ( \quad )$$

The nullable, first and follow maps for the non-terminals are:

- $\text{Nullable}(M) = \text{false}$
- $\text{First}(M) = \{\text{var}, k, s, (\}$
- $\text{Follow}(M) = \{\text{var}, k, s, (, )\}$
- i. Draw the parsing table for this grammar.
- ii. Is the grammar LL(1)?

[10 marks]

**Solution:**

i. As follows:

Nonterminal	var	k	s	(	)
$M$	$M \longrightarrow \text{var}$ $M \longrightarrow SS$	$M \longrightarrow k$ $M \longrightarrow SS$	$M \longrightarrow s$ $M \longrightarrow SS$	$M \longrightarrow (M)$ $M \longrightarrow SS$	

ii. No

\*\* (d) For each of the following sets of words over  $\{a, b\}$ , design a context-free grammar that expresses the set:

- i. All words whose length is a multiple of 3, e.g. *abb*, *ababba*.
- ii. All words that start and end with a different letter, e.g. *abbaab*.
- iii. All words that contain a letter *b* exactly two places from the end, e.g. *aabab*, *baa*.
- iv. All words that do not contain the substring *aa*.

[6 marks]

(cont.)

**Solution:**

i.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow XXXS \mid \epsilon \\ X &\longrightarrow a \mid b \end{aligned}$$

ii.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow aTb \mid bTa \\ T &\longrightarrow aT \mid bT \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

iii.

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow TbXX \\ T &\longrightarrow XT \mid \epsilon \\ X &\longrightarrow a \mid b \end{aligned}$$

iv.

$$S \longrightarrow bS \mid a \mid abS \mid \epsilon$$

\*\* (e) Give an LL(1) grammar equivalent to the following context-free grammar:

$$S \longrightarrow \emptyset \mid ( S ) \mid \text{atom} \mid S \cup S \mid S \cap S \mid S^c$$

whose terminal symbols are:

$$\emptyset \quad ( \quad ) \quad \text{atom} \quad \cup \quad \cap \quad ^c$$

[4 marks]

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow A T \\ T &\longrightarrow \cup A T \mid \cap A T \mid ^c T \mid \epsilon \\ A &\longrightarrow \emptyset \mid ( S ) \mid \text{atom} \end{aligned}$$

\*\*\* (f) Show that the following language over  $\{0,1\}$  can be expressed by a context-free grammar and justify your construction.

$$\{1^k w \mid k \geq 1, w \in \Sigma^*, \#_1(w) \geq k\}$$

where  $\#_1(v)$  counts the number of 1 characters in the word  $v$ , e.g.  $\#_1(00101110) = 3$ .

[5 marks]

**Solution:** This language can be expressed by:

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow 1T1T \\ T &\longrightarrow 1T \mid 0T \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that this grammar expresses the language of words that start with a 1 and contain at least two 1s. Clearly, every word derivable in this grammar is in

the above language, by taking  $k = 1$ . To see why every word in the above language is derivable: suppose I have a word  $1^k w$  in the language, then this word can also be written as  $1^1 v$  for  $v = 1^{k-1} w$ . Since  $\#_1(w) \geq k \geq 1$ , there is at least one 1 in  $v$ , hence the whole word is derivable in the grammar.

\*\*\* (g) Define the following indexed family of words  $w_i$  by recursion on  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$w_0 = a$$

$$w_{k+1} = a + w_k$$

For example,  $w_3 = a + a + a + a$  and  $w_5 = a + a + a + a + a + a$ .

Prove that every word in the language  $\{w_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is derivable in the following grammar (whose start symbol is  $S$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} S &\longrightarrow a U \\ U &\longrightarrow + a U \mid \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

[5 marks]

**Solution:** If you try to prove this directly by induction on  $n$ , you will find it difficult to use the induction hypothesis, so instead we do the following. We show that, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  the word  $+w_n$  is derivable in the grammar starting from non-terminal  $U$ . For example, the word  $+w_1$ , which is exactly  $+a + a$ , is derivable from  $U$  by  $U \rightarrow + a U \rightarrow + a + a U \rightarrow + a + a$ . The proof that this is true for all  $n$  is by induction on  $n$ .

