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Domain-specific transition systems and their application to a formal definition of a model programming language^{*}

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Abstract. The paper presents a new object model of domain-specific transition systems, a formalism designed for the specification and validation of formal methods for assuring software reliability. A formal definition of a model programming language is given on the basis of this model.

Keywords: state transition systems, domain-specific transition systems, operational semantics.

1. Introduction

Assuring software reliability is an urgent problem of the theory and practice of programming. Formal methods play an important role in solving this problem. Currently, there are quite a lot of reliable software development tools based on formal methods. They cover many aspects, from design and prototyping of software systems to their formal specification and verification.

However, while in the Semantic Web there is a tendency to integrate heterogeneous data and services, in the reliable software development we are still dealing with a set of separate tools, each of which covers only certain specific aspects of the development and, as a rule, is designed for use only with a small number of computer languages. The gap between the great potential of formal methods and, with a rare exception, toy examples of their application is also noticeable [11]. Among the obstacles that prevent a widespread introduction of formal methods to software development, we note the difficulties to master them, the high price of their introduction, and the fact that the software engineers and programmers are skeptical about them. Insufficient attention is also focused on the technological aspects of the development of formal semantics of computer languages, which plays an important role in assuring the software reliability.

A unified approach to assuring the software reliability which covers the stages of software development such as prototyping, design, specification, and verification of software systems was proposed in [10, 6, 2]. This approach was also used to develop a formal operational semantics and safety logic

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(a variant of axiomatic semantics) of computer languages [5]. It is based on a special kind of transition systems, domain-specific transition systems (DSTSs).

DSTSs can also be considered as "technological" abstract state machines [8], in which the rules for defining the states and the transition relation are explicitly specified. In this case, DSTSs provide a higher level of abstraction in specifying software systems in comparison with the implementation languages of abstract state machines ASML [7] and XASM [9].

The Atoment language for specification of DSTSs and the sublanguages for specification of particular kinds of DSTSs focused on solving the tasks of reliable software development were presented in [6, 4, 3]. The Atomentoriented object model of DSTSs was presented in [1]. In this paper, we describe the language-independent object model of DSTS and apply it to define formally a model programming language.

2. Preliminaries

Let int, nat, and bool denote the set of integers, the set of natural numbers, and the set {true, false}, respectively.

Let Set^* denote the set of all finite sequences consisting of the elements of a set Set, Set^+ denote the set of all finite nonempty sequences consisting of the elements of Set, and pset(Set) denote the set of all subsets of Set. Let empseq denote the empty sequence, and $El_1 \ldots El_N$ denote the sequence consisting of the elements El_1, \ldots, El_N . Let len(Seq), Seq.I, first(Seq), and last(Seq) denote the length of a sequence Seq and its *I*-th, first, and last elements, respectively.

Let $Set \to Set'$ denote the set of all functions from Set to Set', and $Set \to_t Set'$ denote the set of all total functions from Set to Set'. Let $\operatorname{dom}(Fun)$ denote the domain of a function Fun, and und denote the indeterminate value. We assume that $Fun(Arg) = \operatorname{und}$, if $Arg \notin \operatorname{dom}(Fun)$. Let $\operatorname{dom}(Fun) \cap \operatorname{dom}(Fun') = \emptyset$. The union $Fun \cup Fun'$ of the functions Fun and Fun' is defined as the function Fun'' such that $\operatorname{dom}(Fun'') =$ $\operatorname{dom}(Fun) \cup \operatorname{dom}(Fun')$, Fun''(Arg) = Fun(Arg) for $Arg \in \operatorname{dom}(Fun)$, and Fun''(Arg) = Fun'(Arg) for $Arg \in \operatorname{dom}(Fun')$. Let $\operatorname{range}(Fun)$ denote the range of Fun, i.e. the set $\{Fun(Arg) \mid Arg \in \operatorname{dom}(Fun)\}$. Let $\operatorname{graph}(Fun)$ denote the graph of Fun, i.e. the set $\{(Arg, Fun(Arg)) \mid Arg \in \operatorname{dom}(Fun)\}$.

The boolean function odif is defined as follows: odif(Fun, Fun', Set) =true if and only if Fun(Arg) = Fun'(Arg) for $Arg \notin Set$. Thus, the values of the functions Fun and Fun' may differ only at the elements of Set.

We say that Set is defined by the functions Fun_1, \ldots, Fun_N , if $dom(Fun_I) = Set$ for each $1 \leq I \leq N$, and information about Set is specified only by these functions. For simplicity, we will omit the only argument of these functions where it will not cause collisions. For example, we can write

 Fun_1 instead of $Fun_1(El)$ for some implicit argument $El \in Set$.

3. The main concepts of the theory of domain-specific transition systems

The set dsts of domain-specific transition systems is defined by the functions el, par, elgen, frm, match, and atom.

The set el(Dsts) of elements includes integers and boolean values, i.e. $int \cup bool \subset el$. The element sequences (in particular, elements as oneelement sequences) have static and dynamic semantics. The static semantics of *Elseq* defines the value $val(Elseq, St) \in el$ returned by *Elseq* in the current state *St* of the system *Dsts*. The function val and the set st of states are defined below. In this case, *Elseq* can be considered as a query to *Dsts* to get information about the current state *St* of the system *Dsts*. The dynamic semantics of *Elseq* defines how *Elseq* change the current state of *Dsts*, i.e. it defines the set of states to which *Dsts* can go from the current state by *Elseq*. In this case, *Elseq* can be considered as an instruction controlling the state of *Dsts*.

