Probabilistic Termination by Monadic Affine Sized Typing

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Motivations

- Probabilistic programming languages are more and more pervasive in computer science: modeling uncertainty, robotics, cryptography, machine learning, AI...
- Quantitative notion of termination: almost-sure termination (AST)
- AST has been studied for imperative programs in the last years...
- ...but what about the functional probabilistic languages?

We introduce a monadic, affine sized type system sound for AST.

Sized types: the deterministic case

Simply-typed λ-calculus is strongly normalizing (SN).

No longer true with the letrec construction...

Sized types: a decidable extension of the simple type system ensuring SN for λ-terms with letrec.

See notably:

- Hughes-Pareto-Sabry 1996, *Proving the correctness of reactive systems using sized types*,
- Barthe-Frade-Giménez-Pinto-Uustalu 2004, *Type-based termination of recursive definitions*.

Sized types: the deterministic case

Sizes: $\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{r} \quad ::= \quad \mathfrak{i} \mid \infty \mid \widehat{\mathfrak{s}}$

$+$ size comparison underlying subtyping. Notably $\widehat{\infty} \equiv \infty$.

Idea: k successors = at most k constructors.

- $\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}}$ is 0,
- $\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}}}$ is 0 or S 0,
- ...
- Nat^{∞} is any natural number. Often denoted simply Nat.

The same for lists,...

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Fixpoint rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma, f : \mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{i}} \to \sigma \vdash M : \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}} \to \sigma[\mathfrak{i}/\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}] \qquad \mathfrak{i} \text{ pos } \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{letrec}\ f = M : \mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{s}} \to \sigma[\mathfrak{i}/\mathfrak{s}]}$$

"To define the action of f on size $n+1$,
we only call recursively f on size at most n"

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Typable $\implies$ SN. Proof using reducibility candidates.

Decidable type inference.

Sized types: example in the deterministic case

From Barthe et al. (op. cit.):

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\mathrm{plus} \equiv (\mathsf{letrec} & \mathit{plus}_{:\mathrm{Nat}^{\iota} \to \mathrm{Nat} \to \mathrm{Nat}} = & \\
 & \lambda x_{:\mathrm{Nat}^{\widehat{\iota}}}.\ \lambda y_{:\mathrm{Nat}}.\ \mathsf{case}\ x\ \mathsf{of}\ \{\mathsf{o} \Rightarrow y & \\
 & \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \mid \mathsf{s} \Rightarrow \lambda x'_{:\mathrm{Nat}^{\iota}}.\ \mathsf{s}\ \underbrace{(\mathit{plus}\ x'\ y)}_{:\mathrm{Nat}} & \\
 & \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \} & \\
) : & \mathrm{Nat}^{s} \to \mathrm{Nat} \to \mathrm{Nat} &
\end{array}
$$

The case rule ensures that the size of x' is lesser than the one of x.
Size decreases during recursive calls $\Rightarrow$ SN.

A probabilistic λ-calculus

$$\begin{array}{rcl} M, N, \ldots & ::= & V \mid V\ V \mid \mathsf{let}\ x = M\ \mathsf{in}\ N \mid M \oplus_p N \\ & & \mid \mathsf{case}\ V\ \mathsf{of}\ \{\, \mathsf{S} \to W \mid 0 \to Z \,\} \end{array}$$

$$V, W, Z, \ldots \quad ::= \quad x \mid 0 \mid \mathsf{S}\ V \mid \lambda x.M \mid \mathsf{letrec}\ f = V$$

- Formulation equivalent to λ-calculus with $\oplus_p$, but constrained for technical reasons (A-normal form)
- Restriction to base type Nat for simplicity, but can be extended to general inductive datatypes (as in sized types)

A probabilistic λ-calculus: operational semantics

$$\frac{}{\mathsf{let}\ x\ =\ V\ \mathsf{in}\ M\ \ \to_v\ \ \left\{ (M[x/V])^1 \right\}}$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.M)\ \ V\ \ \to_v\ \ \left\{ (M[x/V])^1 \right\}}$$

$$\frac{}{(\mathsf{letrec}\ f\ =\ V)\ \left(c\ \overrightarrow{W}\right)\ \ \to_v\ \ \left\{ \left(V[f/(\mathsf{letrec}\ f\ =\ V)]\ \left(c\ \overrightarrow{W}\right)\right)^1 \right\}}$$

A probabilistic λ-calculus: operational semantics

$$\frac{}{\mathsf{case}\ \mathsf{S}\ V\ \mathsf{of}\ \{\,\mathsf{S} \to W \ \mid\ 0 \to Z\,\} \ \to_v\ \left\{ (W\ \ V)^1 \right\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\mathsf{case}\ 0\ \mathsf{of}\ \{\,\mathsf{S} \to W \ \mid\ 0 \to Z\,\} \ \to_v\ \left\{ (Z)^1 \right\}}$$

