

Rewriting Logic Dynamics: Rewrite Theories and their Computations

1. Rewrite Theories

In Lecture 10 a full answer was given to the statics question: what is a concurrent state?

namely: an element $[u]_{\equiv_E} \in T_{\Sigma/E}$ of the initial algebra of an equational theory (Σ, E) such that $T_{\Sigma/E}$ is a computable algebra. To do full justice to this answer, Σ should be order-sorted or even a membership equational logic signature; but to keep the notation simpler the 1-sorted case is treated: everything generalizes naturally to the order-sorted and MEL cases.

Next comes the dynamics question:

What is a local atomic transition in a concurrent system [whose states have the form $[u]_{\equiv_E} \in T_{\Sigma/E}$]?

where by local is meant that it need not be global, i.e., it may change some part of the

concurrent state [leaving other parts unchanged] as opposed to the entire [global] state. By atomic, of course it is meant that such a local transition is not decomposable into simpler, smaller transitions: it happens all at once.

The answer given in rewriting logic to this question is:

Such a local concurrent transition is the instance for $[u_1], \dots, [u_n] \in T_{\Sigma/E}$ (Notation: $[u]_{\equiv E}$ is abbreviated to $[u]$) of a parametric transition of the form:

$$l : t(x_1, \dots, x_n) \longrightarrow t'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

where l is a label and $t, t' \in T_{\Sigma}(X)$, with x_n the biggest variable appearing in those of t or t' .

For each $[u_1], \dots, [u_n]$ this rule defines the local atomic transition

$$l(u_1, \dots, u_n) : [t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \longrightarrow [t'(u'_1, \dots, u'_n)]$$

changing the state fragment $[t(u_1, \dots, u_n)]$ (which may be just part of a bigger state) into the state fragment

$[t'(u_1, \dots, u_n)]$. (Notation: $t(u_1, \dots, u_n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} t\{x_1 \mapsto u_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto u_n\}$).

An obvious example is CL, with states in $T_{\Sigma_{CL}}$ and the K-red, S-red and I-red rules.

But note that where t, t' are ground terms $t, t' \in T_{\Sigma}$ is not excluded, since $T_{\Sigma} \subseteq T_{\Sigma}(X)$. Therefore, any automation transition $a: q \rightarrow q'$, or any Petri net transition $l: m \rightarrow m'$ are instances of this general notion, as degenerate [unparametric] cases.

We called $l: t \rightarrow t'$ a [Σ -] [labeled] rewrite rule.

Now, the million-dollar question:

How can general concurrent systems be naturally specified?

Has an obvious answer:

By rewrite theories specifying the concurrent system states as concurrent data structures $[u] \in T_{\Sigma/E}$ for some (Σ, E) , and its parametric local concurrent transitions as rewrite rules $l: t \rightarrow t'$. In more detail:

Definition [Rewrite theory]. A rewrite theory is a triple $\mathcal{R} = (\Sigma, E, R)$ where: (i) (Σ, E) is an equational theory, and R is a set of labeled Σ -rewrite rules.

The set of labels of \mathcal{R} , $L_{\mathcal{R}}$ is, by definition,

$$L_{\mathcal{R}} = \{ l \mid \exists (l: t \rightarrow t') \in R \}$$

we always assume in what follows that whenever $(l: t \rightarrow t'), (l: u \rightarrow u') \in R$, then $t = t'$ and $u = u'$ [rule names are globally unique].

A rewrite theory $\mathcal{R} = (\Sigma, E, R)$ does obviously specify a concurrent system whose concurrent states are naturally modeled as concurrent data structures $[u] \in T_{\Sigma/E}$, and whose local atomic concurrent transitions have the form:

$$l(u_1, \dots, u_n) : [t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \rightarrow [t'(u_1, \dots, u_n)]$$

for some $[u_1], \dots, [u_n] \in T_{\Sigma/E}$, $(l: t(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow t'(x_1, \dots, x_n)) \in R$.

But then, the obvious next question is:

What are all the finite concurrent computations of the concurrent system specified by \mathcal{R} ?