The set par(Dsts) of parameters, where $par(Dsts) \subseteq el$, is defined by the functions vkind, skind, and catched such that $skind(Par) \in \{elem, seq\}, vkind(Par) \in \{eval, quote\}, and catched(Par) \in bool.$

The parameters are used as the pattern parameters in the pattern matching. If skind(Par) = elem, the pattern matching associates Par with an element. If skind(Par) = seq, the pattern matching associates Par with (possibly empty) an element sequence. The function skind is called a parameter structure specifier.

The function **catched** specifies the propagation of the indeterminate value **false** in the definition of the function **val** (see below). The element **false** plays the role of both the boolean and the indeterminate value.

The element sequences associated with parameters are converted to the parameter values and used as arguments of the functions defining the static semantics of these element sequences. Let Par be associated with ElSeq. If vkind(Par) = eval, Par is called an evaluated parameter, and val(Elseq, St) is the value of Par. If vkind(Par) = quote, Par is called a quoted parameter, and Elseq is the value of Par. The function vkind is called a parameter value specifier.

The set elgen(Dsts) of element generators is defined by the functions sem and embedded such that sem(Elgen) is a function, $range(sem(Elgen)) \subseteq el$, $embedded(Elgen) \in nat \rightarrow bool, dom(embedded(Elgen)) \subseteq$ $\{I \in nat \mid 1 \leq I \leq arity(sem(Elgen))\}$, and if $Arg \in sem(Elgen)$, $1 \leq I \leq arity(sem(Elgen))$, and embedded(Elgen)(Arg.I) = true, then $Arg.I \in el^*$.

The element generators are used to generate new kinds of elements. The

element El is generated by Elgen, if El = sem(Elgen)(Arg) for some $Arg \in dom(sem(Elgen))$.

The element generators also define the embedded structure of element sequences. The element El' appears in El, if El' = El, or El = sem(Elgen)(Arg), and El' appears in Arg.I for some $1 \leq I \leq len(Arg)$ such that embedded(Elgen)(I) = true.

The set elgen includes the object seqcomp such that $sem(seqcomp) \in el^* \to_t el$ is a bijection, and embedded(seqcomp)(1) = true. The object seqcomp is called a sequential element composition.

For simplicity, below we write Elgen instead of sem(Elgen). For example, we write seqcomp instead of sem(seqcomp).

The elements of the set $\mathtt{sub} = \mathtt{el} \to \mathtt{el}^*$ are called substitutions. If $\mathtt{dom}(Sub) = \{X_1, ..., X_n\}$, Sub can be written as $\{(X_1 \leftarrow Sub(X_1)), ..., (X_n \leftarrow Sub(X_n))\}$. The substitution function $\mathtt{subst} \in \mathtt{el}^* \times \mathtt{sub} \to \mathtt{el}^*$ is defined as follows (the first proper rule is applied):

- subst(empseq, Sub) = empseq;
- if $El \in dom(Sub)$, then subst(El, Sub) = Sub(El);
- subst(sem(Elgen)(Arg), Sub) = sem(Elgen)(Arg');
- subst(El, Sub) = El;
- $subst(El \ Elseq, Sub) = subst(El, Sub) \ subst(Elseq, Sub).$

The sequence Arg' is defined as follows:

- if embedded(Elgen)(I) = true, then Arg'.I = subst(Arg, Sub);
- if embedded(Elgen)(I) \neq true, then Arg'.I = Arg.

Substitutions are used to associate parameters with the element sequences as a result of the pattern matching, and to associate parameters with their values.

The set frm of forms is defined by the functions pat, pars, pcond, rvcond, and kind.

A form Frm defines the static and dynamic semantics for the set of element sequences called the instances of the form. The pattern matching uses the functions pat, pars, and pcond to define whether *Elseq* is an instance of Frm.

The sequence $pat(Frm) \in el^+$ is called a pattern of Frm.

The sequence $pars(Frm) \in par^*$ such that the elements of pars(Frm) are pairwise distinct defines the parameters of the pattern pat(Frm). Let $1 \leq I \leq len(pars(Frm))$. The element par(Frm).I is called a parameter of Frm. The number len(pars(Frm)) is called the arity of Frm denoted by arity(Frm).

A form defines the static semantics of its instances by its value. The value of Frm is defined as a function of the values of its parameters.

The element $pcond(Frm) \in el$ is called a parameter condition of Frm. It defines a restriction on the values of the parameters of Frm. The sequence *Elseq* is an instance of Frm only if this restriction is satisfied.

The element $rvcond(Frm) \in el$ is called a return-value condition of Frm. It defines a restriction on the value of Frm. The condition rvcond(Frm) can include the parameters of Frm and the element $retval \in el$, where $retval \in elgen$, which refers to the value of Frm.

The partial function $kind(Frm) \in \{statedependent, statefree, defined\}$ defines the kind of Frm. Thus, forms are divided into four kinds (the fourth kind corresponds to kind(Frm) = und), and each kind has its own semantics.

The forms of the fourth kind define the state of Dsts. The function $St \in \{Frm \mid \texttt{kind}(Frm) = \texttt{und}\} \rightarrow \bigcup_{n \in \texttt{nat0}} (\texttt{el}^n \rightarrow_t \texttt{el})$ such that $St(Frm) \in \texttt{el}^{\texttt{arity}(Frm)} \rightarrow_t \texttt{el}$ for all Frm is called the state of Dsts. Let st be the set of all states of Dsts. The state St is called empty, if $\texttt{dom}(St) = \emptyset$. The element St(Frm) is called the value of Frm in St.

