Semantics (III)

Expression Meaning Function

- We know that recursion is heavily used in the denotational semantics.
- For example, the rhs of an assignment can be a value, variable, binary or unary expression.
- So, to figure out the meaning of an assignment, we need to figure out the meaning of the rhs of the assignment.
- In Clite, an expression can be a variable, value, binary, or unary expression. We will discuss the meaning of expression when it is a variable, value, and binary in this course.

\[ \text{Expression} = \text{Variable} | \text{Value} | \text{Binary} | \text{Unary} \]

- For expressions, the result is not a new state, it is just a value from a mathematical set.

\[ M(\text{Expression } e, \text{State } state) = \begin{cases} e, & \text{if } e \text{ is a Value} \\ \text{state}(e), & \text{if } e \text{ is a Variable} \\ \text{ApplyBinary}(e.\text{op}, M(e.\text{term1}, \text{state}), M(e.\text{term2}, \text{state})), & \text{if } e \text{ is a Binary} \\ \text{ApplyUnary}(e.\text{op}, M(e.\text{term}, \text{state})), & \text{if } e \text{ is a Unary} \end{cases} \]

- We need to break it down by the type of expression and figure out the value.
  - If the Expression is a Value, then its meaning is the meaning of the Value itself
  - If the Expression is a Variable, then its meaning is the Value of the Variable in the current state
  - If the Expression is a Binary, then the meaning of each of its operands term1 and term2 is first determined. Then Meaning Rule of Binary Expression determines the meaning of the expression by applying the Operator op to the Value of those two operands.

Meaning Rule of Binary Expression

- The meaning rule defined a way to decide the value of an expression
  - If either operand term1 or term2 is undefined, the expression is semantically meaningless
  - If the operator is an integer operator, then integer arithmetic add (int+), subtract (int-), or multiply (int*) perform on the integer operands, resulting in an integer result. If the operator is divide (int/), then the result is the same as a mathematical divide with truncation toward zero
  - If the operator is a floating point operator, then floating point arithmetic using the IEEE standard is performed on the float operands, resulting in a float result
  - If the operator is a relational operator, then the operands are compared with a result of either true or false
  - meaning of an expression for a dynamic typed language
Simple Interpreter

- Using the expression semantics we discussed above, we can implement a semantic interpreter to generate/check the meaning of an expression.

- Now let's implement a simple interpreter for a language with dynamic typing, no side effects, and only one scope.

```python
# Value
class Value:
    def __init__(self, value):
        self.value = value;

    def __str__(self):
        return str(self.value)

# Variable has the attribute name
class Variable:
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name

# BinaryExpression has the attribute left, right, and operator
class BinaryExpression:
    def __init__(self, left, operator, right):
        self.left = left
        self.operator = operator
        self.right = right

# Maintain a dictionary that maps variables to their corresponding values
class State:
    def __init__(self):
        self.state = {}

    def setValue(self, var, value):
        self.state[var.name] = value

    def getValue(self, var):
        return self.state[var.name]

# expr should be a BinaryExpression
# state should be a State
# returns a value
def M_BinaryExpression(expr, state):
    if expr.operator == '+':
        val = M_Expression(expr.left, state).value + M_Expression(expr.right, state).value
    elif expr.operator == '-':
        val = M_Expression(expr.left, state).value - M_Expression(expr.right, state).value
    elif expr.operator == '*':
        val = M_Expression(expr.left, state).value * M_Expression(expr.right, state).value
    elif expr.operator == '/':
        val = M_Expression(expr.left, state).value / M_Expression(expr.right, state).value
    return Value(val)
```
Explain the expression in the main1 function of simple interpreter

\[ b + 3 \times c \quad \{<b, 1>, <c, 3>\} \]

- The AST is generated by the syntactic analyzer in the compilation.
- The structure of the tree defines the precedence of the operators.
- Then the semantic analyzer will check the semantic errors of it. It will interpret each node of the tree and evaluate it based on the semantic rules.
- Each node in the tree is a class we defined in the simple interpreter. So, we create a Value object for 3, a Variable object for each of the two variables b and c.
- Then, following the precedence and the semantic rule for binary expressions, we create a binary expression object for the right subtree $3 \times c$ and using this object coupled with the Variable object $b$ to create another binary expression object $b + 3 \times c$.

- In this way, the meaning of the subtree $3 \times c$ will be determined before determining the meaning for $b + 3 \times c$.

- This also explains how the recursion works here. The meaning function of binary expression evaluate the expression $b + 3 \times c$. It will need to figure out the meaning of the left term $b$ and the meaning of the right term $3 \times c$ first. The right term $3 \times c$ is another binary expression, whose meaning depends on the left term $3$ and the right term $c$.

- So the process of the meaning function of binary expression to determine the meaning of the expression $b + 3 \times c$ is to depth-first traverse to the evaluate the meaning of leaves and subtrees before determining the meaning of the expression.