- When  $n = 0$ ,  $+w_n = +a$  and this can be derived as  $U \rightarrow + a U \rightarrow + a$ .
- When  $n$  is of shape  $k + 1$ ,  $+w_n = + a + w_k$ . We may assume the induction hypothesis, namely that  $+ w_k$  is derivable from  $U$ , i.e.  $U \rightarrow^* + w_k$ . Then we can derive  $+w_n$  since  $U \rightarrow + a U \rightarrow^* + a + w_k$ , as required.

Then, it follows that every word  $w_n$  is derivable from  $S$  by case analysis on  $n$ . When  $n = 0$ , we can derive  $S \rightarrow a U \rightarrow a$ . When  $n$  is of shape  $k + 1$ , we can derive  $S \rightarrow a U$  and then, by the previous result, we have  $U \rightarrow^* + w_k$ . Glueing these together we get  $S \rightarrow a U \rightarrow^* a + w_k$  and  $a + w_k$  is exactly  $w_n$ .

**Q2.** This question is about semantics.

\* (a) For each of the following, indicate whether it represents a valid arithmetic expression, a valid Boolean expression, or neither. In each case, if the expression is valid, evaluate the appropriate denotation function in the state  $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2, z \mapsto 3]$ .

- i.  $x + 10 < 6 * (-42 - y)$
- ii.  $x \leftarrow z - (42 + y)$
- iii.  $\text{true} \ \&\& \ (\text{false} \ || \ 42 * x < 0)$
- iv.  $\text{true} = \text{true}$
- v.  $w * 2 = c + d$

[5 marks]

**Solution:**

i. **Boolean expression**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \llbracket x + 10 < 6 * (-42 - y) \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
 &= \llbracket x + 10 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) < \llbracket 6 * (-42 - y) \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\
 &= \sigma(x) + 10 < 6 * (-42 - \sigma(y)) \\
 &= 11 < -240 \\
 &= \perp
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma = [x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2, z \mapsto 3]$ .

ii. **Neither (statement)**

iii. **Boolean expression**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \llbracket \text{true} \ \&\& \ (\text{false} \ || \ 42 * x < 0) \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
 &= \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \wedge \llbracket \text{false} \ || \ 42 * x < 0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
 &= \top \wedge (\perp \vee \llbracket 42 * x < 0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma)) \\
 &= \top \wedge (\perp \vee \llbracket 42 * x \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) < \llbracket 0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)) \\
 &= \top \wedge (\perp \vee (42 * \sigma(x)) < 0) \\
 &= \top \wedge (\perp \vee 42 < 0) \\
 &= \top \wedge (\perp \vee \perp) \\
 &= \perp
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma = [x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2, z \mapsto 3]$ .

iv. **Neither**

v. **Boolean expression**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \llbracket w * 2 = c + d \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
 &= \llbracket w * 2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket c + d \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\
 &= (\sigma(w) * 2) = (\sigma(c) + \sigma(d)) \\
 &= 0 = 0 \\
 &= \top
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sigma = [x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2, z \mapsto 3]$ .