A probabilistic λ-calculus: operational semantics

$$\frac{}{M \ \oplus_p \ N \ \ \rightarrow_v \ \ \{\, M^p,\ N^{1-p} \,\}}$$

$$\frac{M \ \ \rightarrow_v \ \ \{\, L_i^{p_i} \ \mid \ i \in I \,\}}{\mathsf{let}\ x \ = \ M \ \mathsf{in}\ N \ \ \rightarrow_v \ \ \{\, (\mathsf{let}\ x \ = \ L_i \ \mathsf{in}\ N)^{p_i} \ \mid \ i \in I \,\}}$$

A probabilistic λ-calculus: operational semantics

$$\frac{\mathscr{D} \overset{VD}{=} \left\{ M_j^{p_j} \mid j \in J \right\} + \mathscr{D}_V \qquad \forall j \in J, \quad M_j \rightarrow_v \mathscr{E}_j}{\mathscr{D} \rightarrow_v \left(\sum_{j \in J} p_j \cdot \mathscr{E}_j \right) + \mathscr{D}_V}$$

For $\mathscr{D}$ a distribution of terms:

$$[\![\mathscr{D}]\!] = \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left(\left\{ \mathscr{D}_n \mid \mathscr{D} \Rrightarrow_v^n \mathscr{D}_n \right\} \right)$$

where $\Rrightarrow_v^n$ is $\rightarrow_v^n$ followed by projection on values.

We let $[\![M]\!] = [\![\{ M^1 \}]\!]$.

M is AST iff $\sum [\![M]\!] = 1$.

Random walks as probabilistic terms

- Biased random walk:

$$M_{bias} \;=\; \Big(\text{letrec } f \;=\; \lambda x.\text{case } x \text{ of } \Big\{ \mathsf{S} \to \lambda y.f(y) \oplus_{\frac{2}{3}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y))) \;\;\Big|\;\; 0 \to 0 \Big\}\Big)\;\underline{n}$$

- Unbiased random walk:

$$M_{unb} \;=\; \Big(\text{letrec } f \;=\; \lambda x.\text{case } x \text{ of } \Big\{ \mathsf{S} \to \lambda y.f(y) \oplus_{\frac{1}{2}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y))) \;\;\Big|\;\; 0 \to 0 \Big\}\Big)\;\underline{n}$$

$$\sum [\![M_{bias}]\!] \;=\; \sum [\![M_{unb}]\!] \;=\; 1$$

Capture this in a sized type system?

Another term

We also want to capture terms as:

$$M_{nat} \;=\; \Big(\mathsf{letrec}\ f \;=\; \lambda x.x \oplus_{\frac{1}{2}} \mathsf{S}\ (f\ x)\Big)\ 0$$

of semantics

$$[\![\, M_{nat} \,]\!] \;=\; \Big\{(0)^{\frac{1}{2}}, (\mathsf{S}\ 0)^{\frac{1}{4}}, (\mathsf{S}\ \mathsf{S}\ 0)^{\frac{1}{8}}, \ldots\Big\}$$

summing to 1.

Beyond SN terms, towards distribution types

First idea: extend the sized type system with:

$$\text{Choice} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \qquad \Gamma \vdash N : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash M \oplus_p N : \sigma}$$

and "unify" types of M and N by subtyping.

Kind of product interpretation of $\oplus$: we can't capture more than SN...

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and "unify" types of M and N by subtyping.

We get at best

$$f \;:\; \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}}} \to \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty} \;\vdash\; \lambda y.f(y) \oplus_{\frac{1}{2}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y))) \;:\; \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}} \to \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}$$

and can't use a variation of the letrec rule on that.

Beyond SN terms, towards distribution types

We will use distribution types, built as follows:

$$\text{Choice} \quad \frac{\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash M : \mu \qquad \Gamma \mid \Psi \vdash N : \nu \qquad \{\!|\, \mu \,|\!\} = \{\!|\, \nu \,|\!\}}{\Gamma \mid \Theta \oplus_p \Psi \vdash M \oplus_p N : \mu \oplus_p \nu}$$

Now

$$f : \left\{ \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{i}} \to \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}}} \to \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$$

$$\vdash$$

$$\lambda y. f(y) \oplus_{\frac{1}{2}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y))) \quad : \quad \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}} \to \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}$$

Designing the fixpoint rule

$$f \; : \; \left\{ \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{i}} \rightarrow \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}},\; \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}}} \rightarrow \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$$

$$\vdash$$

$$\lambda y.f(y) \oplus_{\frac{1}{2}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y))) \;\; : \;\; \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}} \rightarrow \mathsf{Nat}^{\infty}$$

induces a random walk on $\mathbb{N}$:

- on $n+1$, move to n with probability $\frac{1}{2}$, on $n+2$ with probability $\frac{1}{2}$,
- on 0, loop.