The form Frm of the kind statedependent is called a state-dependent predefined form. It is additionally defined by the function frmsem such that frmsem $(Frm) \in st \to \bigcup_{N \in nat0} (el^N \to_t el)$, and frmsem $(Frm)(St) \in$ $el^{arity}(Frm) \to_t el$. The function frmsem is called a form semantics. The element frmsem(Frm)(St) is called the value of Frm in St.

The form Frm of the kind statefree is called a state-free predefined form. It is additionally defined by the function frmsem such that frmsem $(Frm) \in \bigcup_{N \in nat0} (el^N \to_t el)$, and frmsem $(Frm) \in el^{arity(Frm)} \to_t$ el. The function frmsem is called a form semantics. The element frmsem(Frm) is called the value of Frm in St.

The form Frm of the kind defined is called a defined form. It is additionally defined by the function body such that $body(Frm) \in el^+$, which specifies the value of Frm. The elements of body(Frm) can include the parameters of Frm. Let Sub' map the parameters of Frm onto their values. The value of Frm in St is a function which maps the values of parameters of Frm, represented by Sub', onto val(subst(body(Frm), Sub'), St). The function val is defined below.

The function $match(Dsts) \in el^+ \rightarrow pset(frm \times sub)$ is called a form matching if for all $(Frm, Sub) \in match(Elseq)$ the following properties are satisfied:

- Elseq = subst(Frm, Sub);
- dom(Sub) is the set of parameters of Frm;
- if skind(Par) = elem, then $Sub(Par) \in el$;

- if skind(Par) = seq, then $Sub(Par) \in el^*$;
- $\operatorname{arity}(Frm) = \operatorname{arity}(Frm')$, and $Sub(\operatorname{pars}(Frm).I) = Sub'(\operatorname{pars}(Frm').I)$ for all $(Frm', Sub') \in \operatorname{match}(Elseq)$, and $1 \leq I \leq \operatorname{arity}(Frm)$.

The sequence Elseq is called an instance of Frm w.r.t. Sub, if $(Frm, Sub) \in match(Dsts)(Elseq)$ for some Sub. The sequence Elseq is called an instance of Frm, if Elseq is an instance of Frm w.r.t. some Sub.

The function $match(Dsts) \in el^+ \times st \to frm \times sub \times sub$ is called a form matching with parameter meaning if match(Elseq, St) = (Frm, Sub, Sub') if and only if the following properties are satisfied:

- $(Frm, Sub) \in match(Dsts)(Elseq);$
- Sub' = parval(pars(Frm), Sub, St);
- val(subst(pcond(Frm), Sub'), St) = true.

It matches the form and the element sequence and sets the values of the parameters of this form. The function **parval** that sets the values of the parameters of the matched form is defined below.

The sequence Elseq is called an instance of Frm in St w.r.t. the matching substitution Sub and the parameter meaning Sub', if match(Elseq, St) = (Frm, Sub, Sub'). The sequence Elseq is called an instance of Frm in St, if Elseq is an instance of Frm in St w.r.t. some Sub and Sub'.

The set elgen(Dsts) includes the functions $quote \in el^+ \rightarrow el$, and $eval \in el^+ \rightarrow el$ such that embedded(quote, 1) = embedded(eval, 1) =true. They specify the value of Par in the case when Sub(Par) has the form eval(Elseq) or quote(Elseq). If Sub(Par) = eval(Elseq), then Sub'(Par) = val(Elseq, St). If Sub(Par) = quote(Elseq), then Sub'(Par) = Elseq.

The function $parval \in par^* \times sub \times st \rightarrow sub$ sets the values of parameters in accordance with the element sequences which match these parameters:

- if sub(Par) = eval(Elseq), then $parval(Par \ Parseq, Sub, St) = \{(Par \leftarrow val(Elseq, St))\} \cup parval(Parseq, Sub, St);$
- if sub(Par) = quote(Elseq), then $parval(Par \ Parseq, Sub, St) = \{(Par \leftarrow Elseq)\} \cup parval(Parseq, Sub, St);$
- if vkind(Par) = eval, and skind(Par) = elem, then $parval(Par Parseq, Sub, St) = \{(Par \leftarrow val(Sub(Par), St))\} \cup parval(Parseq, Sub, St);$
- if vkind(Par) = eval, skind(Par) = seq, and $Sub(Par) = Elorpar_1 \dots Elorpar_N$, then $parval(Par \ Parseq, Sub, St) = \{(Par \leftarrow ifval(Elorpar_1, eval, St) \dots ifval(Elorpar_N, eval, St))\} \cup parval(Parseq, Sub, St);$

- if vkind(Par) = quote, and skind(Par) = elem, then parval(Par Parseq, Sub, St) = {(Par ← Sub(Par))} ∪ parval(Parseq, Sub, St);
- if vkind(Par) = quote, skind(Par) = seq, and $Sub(Par) = El_1 \dots E_N$, then $parval(Par \ Parseq, Sub, St) = \{(Par \leftarrow ifval(El_1, quote, St) \dots ifval(El_N, quote, St))\} \cup parval(Parseq, Sub, St).$

The function ifval $\in el^+ \times st \times \{eval, quote\} \rightarrow el$ is defined as follows:

- ifval(eval(*Elseq*), *St*, *Vparorqpar*) = val(*Elseq*, *St*);
- ifval(quote(*Elseq*), *St*, *Vparorqpar*) = *Elseq*;
- ifval(El, St, eval) = val(El, St);
- ifval(El, St, quote) = El.