- \*\* (b) Suppose we add a new form of arithmetic expressions — the *integer exponentiation* operator so that the grammar of arithmetic expressions is now defined as follows:

$$A \longrightarrow n \mid x \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A \mid A \wedge A$$

We extended the denotation function for arithmetic expressions with the equation:

$$\llbracket e_1 \wedge e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) < 0 \\ \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)^{\llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- i. Find two arithmetic expressions  $e_1 \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $e_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  such that the arithmetic expression  $x \wedge (e_1 + e_2)$  is *not* semantically equivalent to the arithmetic expression  $(x \wedge e_1) \cdot (x \wedge e_2)$ .
- ii. Prove that the arithmetic expression  $e \wedge 2$  is semantically equivalent to the arithmetic expression  $e * e$  for an any given arithmetic expression  $e \in \mathcal{A}$ .
- iii. Let  $S_1 \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $S_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  be arbitrary While statements. Prove that “if  $x = 1$  then  $x \leftarrow x \wedge x$ ;  $S_1$  else  $S_2$ ,  $\sigma$ ”  $\rightarrow^* \sigma'$  if, and only if, the statement “if  $x = 1$  then  $S_1$  else  $S_2$ ,  $\sigma$ ”  $\rightarrow^* \sigma'$ .

[10 marks]

**Solution:**

- i. The arithmetic expressions  $x \wedge (-1 + -1)$  will evaluate to 1 in any state but the expression  $(x \wedge -1) \cdot (x \wedge -1)$  will evaluate to 0 in any state. Any instance in which one of the exponents is below zero should suffice.
- ii. Let  $e \in \mathcal{A}$  be an arithmetic expression and  $\sigma \in \text{State}$  an arbitrary state. By definition  $\llbracket e \wedge 2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)$  will evaluate to  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)^2$  and equally  $\llbracket e * e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \cdot \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)^2$ . Therefore, they are semantically equivalent.
- iii. Let  $S_1 \in \mathcal{S}$  and  $S_2 \in \mathcal{S}$  be arbitrary While statements. Suppose that  $\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow^* \sigma'$  for some  $\sigma, \sigma' \in \text{State}$ . By definition, there are two cases to consider:

- In the first case, we have that  $\llbracket x = 1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \top$ , i.e.  $\sigma(x) = 1$ , and a trace of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ & \rightarrow \langle x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ & \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ & \rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{as } \sigma[x \mapsto \llbracket x \wedge x \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)] = \sigma[x \mapsto 1] = \sigma.$$

Therefore, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ & \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ & \rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

(cont.)

as required.

- In the second case, we have that  $\llbracket x = 1 \rrbracket_B(\sigma) = \perp$ , and a trace of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

as required.

Conversely, let us suppose that  $\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow^* \sigma'$  for some  $\sigma, \sigma' \in \text{State}$ . As before, there are two cases to consider:

- In the first case, we have that  $\llbracket x = 1 \rrbracket_B(\sigma) = \top$ , i.e.  $\sigma(x) = 1$ , and a trace of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

as  $\sigma[x \mapsto \llbracket x \wedge x \rrbracket_A(\sigma)] = \sigma[x \mapsto 1] = \sigma$ .

- In the second case, we have that  $\llbracket x = 1 \rrbracket_B(\sigma) = \perp$ , and a trace of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \text{if } x = 1 \text{ then } x \leftarrow x \wedge x; S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma \rangle \\ &\rightarrow^* \sigma' \end{aligned}$$

as required.



\*\*\* (c) Consider the While program shown in Figure 1.

```

while  $b \leq a$  do
   $a \leftarrow a - b$ ;
   $q \leftarrow q + 1$ 

```

Figure 1: A simple While program

- i. For each of the following states, indicate whether the program terminates when executed in that initial state, and the values of  $q$  and  $a$  in the final state (if it exists). You do not need to state the corresponding trace.
  1.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto 3]$
  2.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto -12]$
  3.  $[a \mapsto 25, b \mapsto 0]$
  4.  $[a \mapsto -25, b \mapsto 10]$
  5.  $[a \mapsto 10, b \mapsto 3]$
- ii. Find a loop invariant  $I$  from which you may conclude:

$$\{a = n \ \&\& \ q = 0\} \ P \ \{n < b * (q + 1)\}$$

for some fixed integer  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Justify why  $I$  is a loop invariant in relation to the strongest post-condition of the loops body, and how it can be used to conclude the above triple.