The type system ensures that there is no recursive call from size 0.

Random walk AST (= reaches 0 with proba 1) $\Rightarrow$ termination.

Designing the fixpoint rule

$$
\text{LetRec} \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c} \{\!|\, \Gamma \,|\!\} = \mathsf{Nat} \\ \mathfrak{i} \notin \Gamma \text{ and } \mathfrak{i} \text{ positive in } \nu \\ \left\{ (\mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{s}_j} \to \nu[\mathfrak{i}/\mathfrak{s}_j])^{p_j} \;\middle|\; j \in J \right\} \text{ induces an AST sized walk} \\ \Gamma \,|\, f : \left\{ (\mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{s}_j} \to \nu[\mathfrak{i}/\mathfrak{s}_j])^{p_j} \;\middle|\; j \in J \right\} \vdash V : \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}} \to \nu[\mathfrak{i}/\widehat{\mathfrak{i}}] \end{array}}{\Gamma \,|\, \emptyset \vdash \mathsf{letrec}\ f = V : \mathsf{Nat}^{\mathfrak{r}} \to \nu[\mathfrak{i}/\mathfrak{r}]}
$$

Sized walk: AST is checked by an external PTIME procedure.

Generalized random walks and the necessity of affinity

A crucial feature: our type system is affine.

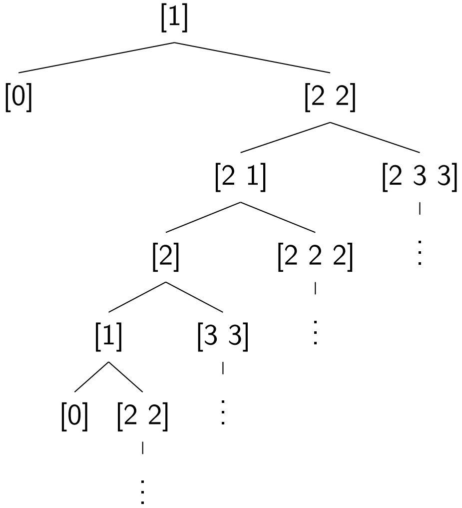
Higher-order symbols occur at most once. Consider:

$$M_{naff} \quad = \quad \text{letrec } f \ = \ \lambda x.\text{case } x \text{ of } \Big\{ \mathsf{S} \to \lambda y.f(y) \oplus_{\frac{2}{3}} (f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y)\,;\, f(\mathsf{S}\,\mathsf{S}\,y)) \ \ \Big| \ \ 0 \to 0 \Big\}$$

The induced sized walk is AST.

Generalized random walks and the necessity of affinity

Tree of recursive calls, starting from 1:



Leftmost edges have probability $\frac{2}{3}$; rightmost ones $\frac{1}{3}$.

This random process is not AST.

Problem: modelisation by sized walk only makes sense for affine programs.

Key property I: subject reduction

Main idea: reduction of

$$\emptyset \mid \emptyset \vdash 0 \oplus 0 \,:\, \left\{ \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{s}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \left(\mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{r}}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$$

is to

$$\left\{ \left(0 \,:\, \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{s}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \left(0 \,:\, \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{r}}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$$

1. Same expectation type: $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\mathfrak{s}}} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \mathsf{Nat}^{\widehat{\widehat{\mathfrak{r}}}}$
2. Splitting of $[\![\, 0 \oplus 0 \,]\!]$ in a typed representation $\to$ notion of pseudo-representation

Key property I: subject reduction

Theorem

Let $M \in \Lambda_{\oplus}$ *be such that* $\emptyset \,|\, \emptyset \vdash M \,:\, \mu$*. Then there exists a closed typed distribution* $\left\{ (W_j \,:\, \sigma_j)^{p'_j} \;\middle|\; j \in J \right\}$ *such that*

- $\mathbb{E}\left((W_j \,:\, \sigma_j)^{p'_j} \right) \preccurlyeq \mu$,
- *and that* $\left[(W_j)^{p'_j} \;\middle|\; j \in J \right]$ *is a pseudo-representation of* $[\![M]\!]$.

By the soundness theorem of next slide, this inequality is in fact an equality.

Key properties

Theorem (Typing soundness)

If $\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash M : \mu$, then M is AST.

Proof by reducibility, using set of candidates parametrized by probabilities.

Conclusion

Main features of the type system:

- Affine type system with distributions of types
- Sized walks induced by the letrec rule and solved by an external PTIME procedure
- Subject reduction + soundness for AST

Next steps:

- type inference (decidable again??)
- extensions with refinement types, non-affine terms

Thank you for your attention!

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Thank you for your attention!