The function $val \in el^+ \times st \rightarrow el$ called an element sequence meaning is defined as follows (the first proper rule is applied):

- val(true, St) = true;
- if match(Elseq) = (Frm, Sub, Sub'), $pars(Frm) = Par_1 \dots Par_N$, $Arg = Sub'(Par_1), \dots, Sub'(Par_N)$, and Retvalcond(U) denotes

 $val(subst(rvcond(Frm), Sub' \cup \{(retval(Dsts) \leftarrow U)\}), St) = true,$

then

- if $catched(Par_I) \neq true$, and $Sub'(Par_I) = false$ for some $1 \leq I \leq arity(Frm)$, then val(Elseq, St) = false;
- if kind(Frm) = und, $St(Frm) \neq$ und, and Retvalcond(St(Frm)(Arg)), then val(Elseq, St) = St(Frm)(Arg);
- if kind(Frm) = statedependent, and Retvalcond(frmsem(Frm)(St)(Arg)), then val(Elseq, St) = frmsem(Frm)(St)(Arg);
- if kind(Frm) = statefree, and Retvalcond(frmsem(Frm)(Arg)), then val(Elseq, St) = frmsem(Frm)(Arg);
- if kind(Frm) = defined, and Retvalcond(val(subst(body(Frm), Sub'), St)), then val(Elseq, St) = val(subst(body(Frm), Sub'), St);
- if atom(Dsts)(Elseq) = true, then val(Elseq, St) = Elseq;
- val(Elseq, St) = false.

The element val(Elseq, St) is called the value of Elseq in St.

The function $\operatorname{atom}(Dsts) \in el^+ \to_t bool$ defines the element sequences which coincide with their values. Such sequences are called atoms.

The dynamic semantics of the element sequences is defined by the function $\texttt{tr} \in \texttt{conf} \times \texttt{conf} \rightarrow \texttt{bool}$ called a transition relation. The set conf of configurations and the function tr are defined below. The system Dsts can go from Conf to Conf' if and only if tr(Conf, Conf') = true.

The set conf of configurations is defined by the functions seq and st such that $seq(Conf) \in el^*$, and $st(Conf) \in st$. The sequence seq(Conf)is called a control sequence of Conf. It defines the states to which Dsts can go from the current state and the control sequences executed in these states.

The configuration Conf is called a final one, if there is no configuration Conf' such that tr(Conf, Conf') = true. The sequence $Confseq \in conf^+$ is called a run, if last(Confseq) is a final configuration.

A final configuration Conf is called unsafe, if $seq(Conf) \neq empseq$. It specifies incorrect termination of Dsts. A final configuration Conf is called safe, if Conf is not unsafe. A run Confseq such that last(Confseq) is unsafe, is called unsafe. A run Confseq is called safe, if Confseq is not unsafe. A configuration Conf is called unsafe, if there is an unsafe run Confseq such that first(Confseq) = Conf. A configuration Conf is called safe, if Conf is not unsafe.

A sequence Elseq is correct in St, if Conf is safe, where seq(Conf) = Elseq, and st(Conf) = St. A sequence Elseq is incorrect in St, if Elseq is not correct in St.

The set elgen includes the function fail \in el such that if first(seq(Conf)) = fail, then Conf is final. The configuration Conf is also unsafe, since seq(Conf) \neq empseq. Therefore the element fail is called an unsafe termination.

Let tr(Conf, Conf') = true. Then seq(Conf) and seq(Conf') are called the input and output control sequences of the transition, and st(Conf) and st(Conf') are called the input and output states of the transition, respectively.

The function tr is defined by a special kind of forms, or transition rules. A form Frm is called a transition rule, if it is additionally defined by the function rkind such that $rkind(Frm) \in \{ defined, predefined \}$. The function kind defines the kind of the rule. Thus, if rkind(Frm) = und, then Frm is not a transition rule, and transition rules are divided into two kinds, and each kind has its own semantics. Let rul(Dsts) be a set of all rules of Dsts, and $Rul \in rul(Dsts)$.

A rule Rul of the kind defined is called defined. It is additionally defined by the function body such that $body(Rul) \in el^*$. The sequence body(Rul)is called the body of Rul and it defines the execution of Rul.

A rule Rul of the kind predefined is called predefined. It is additionally defined by the function rulsem such that $rulsem(Rul) \in conf \times conf \times$ $sub \rightarrow_t bool$. This function is called a rule semantics and it defines the execution of Rul. The third argument of the function stores the values of the parameters of Rul.

The function tr is defined as follows: tr(Conf, Conf') = true if and only if there is a rule Rul such that tr(Conf, Conf', Rul) = true.

The function tr with an additional argument Rul is defined as follows: tr(Conf, Conf', Rul) = true if and only if seq(Conf) = Elseq Elseq', match(Elseq, st(Conf)) = (Rul, Sub, Sub'), and one of two conditions is satisfied: rkind(Rul) = predefined, and rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf', Sub') = true, or rkind(Rul) = defined, seq(Conf') = subst(body(Rul), Sub') Elseq', and st(Conf') = st(Conf).

Thus, when a defined rule Rul is applied, the state of Dsts does not change, and the control sequence changes only its prefix matched with Rul.

The configuration Conf is called final w.r.t. Rul, if there is no configuration Conf' such that tr(Conf, Conf', Rul) = true.

4. Domain-specific transition systems with backtracking

The use of backtracking in DSTSs expands their expressive power.

A DSTS *Dsts* is called a DSTS with backtracking if the following properties are satisfied:

- conf is additionally defined by the function rulset such that $rulset(Conf) \subseteq rul(Dsts)$. This function specifies which transition rules have been applied in the transitions from the configuration Conf.
- Dsts is additionally defined by the function **backfrm** such that $backfrm(Dsts) \subseteq Frm$. The set backfrm(Dsts) specifies the forms whose values are preserved when Dsts backtracks to the previous backtracking point.