[15 marks]

**Solution:**

- i.
  1. Terminates with  $q = 8, a = 1$
  2. Does not terminate
  3. Does not terminate
  4. Terminates with  $q = 0, a = -25$
  5. Terminates with  $q = 3, a = 1$
- ii. The loop invariant is  $n = a + b \cdot q$ . To see that this is a loop invariant, we need to show that:

$$\{n = a + b \cdot q \ \&\& \ b \leq a\} a \leftarrow a - b; \ q \leftarrow q + 1 \{n = a + b \cdot q\}$$

The strongest post-condition is  $\exists a' \ q'. n = a' + bq' \ \&\& \ b \leq a' \ \&\& \ q = q' + 1 \ \&\& \ a = a' - b$ . By solving for  $a'$  and  $q'$ , we get  $n = (a + b) + b(q - 1) \ \&\& \ b \leq a + b$ . Therefore,  $n = a + b + bq - b$  i.e.  $n = a + bq$  as required. So  $n = a + b \cdot q$  is a loop invariant.

(cont.)

Therefore, we have that  $\{I\} P \{I \ \&\& \ a < b\}$ . We can weaken this triple to  $\{a = n \ \&\& \ q = 0\} P \{n < b * (q + 1)\}$  as, if  $a = n$  and  $q = 0$ , we have that  $n = a + b \cdot q$  and, if  $n = a + b \cdot q \ \&\& \ a < b$ , then  $n < b + b \cdot q = b \cdot (q + 1)$  as required.

**Q3.** This question is about computability.

\* (a) Show that the function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by

$$f(x) \begin{cases} \simeq 2^x - 1 & \text{if } x \text{ is even} \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is computable.

[5 marks]

**Solution:** The function is computed by the following code with respect to  $x$ .

```
// First determine whether x is even.
r := x;
// Invariant: r = r_0 mod 2 && r >= 0
while (r >= 2) do { r := r - 2; }
if (r = 0) {
  // Then x is even.
  // Invariant: s = 2^j && 0 <= j <= x
  s := 1; j := 0;
  while (j < x) { s := s * 2; j := j + 1 }
  x := s - 1;
}
else {
  // x is not even, loop forever
  while (true) { }
}
r := 0; s := 0; j := 0
```

Award 1 mark for correctly stating the input/output variable; 2 marks for a mostly correct program; 1 mark for the infinite loop when the output is undefined; and 1 mark for setting all auxiliary variables to zero at the end.

\* (b) State whether each of the following statements is true or false.

- The set of prime numbers is decidable.
- If a function has an inverse, it must be an injection.
- Every surjection has an inverse.
- WHILE programs compute partial functions.
- If a function is computable then it must be an injection.

[5 marks]

**Solution:** (i) True (ii) True (iii) False (iv) True. (v) False.

\*\* (c) Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and  $g : B \rightarrow C$ . Show that if  $g \circ f : A \rightarrow C$  is injective, then so is  $f$ .

[3 marks]

(cont.)

**Solution:** Suppose  $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$ . Then  $g(f(a_1)) = g(f(a_2))$ , which is to say that  $(g \circ f)(a_1) = (g \circ f)(a_2)$ . As  $g \circ f$  is injective, it follows that  $a_1 = a_2$ , which is what we wanted to prove.

\*\* (d) Show that the predicate

$$U = \{\ulcorner S \urcorner \mid \text{for all } k \leq 2023 \text{ it is true that } \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k) = \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k+1)\}$$

is semi-decidable. (The use of “=” here means that both sides of the equality must be defined and equal.) [5 marks]

**Solution:** For each  $k = 0, \dots, 2023$  simulate  $S$  on inputs  $k$  and  $k+1$ . Whenever one of these simulations terminates check whether the output of the first is equal to the output of the second; if not, return false and halt. Otherwise, after all the simulations are over, return true. Because this is a semi-decision procedure the simulations need not terminate, in which case nothing is returned.