For anybody familiar with the examples of rewrite theories:

1. A finite automaton $A = (Q, L, \rightarrow_A)$, as the rewrite theory $R_A = (\Sigma_Q, \phi, \rightarrow_A)$, where $\Sigma_{Q,0} = Q$, and $\Sigma_{Q,n} = \emptyset$ otherwise

2. A Petri net $N = (M(P), L, \rightarrow_N)$, as the rewrite theory $R_N = (\Sigma_P, ACU, \rightarrow_N)$, where $\Sigma_{P,0} = P \cup \{\text{null}\}$, $\Sigma_{P,2} = \{--\}$, $\Sigma_{P,n} = \emptyset$ otherwise, and

$$ACU = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (x_1 x_2) x_3 = x_1 (x_2 x_3), \\ x_1 x_2 = x_2 x_1 \\ x_1 \text{ null} = x_n \end{array} \right\}$$

3. Combinatory logic, as the rewrite theory $R_{CL} = (\Sigma_{CL}, \phi, R_{CL})$, where R_{CL} are the K-red, S-red, and I-red reduction rules

The answer to the above question is [almost] obvious, since it is just the natural generalization of the domain-specific answers given for automata, Petri nets, and combinatory logic, and is given in two steps:

Step 1: The logic $L(R)$ specifies all concurrent computations

For $R = (\Sigma, E, R)$ a rewrite theory, the computational logic $L(R)$ of R defines the computation specifications of R as the labeled arrows $[u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v]$ provable by the

following inference system:

Reflexivity/Idle

$$\frac{}{[t] \xrightarrow{t} [t]} \quad \text{if } [t] \in T_{\Sigma/E}$$

Congruence

$$\frac{[u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1] \quad \dots \quad [u_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [v_n]}{[f(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [f(v_1, \dots, v_n)]} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } n \geq 1 \\ f \in \Sigma_m \end{array} \right.$$

Replacement

$$\frac{[u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1] \quad \dots \quad [u_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [v_n]}{[t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{t(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [t'(v_1, \dots, v_n)]} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if} \\ t: t(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow t'(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \in R \end{array} \right.$$

Transitivity

$$\frac{[u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v] \quad [v] \xrightarrow{\beta} [w]}{[u] \xrightarrow{\alpha; \beta} [w]}$$

Notation $[u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v]$ provable in $L(R)$ is denoted as:

$$L(R) \vdash [u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v].$$

$\mathcal{L}(R)$ defines the labeled graph $\text{Spec}_R = (T_{\Sigma/\mathcal{E}}, \text{PT}_R, \xrightarrow{\text{Spec}(R)})$

of its computation specifications, where, by definition,

1. The set PT_R of proof terms of R labeling the arrows is:

$$\text{PT}_R = \{ \alpha \mid \mathcal{L}(R) \vdash [u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v] \text{ for some } [u], [v] \in T_{\Sigma/\mathcal{E}} \}$$

2. $([u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v]) \in \xrightarrow{\text{Spec}(R)} \iff \mathcal{L}(R) \vdash [u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v]$

Furthermore Spec_R is a Σ -algebra on its nodes $(T_{\Sigma/\mathcal{E}})$,

labels PT_R , where $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \forall f \in \Sigma_m$

$$f_{\text{PT}_R} =_{\text{def}} \lambda (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m) \in \text{PT}_R. f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m) \in \text{PT}_R$$

and arrows [combining the operations on $T_{\Sigma/\mathcal{E}}$ and PT_R]:

$$f_{\text{Spec}_R} =_{\text{def}} \lambda ([u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1], \dots, [u_m] \xrightarrow{\alpha_m} [v_m]). [f(u_1, \dots, u_m)] \xrightarrow{f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m)} [f(v_1, \dots, v_m)] \in \text{Spec}_R$$

and it has also idle arrows $[t] \xrightarrow{t} [t]$ for $t \in T_{\Sigma}$, and a sequential arrow composition operation:

$$-; - : ([u] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [v], [v] \xrightarrow{\beta} [w]) \mapsto [u] \xrightarrow{\alpha; \beta} [w]$$

Step 2: Specifying the concurrent computations of the system defined by R as the arrows of the category \mathcal{T}_R

This second step gives a full answer to the ten-million-dollar question:

How can we naturally model the concurrent computations of a general concurrent system?

and in particular to the question:

When are two ~~concurrent~~ specifications of concurrent computations specifications of the same concurrent computation?