The function ifst(St, St') returns a state; it is defined as follows:

- if $Frm \in \texttt{backfrm}$, then ifst(St, St')(Frm) = St'(Frm);
- if $Frm \notin \texttt{backfrm}$, then ifst(St, St')(Frm) = St(Frm).

DSTS with controlled backtracking. A DSTS *Dsts* with backtracking is called a DSTS with controlled backtracking, if

- elgen(Dsts) includes the functions backtrack and branch such that backtrack ∈ el, branch ∈ el^{**} →_t el, and embedded(branch)(1) = true. The element backtrack called a backtracking condition initiates backtracking to the previous backtracking point. The element branch(ElSeqSeq) called a branch element is used to define possible variants in the backtracking point given by the elements of ElSeqSeq.
- $tr \in conf^* \times conf^* \rightarrow bool$ is a controlled backtracking.

Let ba(St) and fi(St) be configurations such that seq(ba(St)) = backtrack, st(ba(St)) = St, rulset $(ba(St)) = \emptyset$, seq(fi(St)) = empseq, st(fi(St)) = St, and rulset $(ba(St)) = \emptyset$.

A transition relation $tr \in conf^* \times conf^* \rightarrow bool$ is called a controlled backtracking, if tr(Confseq, Confseq') = true if and only if the first proper property is satisfied:

- Confseq = Confseq'' Conf, seq(Conf) = backtrack Elseq, where $Elseq \neq empseq$, or $rulset(Conf) \neq \emptyset$, and Confseq' = Confseq'' ba(st(Conf));
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf ba(St), where seq(Conf) = branch(Elseq' Elseqseq) Elseq, Confseq' = Confseq" Conf' Conf", seq(Conf') = branch(Elseqseq) Elseq, st(Conf') = st(Conf), rulset(Conf') = rulset(Conf), seq(Conf") = Elseq' Elseq, st(Conf") = ifst(st(Conf), St), and rulset(Conf") = Ø;
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf' Conf ba(St), where seq(Conf) = branch(empseq) Elseq, and Confseq' = Confseq" Conf' ba(St);
- Confseq = Conf ba(St), where seq(Conf') = branch(empseq) Elseq, and Confseq' = ba(ifst(st(Conf), St));
- Confseq = Confseq'' Conf, where seq(Conf) = branch(Elseq' Elseqseq) Elseq, Confseq' = Confseq'' Conf' Conf'', seq(Conf') = branch(Elseqseq) Elseq, st(Conf') = st(Conf), rulset(Conf') = rulset(Conf), seq(Conf'') = Elseq' Elseq, st(Conf'') = st(Conf), and $rulset(Conf'') = \emptyset$;
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf, where seq(Conf) = branch(empseq) Elseq, and Confseq' = Confseq" fi(st(Conf));
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf ba(St), where seq(Conf) = Elseq⁰ Elseq, Elseq⁰ \notin predel(Dsts), Rul \in rul(Dsts) \ rulset(Conf), tr(Conf², Conf³, Rul) = true, seq(Conf²) = Elseq⁰ Elseq, st(Conf²) = ifst(st(Conf), St), seq(Conf³) = Elseq', Confseq' = Confseq" Conf⁴ Conf⁵, seq(Conf⁴) = Elseq⁰ Elseq, st(Conf⁴) = st(Conf), rulset(Conf⁴) = rulset(Conf) \cup {Rul}, seq(Conf⁵) = Elseq', st(Conf⁵) = st(Conf³), and rulset(Conf⁵) = \emptyset ;
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf' Conf ba(St), and Confseq' = Confseq" Conf' ba(St);
- Confseq = Conf ba(St), and Confseq' = ba(ifst(st(Conf), St));
- Confseq = ba(St), and Confseq' = fi(St);
- Confseq = Confseq" Conf, where seq(Conf) = Elseq⁰ Elseq, Elseq⁰ ∉ predel, Rul ∈ rul(Dsts) \rulset(Conf), tr(Conf, Conf', Rul) = true, Confseq' = Confseq" Conf" Conf", seq(Conf") =

seq(Conf), st(Conf'') = st(Conf), $rulset(Conf'') = rulset(Conf) \cup \{Rul\}$, seq(Conf''') = seq(Conf'), st(Conf''') = st(Conf'), an $rulset(Conf''') = \emptyset$;

- Confseq = Confseq'' Conf, where $seq(Conf) = Elseq^0 Elseq$, $Elseq^0 \in predel(Dsts)$, rulsem(Dsts)(Conf,Conf') = true, Confseq' = Confseq'' Conf'' Conf''', seq(Conf'') = Elseq, st(Conf'') = st(Conf), rulset(Conf'') = rulset(Conf), seq(Conf''') = seq(Conf'), st(Conf''') = st(Conf'), and $rulset(Conf''') = \emptyset$;
- false.

5. Examples of predefined transition rules

Let us consider examples of predefined transition rules which are often used to define operational semantics of computer languages.

Let elgen(Dsts) include the function $stop \in el$. A form Rul is called a stop rule, if pat(Rul) = stop, arity(Rul) = 0, cond(Rul) = true, rkind(Rul) = predefined, and rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf') = true, where $seq(Conf) = stop \ Elseq$, if and only if seq(Conf') = empseq, and st(Conf') = st(Conf). The element stop is called a stop element.