\*\*\* (e) Show that the predicate

$$V = \{\ulcorner S \urcorner \mid \text{there exists } k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k) = \llbracket S \rrbracket_x(k+1)\}$$

is undecidable (The use of “=” here means that both sides of the equality must be defined and equal.) [5 marks]

**Solution:** Given  $D \in \mathbf{Stmt}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  let

$$S_{D,n} = x := n; D; x := 0$$

This program ignores its input, runs  $D$  on  $n$ , and if that halts outputs 0.

Construct the code transformation  $F : \mathbf{Stmt} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stmt}$  given by

$$F(D, n) = S_{D,n}$$

It is easy to argue that the reflection of this code transformation is computable. We have

$$\langle \ulcorner D \urcorner, n \rangle \in \mathbf{HALT} \iff \ulcorner S_{D,n} \urcorner \in V$$

As the latter is not decidable, neither is the former.

Award 1 mark for recognising that a reduction is the most appropriate proof method; 3 marks for constructing the reduction, and arguing that it is computable; and 1 mark for correctly stating the reduction property in this particular instance.

\*\*\* (f) Show that the following predicate is undecidable:

$$P = \{\ulcorner S_1 \urcorner, \ulcorner S_2 \urcorner \mid \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}: \llbracket S_1 \rrbracket_x(n) \simeq 1 \text{ iff } \llbracket S_2 \rrbracket_x(n) \simeq k \text{ where } k \neq 1\}$$

[7 marks]

**Solution:** We construct a reduction  $f : \text{HALT} \lesssim P$ . If  $P$  were decidable, then we could also decide the Halting Problem for While programs, which is impossible since this problem is known to be undecidable.

We define a code transformation  $F : \mathbf{Stmt} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stmt} \times \mathbf{Stmt}$  by  $F(D, n) = (S, T)$  where

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \mathbf{x} \leftarrow n; D; \mathbf{x} \leftarrow 1 \\ T &= \mathbf{x} \leftarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

We argue that this constitutes a reduction. Recalling that by convention all our programs are assumed to compute wrt  $\mathbf{x}$ , we see that  $D$  halts on input  $n$  iff  $\llbracket S \rrbracket_x(m) \simeq 1$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have that  $\llbracket T \rrbracket_x(n) \simeq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and clearly  $0 \neq 1$ . Hence:

- If  $D$  halts on  $n$  then  $\langle \ulcorner S \urcorner, \ulcorner T \urcorner \rangle \in P$  since, for all  $m$ :

$$\llbracket S \rrbracket_x(m) \simeq 1 \quad \text{iff} \quad \llbracket T \rrbracket_x(m) \simeq 0$$

- but otherwise we have  $\langle \ulcorner S \urcorner, \ulcorner T \urcorner \rangle \notin P$  since there is an  $m$  for which both:

$$\llbracket S \rrbracket_x(m) \not\simeq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \llbracket T \rrbracket_x(m) \simeq 0$$

In fact, our construction ensures that this is true for every  $m$ !

The reflection of this transformation in  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  can be computed by the following algorithm. On input  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ :

1. Decode  $m$  as  $\langle \ulcorner D \urcorner, n \rangle$  to obtain  $D$  and  $n$ .
2. Construct the program  $S_{D,n}$  as:

$$D; \mathbf{x} := 1$$

3. Return  $\langle \ulcorner S_{D,n} \urcorner, \ulcorner \mathbf{x} := 1 \urcorner \rangle$

(cont.)

## Reminder of Important Definitions

### Grammars

A *Context Free Grammar (CFG)* consists of four components:

- An alphabet of *terminal* symbols.
- A finite, non-empty set of *non-terminal* symbols, disjoint from the terminals.
- A finite set of *production rules*.
- A designated non-terminal called the *start symbol*.