This accomplished by defining a quotient labeled graph

$\mathcal{T}_R = (T_{\Sigma/E}, PT_{R/\equiv}, \xrightarrow{\mathcal{T}_R})$ of $\text{Spec } R$, where the

congruence relation \equiv (respecting the Σ -operations, and $-;$ - in $\text{Spec } R$) identifying both labels and arrows is the smallest congruence generated by the following equivalences

for $R = (\Sigma, \bar{E}, R)$:

9.

1. E-equality. For each $(u(x_1, \dots, x_n) = v(x_1, \dots, x_n)) \in E$

and $[w_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [w'_1], \dots, [w_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [w'_n]$ in $\text{Spec} \mathcal{R}$

- $$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \quad u(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \equiv v(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \text{ and therefore (because } T_{\Sigma/E} \models E) \\ \bullet \quad ([u(w_1, \dots, w_n)] \xrightarrow{u(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [u(w'_1, \dots, w'_n)]) \equiv ([v(w_1, \dots, w_n)] \xrightarrow{v(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [v(w'_1, \dots, w'_n)]) \end{array} \right.$$

2. Category. For each $[u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [u_2], [u_2] \xrightarrow{\beta} [u_3], [u_3] \xrightarrow{\gamma} [u_4]$ in

- $\text{Spec} \mathcal{R}$,
- $$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \quad ([u_1] \xrightarrow{(\alpha; \beta); \gamma} [u_4]) \equiv ([u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha; (\beta; \gamma)} [u_4]) \\ \bullet \quad ([u_1] \xrightarrow{u_1; \alpha} [u_2]) \equiv ([u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [u_2]) \equiv ([u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha; u_2} [u_2]) \end{array} \right.$$

which, of course, follows from the proof-term equivalences:

$(\alpha; \beta); \gamma \equiv \alpha; (\beta; \gamma)$, and $u_1; \alpha \equiv \alpha \equiv \alpha; u_2$ for the

above labeled arrows.

3. Functoriality. For each $n \geq 1$, $f \in \Sigma_n$, and

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} [u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1], \dots, [u_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [v_n] \\ [w_1] \xrightarrow{\beta_1} [w_2], \dots, [v_n] \xrightarrow{\beta_n} [w_n] \end{array} \right\} \text{ in } \text{Spec} \mathcal{R}$$

$$([f(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{f(\alpha_1; \beta_1, \dots, \alpha_n; \beta_n)} [f(w_1, \dots, w_n)]) \equiv ([f(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n); f(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)} [f(w_1, \dots, w_n)])$$

Exchange. For each $l: t(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow t'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ in R and

$[u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1], \dots, [u_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [v_n]$ in $\text{Spec } R$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left([t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{l(u_1, \dots, u_n); t'(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [t'(v_1, \dots, v_n)] \right) \equiv \left([t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{l(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [t'(v_1, \dots, v_n)] \right) \equiv \\ & \equiv \left([t(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{t(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n); l(v_1, \dots, v_n)} [t'(v_1, \dots, v_n)] \right) \end{aligned}$$

Main Theorem \mathcal{T}_R is a category. Furthermore, it has a Σ -algebra structure as a category which satisfies the equations E . This is obvious for nodes and labels because of E -equality, and holds also for arrows by the operation

$$f_{\mathcal{T}_R} =_{\text{def}} \lambda([u_1] \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} [v_1], \dots, [u_n] \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} [v_n]) \in \mathcal{T}_R^n \cdot [f(u_1, \dots, u_n)] \xrightarrow{f(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)} [f(v_1, \dots, v_n)] \in \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_R$$

which is a functor $f_{\mathcal{T}_R}: \mathcal{T}_R^n \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{T}}_R$ because of the

Functoriality equivalences, i.e., $\mathcal{T}_R \models E$ as a category.

This furthermore means that for each $l: t(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow t'(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ in R we have functors $t_{\mathcal{T}_R}, t'_{\mathcal{T}_R}: \mathcal{T}_R^n \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_R$ and a natural transformation:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & t_{\mathcal{T}_R} \\ & & \downarrow l \\ \mathcal{T}_R^n & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{T}_R \\ & & \uparrow t'_{\mathcal{T}_R} \end{array}$$

because of the Exchange equivalences.