Let elgen(Dsts) include the function $assume \in el \rightarrow el$. A form Rul is called a continuation rule, if pat(Rul) = assume(Par), pars(Rul) = Par, vkind(Par) = eval, skind(Par) = seq, cond(Rul) = true, rkind(Rul) = predefined, and rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf') = true, where seq(Conf) = El Elseq, if and only if match(El, st(Conf)) = (Rul, Sub, Sub'), st(Conf') = st(Conf), and the first proper property is satisfied:

- if Sub'(Par) = true, then seq(Conf') = Elseq;
- seq(Conf') = backtrack Elseq.

The element El is called a continuation condition. This condition is based on the element **backtrack** and used in DSTS with controlled backtracking.

Let elgen(Dsts) include the function $frmupd \in el^+ \times el^+ \rightarrow el$. A form Rul is called a form update rule, if pat(Rul) = frmupd(Par, Par'), pars(Rul) = Par Par', vkind(Par) = quote, vkind(Par') = eval, skind(Par) = skind(Par') = seq, cond(Rul) = true, rkind(Rul) =predefined, and rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf') = true, where seq(Conf) =El Elseq, if and only if match(El, st(Conf)) = (Rul, Sub, Sub'), and the first proper property is satisfied:

• if match $(Sub'(Par), st(Conf)) = (Frm, Sub_1, Sub'_1), kind(Frm) =$ und, arity(Frm) = N, $Arg = Sub'_1(pars(Frm).1), \ldots,$ $Sub'_1(pars(Frm).N)$, then seq(Conf') = Elseq, odif(st(Conf'), $st(Conf), \{Frm\}\} = true, odif(st(Conf')(Frm), st(Conf)(Frm), \{(Arg)\}\} = true, and st(Conf')(Frm)(Arg) = Sub'(Par');$

• seq(Conf') = fail El Elseq, and st(Conf') = st(Conf).

The element El is called a form update.

Let elgen(Dsts) include the function $assert \in el^+ \rightarrow el$. A form Rul is called a safety rule, if pat(Rul) = assert(Par), pars(Rul) = Par, vkind(Par) = eval, skind(Par) = seq, cond(Rul) = true, rkind(Rul) = predefined, rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf') = true, where seq(Conf) = El Elseq, if and only if match(El, st(Conf)) = (Rul, Sub, Sub'), st(Conf') = st(Conf), and the first proper property is satisfied:

- if Sub'(Par) = true, then seq(Conf') = Elseq;
- seq(Conf') = fail El Elseq.

The element El is called a safety condition.

Let elgen(Dsts) include the function $cases \in par \times par \cup par \times par \times par \cup el^* \times el^{**} \cup el^* \times el^* \rightarrow el$, such that $(Elseq, Elseqseq[, Elseq']) \in dom(cases)$ if and only if len(Elseq) = len(Elseqseq).

A form Rul is called a conditional branching rule, if pat(Rul) =cases(Par, Par'[, Par'']), pars(Rul) = Par Par' Par'', vkind(Par) =quote, and skind(Par) = seq for each $Par \in pars(Rul)$, cond(Rul) =true, rkind(Rul) = predefined, rulsem(Rul)(Conf, Conf') = true, where seq(Conf) = El Elseq, if and only if match(El, st(Conf)) = $(Rul, Sub, Sub'), \quad st(Conf')$ = st(Conf), and seq(Conf')= [, Sub'(Par'')]), $branch(Arg.1, \ldots, Arg.N)$ where Arg.I_ assume(Sub'(Par).1) Sub'(Par').1 for $1 \le I \le len(Sub'(Par)) = N$. The element El is called a conditional branching.

6. Formal definition of the model programming language

Let us define a simple model programming language MPL by DSTS.

The MPL language includes the set *id* of identifiers (sequences of letters from $\{a, \ldots, z, A, \ldots, Z\}$, digits from $\{0, \ldots, 9\}$, and the underscore character _, starting with a letter), the finite set btype \subset id of basic types such that lit(*Btype*) is a set of literals of the type *Btype* \in btype, lit(*Btype*) \cap id = \emptyset for each *Btype*, int \in btype, lit(int) = $\{\ldots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$, bool \in btype, and lit(bool) = {true, false}, the operations =, and ! = on these types, the arithmetic operations +, -, *, div, mod, and the arithmetic relations <, >, <=, >= on integers, the boolean operations and, or, not, implies, variable declaration, assignment statement, if statement, and while statement.

Let us consider *Dsts* which specifies MPL. The functions el, par, elgen, frm, match, and atom are defined as follows:

- el $\stackrel{def}{=}$ id $\cup \cup_{Elgen \in elgen(Dsts)}$ range(Elgen);
- par(Dsts)(El) = true if and only if $El \in id \setminus dtype$;
- elgen(Dsts) ^{def} = {delcomp, eval, quote, fail, backtrack, branch, stop, assume, frmupd, assert, cases};
- if len(Elseq) = N, then $delcomp(Elseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (Elseq.1 \dots Elseq.N);$
- $eval(Elseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (eval \ Elseq);$
- $quote(Elseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (quote Elseq);$
- $retval(Dsts) \stackrel{def}{=} retval;$
- fail $\stackrel{def}{=}$ fail;
- backtrack $\stackrel{def}{=}$ backtrack;
- $branch(Elseqseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (branch Elseqseq);$
- $stop \stackrel{def}{=} stop;$
- $assume(Elseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (assume \ Elseq);$
- frmupd(Elseq, Elseq') $\stackrel{def}{=}$ (Elseq ::= Elseq');
- $assert(Elseq) \stackrel{def}{=} (assert Elseq);$
- if len(Elseq) = N, then $cases(Elseq, Elseqseq, Elseq') \stackrel{def}{=} (cases (if Elseq.1 then Elseqseq.1) ... (if Elseq.N then Elseqseq.N)(else Elseq'));$
- $frm(Dsts) \stackrel{def}{=} \{Frm_Id \mid Id \in id\} \cup \{Rul_Id \mid Id \in id\};$
- the algorithm match(Dsts) choose the first proper element sequence from left to right. For example, if pat(Frm) = (if X then Y else Z), pars(Frm) = X Y Z, skind(X) = elem, skind(Y) = seq, and skind(Z) = seq, then $(Frm, (X \leftarrow A, Y \leftarrow B, Z \leftarrow C else D)) \in$ match(Dsts)((if A then B else C else D)), and $(Frm, (X \leftarrow A, Y \leftarrow B else C, Z \leftarrow D)) \notin match(Dsts)((if A then B else C else D));$
- $atom(Dsts)(El) = true if and only if <math>El \in id \cup \bigcup_{Btype \in btype} lit(Btype).$