A *sentential form*, usually  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$  and so on, is just a finite sequence of terminals and nonterminals.

The sentential form  $\alpha$  can make a *derivation step* to  $\beta$ , written  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ , just if:

- $\alpha$  has shape  $\gamma_1 X \gamma_2$  and  $\beta$  has shape  $\gamma_1 \delta \gamma_2$
- and there is a production rule  $X ::= \delta$  in the grammar

A *derivation sequence* is a non-empty sequence of sentential forms  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}, \alpha_k$  in which consecutive elements of the sequence are derivation steps:

$$\alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \alpha_{k-1} \rightarrow \alpha_k$$

A sentential form  $\beta$  is *derivable* from  $\alpha$ , written  $\alpha \rightarrow^* \beta$  just if there is a derivation sequence starting with  $\alpha$  and ending with  $\beta$ .

We say that a word  $w$  is in the *language of a grammar*  $G$  with start symbol  $S$ , and write  $w \in L(G)$  just if  $S \rightarrow^* w$ .

### Nullable

On nonterminals:

$$\text{Nullable}(X) \text{ iff } X \rightarrow^* \epsilon$$

On sentential forms:

$$\text{Nullable}_s(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } \alpha = \epsilon \\ \text{false} & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } a\beta \\ \text{Nullable}(X) \wedge \text{Nullable}_s(\beta) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \end{cases}$$

## First

On nonterminals:

$$\text{First}(X) = \{a \mid \exists \beta. X \rightarrow^* a\beta\}$$

On sentential forms:

$$\text{First}_s(\alpha) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } \alpha = \epsilon \\ \{a\} & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } a\beta \\ \text{First}(X) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \text{ and } \neg \text{Nullable}(X) \\ \text{First}(X) \cup \text{First}_s(\beta) & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is of shape } X\beta \text{ and } \text{Nullable}(X) \end{cases}$$

## Follow

On nonterminals:

$$\text{Follow}(X) = \{a \mid \exists \alpha\beta. S \rightarrow^* \alpha X a \beta\}$$

## Parse Tables and LL(1)

We define the *parsing table*, usually  $T$ , for a given grammar as a 2d array indexed by pairs of a nonterminal and a terminal. Each entry  $T[X, a]$  is a set of production rules from the grammar, such that some rule  $X \rightarrow \beta$  is in the set  $T[X, a]$  just if, either:

1.  $a \in \text{First}_s(\beta)$
2. or,  $\text{Nullable}_s(\beta)$  and  $a \in \text{Follow}(X)$

A grammar whose parsing table contains at most one rule in each cell is called *LL(1)*.

## Abstract Syntax of Arithmetic Expressions

An *arithmetic expression* is a tree described by the following grammar:

$$A ::= n \mid x \mid A + A \mid A - A \mid A * A$$

where  $n$  ranges over integer literals, and  $x$  ranges over variables. Parentheses are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{A}$  for the set of arithmetic expressions.

## Abstract Syntax of Boolean Expressions

A *Boolean expression* is a tree described by the following grammar.

$$B ::= \text{false} \mid \text{true} \mid !B \mid B \ \&\& \ B \mid B \ || \ B \mid A = A \mid A \leq A$$

Parentheses are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{B}$  for the set of Boolean expressions.

(cont.)

## Abstract Syntax of Statements

A *statement* is a tree described by the following grammar:

$$S ::= \text{skip} \mid x \leftarrow A \mid S; S \mid \text{if } B \text{ then } S \text{ else } S \mid \text{while } B \text{ do } S$$

Braces “ $\{\dots\}$ ” are used to resolve ambiguity and to indicate the structure of the tree. We write  $\mathcal{S}$  for the set of statements.

