Algebraic Specification Methods & Languages

http://d3s.mff.cuni.cz

Pavel Parízek
Introduction

• Purpose
  ▪ Specification of external interfaces
    • Operations (arguments, results)

• Example
  ▪ Abstract data types
    • You define behavior of all the operations, and not the internal data representation
Algebraic method

- Using
  - Algebraic structures
  - Abstract data types

- ADT = carrier sets + operations + axioms
Basic theory
Algebra

- Algebra $A = \langle D, F \rangle$
  - Carrier set $D$
  - Functions $F$

- Function $f_A \in F$
  - $f_A : A \times \ldots \times A \rightarrow A$
  - $f_A : \rightarrow A$
Sorts

- Sort = data type
  - Examples: Nat, Int, Bool, Strings, ...

- Many-sorted algebras

- Sub-sorting relation
  - Nat < Int
Notation
- $S$ ... sorts
- $F$ ... functions (operations)
- $D$ ... carrier sets (data)
- $A$ ... algebra

Types of functions
- $T = S^* \times S$
- $s_1 \times \ldots \times s_n \rightarrow s$

Algebra $A = \langle [D_s]_{s \in S}, [F_t]_{t \in T} \rangle$
Signature

- Signature $(S, \Sigma)$
  \[ \Sigma = [\Sigma_t]_{t \in T} \]

- $\Sigma$-algebra
  - Carrier set $D_s$ for every sort $s \in S$
  - Operation $f_A$ for each symbol $f \in F$
Properties of operations

- Basic approach
  - Equations between function expressions

- Set E of all equations (sentences, axioms)

- Executable specifications
More complex signatures and equations

- Overloaded functions
  - Different subsorts
  - Number of arguments

- Predicates and relations
  - Signature: the set P of predicate symbols
Initial model

- Exactly the right number of elements in carrier sets
  - “no junk and no confusion”

- Multiple isomorphic models
Algebraic specification

- Assumptions
  - Programs are modeled by many-sorted algebras
  - Correctness of the input/output behavior has precedence over all other properties

- \( Q = (S, \Sigma, E) \)

- Two parts
  - Declarations (signature)
  - Equations (semantics)
Example

- List of integers
  - Operations: add, remove, get, size, contains
    - insert and remove to/from any position

- Use of recursion

- Exceptions (errors)
Semantics of algebraic specifications

- $Q = (S, \Sigma, E)$
  - well-formed specification

- $\text{Sem}[Q]$
  - the class of all initial algebras (models)

- Initial model
  - Carrier is a set of classes of equivalent expressions
  - Canonical representatives of equivalence classes
Languages

- CASL: Common Algebraic Specification Language
  - [http://www.informatik.uni-bremen.de/cofi/index.php/CASL](http://www.informatik.uni-bremen.de/cofi/index.php/CASL)
  - [http://www.cofi.info](http://www.cofi.info)

- Other: Larch (family), OBJ3, ASL