The form $\operatorname{Frm_bool}$ is associated with the type bool, and it is defined as follows: $\operatorname{pat}(\operatorname{Frm_bool}) = (X \text{ isof bool}), \operatorname{pars}(\operatorname{Frm_bool}) = X, \operatorname{vkind}(X) = \operatorname{eval}, \operatorname{skind}(X) = \operatorname{elem}, \operatorname{pcond}(\operatorname{Frm_bool}) = \operatorname{true}, \operatorname{rvcond}(\operatorname{Frm_bool}) = \operatorname{true}, \operatorname{kind}(\operatorname{Frm_bool}) = \operatorname{statefree}, \operatorname{and} \operatorname{frmsem}(\operatorname{Frm_bool})(El) = \operatorname{true}$ if and only if $El \in \operatorname{lit}(\operatorname{bool}).$

The form Frm_sort checks whether an element sequence belongs to a particular sort, and it is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_sort) = (X \text{ is } Y)$, $pars(Frm_sort) = X$, vkind(X) = quote, vkind(y) = eval, skind(X) = skind(Y) = seq, $pcond(Frm_sort) = true$, $rvcond(Frm_sort) = ((retval) \text{ isof bool})$, $kind(Frm_sort) = statefree$, and $frmsem(Frm_sort)(El) = true$ if and only if (X isof Y). The forms with the pattern (X isof *Elseq*) for particular sorts *Elseq* are defined below.

The form Frm_id specifies the characteristic function for id, and it is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_id) = (X \text{ isof identifier}), pars(Frm_id) = X$, vkind(X) = quote, skind(X) = elem, $pcond(Frm_id) = true$, $rvcond(Frm_bool) = ((retval) \text{ is bool}), kind(Frm_id) = statefree$, and frmsem(Frm_id)(El) = true if and only if $El \in id$.

The form Frm_btype specifies the characteristic function for btype, and it is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_btype) = (X \text{ isof btype})$, $pars(Frm_btype) = X$, vkind(X) = quote, skind(X) = elem, $pcond(Frm_btype) = (X \text{ is identifier})$, $rvcond(Frm_btype) = ((retval) \text{ is bool})$, $kind(Frm_btype) = statefree$, and $frmsem(Frm_btype)(El) = true if and only if <math>El \in btype$.

The form Frm_Btype specifies the characteristic function for $Btype \neq bool$, and it is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_Btype) = (X \text{ isof } Btype)$, $pars(Frm_Btype) = X$, vkind(X) = eval, skind(X) = elem, $pcond(Frm_Btype) = true$, $rvcond(Frm_Btype) = ((retval) \text{ is bool})$, $kind(Frm_Btype) = statefree$, and $frmsem(Frm_Btype)(El) = true$ if and only if $El \in lit(Btype)$.

The operations =, and ! = on basic types, the arithmetic operations +, -, *, *div*, *mod*, and arithmetic relations <, >, <=, >= on integers, the boolean operations and, or, not, \implies are defined by the corresponding state-free predefined forms Frm_eq, Frm_neq, Frm_add, Frm_sub, Frm_mul, Frm_div, Frm_mod, Frm_less, Frm_more, Frm_lesseq, Frm_moreeq, Frm_and, Frm_or, Frm_not, and Frm_implies:

- $pat(Frm_eq) = (X = Y)$, $pars(Frm_eq) = X Y$, vkind(X) = vkind(Y) = eval, skind(X) = skind(Y) = elem, $pcond(Frm_eq) = true$, $rvcond(Frm_eq) = ((retval) is bool)$, $kind(Frm_eq) = statefree$, and $frmsem(Frm_eq)(El, El') = true$ if and only if $El \in Btype$, $El' \in Btype$ for some Btype, and El = El';
- $pat(Frm_add) = (X + Y)$, $pars(Frm_add) = X Y$, vkind(X) = vkind(Y) = eval, skind(X) = skind(Y) = elem, $pcond(Frm_add) = ((X \text{ is int}) \text{ and } (Y \text{ is int}))$, $rvcond(Frm_add) = ((retval) \text{ is int})$, $kind(Frm_add) = statefree$, and $frmsem(Frm_add)(El, El') = El''$ if and only if El'' = El + El';
- $pat(Frm_less) = (X < Y), pars(Frm_less) = X Y, vkind(X) = vkind(Y) = eval, skind(X) = skind(Y) = elem,$

 $pcond(Frm_less) = ((X \text{ is int}) \text{ and } (Y \text{ is int})),$ $rvcond(Frm_less) = ((retval) \text{ is bool}), kind(Frm_less) =$ $statefree, and frmsem(Frm_less)(El, El') = true if and only if$ El < El';

• $pat(\text{Frm_and}) = (X \text{ and } Y), \text{ pars}(\text{Frm_and}) = X Y, \text{ vkind}(X) = \text{vkind}(Y) = \text{eval}, \text{skind}(X) = \text{skind}(Y) = \text{elem}, \text{pcond}(\text{Frm_and}) = ((X \text{ is bool}) \text{ and } (Y \text{ is bool})), \text{ rvcond}(\text{Frm_and}) = ((\text{retval}) \text{ is bool}), \text{ kind}(\text{Frm_and}) = \text{statefree}, \text{ and } \text{frmsem}(\text{Frm_and})(El, El') = \text{true if and only if } El = \text{true, or } El' = \text{true.}$

The other forms are defined in a similar way.