## States

A *state* is a total function from the set  $\text{State} = \text{Var} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $\text{Var}$  is the set of variables. We write  $[x_1 \mapsto v_1, x_2 \mapsto v_2, \dots, x_n \mapsto v_n]$  to indicate the state that maps the variable  $x_i \in \text{Var}$  to the value  $v_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  for all  $i \leq n$ . By convention, any variable not explicitly mentioned by a given state  $\sigma$  is assigned the value 0.

For a given state  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ , we write  $\sigma[x \mapsto v]$  for some variable  $x \in \text{Var}$  and  $v \in \mathbb{Z}$  to denote the state that maps the variable  $x$  to  $v$  and any other variable  $y$  to the value  $\sigma(y)$ .

## Semantics of Arithmetic Expressions

The denotation function for arithmetic expressions  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}} \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow (\text{State} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$ , which is defined by recursion in Figure 2. We say that two arithmetic expressions  $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  are *semantically equivalent* if, and only if,  $\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)$  for all states  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket n \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= n \\ \llbracket x \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \sigma(x) \\ \llbracket e_1 + e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) + \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 - e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) - \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\ \llbracket e_1 * e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \cdot \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2: Definition of the denotational semantics of arithmetic expressions.

## Semantics of Boolean Expressions

The denotation function for Boolean expressions  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathcal{B} \rightarrow (\text{State} \rightarrow \mathbb{B})$  is defined by recursion in Figure 3. We say that two Boolean expressions  $e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{B}$  are *semantically equivalent* if, and only if,  $\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma)$  for all states  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ .



$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \perp \\
\llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \top \\
\llbracket !e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \neg \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
\llbracket e_1 \ \&\& \ e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \wedge \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
\llbracket e_1 \ \parallel \ e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \vee \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) \\
\llbracket e_1 = e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \\
\llbracket e_1 \leq e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma) \leq \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 3: Definition of the denotational semantics of Boolean expressions.

## Semantics of Statements

The small-step operational semantics relation  $\rightarrow \subseteq \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$  is defined by the rules in Figure 4 where the set of configurations  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(\mathcal{S} \times \text{State}) \cup \text{State}$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\langle \text{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma} \qquad \frac{}{\langle x \leftarrow e, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma[x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)]} \\
\\
\frac{\langle S_1, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \langle S'_1, \sigma_2 \rangle}{\langle S_1; S_2, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \langle S'_1; S_2, \sigma_2 \rangle} \qquad \frac{\langle S_1, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \sigma_2}{\langle S_1; S_2, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma_2 \rangle} \\
\\
\frac{}{\langle \text{if } e \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma \rangle} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \top \\
\\
\frac{}{\langle \text{if } e \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle S_2, \sigma \rangle} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \perp \\
\\
\frac{}{\langle \text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle S; \text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma \rangle} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \top \\
\\
\frac{}{\langle \text{while } e \text{ do } S, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) = \perp
\end{array}$$

Figure 4: Definition of the operational semantics of statements.

## Hoare Triples

A Hoare triple  $\{P\} S \{Q\}$  for  $P, Q \subseteq \text{State}$  asserts that, for any state  $\sigma \in \text{State}$ , if  $\sigma \in P$  and  $\langle S, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow^* \sigma'$ , then  $\sigma' \in Q$ . The sets  $P$  and  $Q$  can be represented as Boolean expressions extended with quantifiers.

The rules for constructing Hoare triples are given in Figure 5.

(cont.)

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\{P\} \text{ skip } \{P\}} \qquad \frac{}{\{P\} x \leftarrow e \{ \exists x'. P[x'/x] \ \&\& \ x = e[x'/x] \}} \\
\\
\frac{\{P\} S_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} S_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} S_1; S_2 \{R\}} \qquad \frac{\{P \ \&\& \ e\} S_1 \{Q_1\} \quad \{P \ \&\& \ !e\} S_2 \{Q_2\}}{\{P\} \text{ if } e \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \{Q_1 \parallel Q_2\}} \\
\\
\frac{\{P \ \&\& \ e\} S \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } S \{P \ \&\& \ !e\}} \qquad \frac{\{P_1\} S \{Q_1\} \quad P_2 \subseteq P_1}{\{P_2\} S \{Q_2\} \quad Q_1 \subseteq Q_2}
\end{array}$$

Figure 5: Rules of Hoare logic.

## Computable Functions

We write  $[x \mapsto n]$  for the state that maps the variable  $x$  to the number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and every other variable to 0.

A ‘while’ program  $S$  *computes* a partial function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  (with respect to  $x$ ) just if  $f(m) \simeq n$  exactly when  $\langle S, [x \mapsto m] \rangle \Downarrow [x \mapsto n]$ .

A function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is *computable* just if there is a program  $S$  that computes  $f$  with respect to the variable  $x$ .

## Predicates

The *characteristic function* of  $U$  is the function

$$\begin{aligned}
\chi_U : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
\chi_U(n) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \in U \\ 0 & \text{if } n \notin U \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

The *semi-characteristic function* of  $U$  is the partial function

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi_U : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\
\xi_U(n) &\begin{cases} \simeq 1 & \text{if } n \in U \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

A predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is *decidable* just if its characteristic function  $\chi_U : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is computable.

The ‘while’ program that computes the characteristic function  $\chi_U$  of a predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is called a *decision procedure*. Any predicate for which there is no decision procedure is called *undecidable*.

A predicate  $U \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is *semi-decidable* just if its semi-characteristic function  $\xi_U$  is computable.

The *Halting Problem* is the following predicate:

$$\text{HALT} = \{\langle \ulcorner S \urcorner, n \rangle \mid \llbracket S \rrbracket_{\mathbf{x}}(n) \downarrow\}$$

## Bijections

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is *injective* (or 1-1) just if for any  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathcal{A}$  we have that  $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$  implies  $a_1 = a_2$ . We sometimes write  $f : A \rightarrowtail B$  whenever  $f$  is an injection.

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is *surjective* just if for any  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  there exists  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $f(a) = b$ . We sometimes write  $f : A \twoheadrightarrow B$  whenever  $f$  is a surjection.

A function  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is a *bijection* just if it is both injective and surjective.

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be a function.  $f$  is an *isomorphism* just if it has an *inverse*. That is, if there exists a function  $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$  such that:

- for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}$  we have  $f^{-1}(f(a)) = a$
- for all  $b \in \mathcal{B}$  we have  $f(f^{-1}(b)) = b$

## Encoding Data

A *pairing function* is a bijection  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$ . We assume that we have a fixed pairing function

$$\langle -, - \rangle : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

with the following inverse:

$$\text{split} : \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$$

## Reflections

Suppose we have two bijections:

$$\phi : A \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N} \quad \psi : B \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

The *reflection* of  $f : A \rightarrow B$  under  $(\phi, \psi)$  is the function

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f} : \mathbb{N} &\rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ \tilde{f}(n) &= \psi(f(\phi^{-1}(n))) \end{aligned}$$

(cont.)

## Gödel Numbering

Let **Stmt** be the set of Abstract Syntax Trees of While. We assume that we have a Gödel numbering

$$\lceil \_ \rceil : \mathbf{Stmt} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{N}$$

which encodes While programs as natural numbers.

A *code transformation* is a function  $f : \mathbf{Stmt} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stmt}$ .

## Universal Function

The *universal function*,  $U$ , is defined as follows:

$$U : \mathbf{Stmt} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$U(P, n) = \llbracket P \rrbracket_x(n)$$

## Reductions

Let  $U, W \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  be predicates, and let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . The function  $f$  is a *many-one reduction* from  $U$  to  $W$  just if it is computable, and it is also the case that

$$n \in U \Leftrightarrow f(n) \in W$$

We may write  $f : U \lesssim V$  (read " $f$  is a reduction from  $U$  to  $V$ ").