The state St of Dsts is defined by the forms Frm_isvar , $Frm_vartype$, and Frm_varval .

The form Frm_isvar specifies which identifiers are variables in St and is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_isvar) = (X \text{ is variable}),$ $pars(Frm_isvar) = X, vkind(X) = quote, skind(X) = elem,$ $pcond(Frm_isvar) = (X \text{ is identifier}), rvcond(Frm_isvar) = ((retval) \text{ is bool}), and kind(Frm_isvar) = und.$

The form Frm_vartype specifies the types of variables in St and is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_vartype) = (type of X)$, $pars(Frm_vartype) = X$, vkind(X) = quote, skind(X) = elem, $pcond(Frm_vartype) = (X \text{ is variable})$, $rvcond(Frm_vartype) = ((retval) \text{ is btype})$, and $kind(Frm_vartype) = und$.

The form Frm_varval specifies the values of variables in St and is defined as follows: $pat(Frm_varval) = X$, $pars(Frm_varval) = X$, vkind(X) =quote, skind(X) = elem, $pcond(Frm_varval) =$ (X is variable), $rvcond(Frm_varval) = ((retval) \text{ is (type of } X))$, and $kind(Frm_varval) = und$.

The variable declaration is defined by the rule Rul_vardec such that $pat(Rul_vardec) = (var \ X \ Y), \ pars(Rul_vardec) = X \ Y, \ vkind(X) = vkind(Y) = quote, \ skind(X) = skind(Y) = elem, \ pcond(Rul_vardec) = ((X \ is \ identifier) \ and \ (not \ (X \ is \ btype)) \ and \ (not \ (X \ is \ variable)) \ and \ (not \ (X \ is \ variable)) \ and \ (not \ (X \ is \ variable)) \ and \ (Y \ is \ btype)), \ rvcond(Rul_vardec) = true, \ rkind(Rul_vardec) = defined, \ and \ body(Rul_vardec) = ((X \ is \ variable)) \ ::= \ true) \ ((type \ of \ X) \ ::= \ Y).$

The assignment statement is defined by the rule Rul_assign such that $pat(Rul_assign) = (X := Y)$, $pars(Rul_assign) = X Y$, vkind(X) = quote, vkind(Y) = eval, skind(X) = skind(Y) = elem, $pcond(Rul_assign) = ((X \text{ is variable}) \text{ and } (Y \text{ is } (type \text{ of } X)))$, $rvcond(Rul_assign) = true$, $rkind(Rul_assign) = defined$, and $body(Rul_assign) = (X := Y)$.

The if statement is defined by the rule Rul_if such that pat(Rul_if) =

The while statement is defined by the rule Rul_while such that $pat(Rul_while) = (while X do Y)$, $pars(Rul_while) = X Y$, vkind(X) = vkind(Y) = quote, skind(X) = elem, skind(Y) = seq, $pcond(Rul_while) = true$, $rvcond(Rul_while) = true$, $rkind(Rul_while) = defined$, and $body(Rul_while) = (cases (if X then Y (while X do Y)) (else))$.

An element sequence is called a program in the MPL language. A program Elseq is called correct in St, if Elseq is a correct sequence in St. A program Elseq is called incorrect in St if Elseq is not correct in St.

The program (var X int) (X := 5) (if (X = 5) then (X := 0) else) is correct in the empty state. Its execution returns the state St' such that dom $(St') = \{Frm_isvar, Frm_vartype, Frm_varval\}, graph<math>(St'(Frm_isvar)) = \{(X, true)\}, graph<math>(St'(Frm_vartype)) = \{(X, int)\}, and graph<math>(St'(Frm_varval)) = \{(X, 0)\}.$

The program (X := 5) is incorrect in the empty state, since in accordance with the definition of the rule Rul_assign the identifier X must be a variable in this state.

The program (assume ((X is variable) and ((type of X) is int)))(X := 5) is correct in the empty statement, since in accordance with the definition of assume the assignment (X := 5) will not be executed. In accordance with the definition of the controlled backtracking, execution of this program terminates in the empty statement.

The program (var X int) (X := 5) (var X int) is incorrect in the empty statement, since in accordance with the definition of the rule Rul_vardec a variable can not be declared twice.

7. Conclusion

DSTSs are a special type of transition systems for determining domainspecific languages used to solve the problems of the development of computer language semantics and of the design, specification, prototyping, and verification of software systems. DSTSs form the basis of a comprehensive approach to solving these problems.

In this paper, the new object model of DSTSs has been described. It introduces new entities and concepts into the theory of DSTSs such as forms, element generators, and propagation of the indeterminate value with its handling. It also extends the concepts of substitution and pattern matching, determines the classification of forms and transition rules, adds constraints on the parameters and the return values of forms, improves the algorithm for finding the element values, considers the transition rules as a special kind of forms, improves the definitions of backtracking, safe configurations and runs, and correct control element sequences. The formal definition of the model programming language with the extensible set of basic types, based on this model, has been also given.

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