

Provably correct implementation

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Semantics of programming languages

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Theme 05 – Provably correct implementation

Correct implementation

Structural operational semantics is useful when **implementing language**.

A **correct implementation** of program consists of:

- the definition of **abstract machine**,
- the definition of the **meaning** of the abstract machine instructions by an operational semantics,
- the definition of **translation functions** that will map expressions and statements in the *Jane* language into sequences of such instructions.

The correctness result will then state that if we translate a program into code, and execute the code on the abstract machine, then we get the same result as we specified by the semantic functions \mathcal{S}_{ns} and \mathcal{S}_{os} .

The **definition of abstract machine** consists of:

- the **configuration** of abstract machine,
- the definition of **instructions** and their:
 - **syntax** definition, and
 - **operational semantics** of instructions.

Abstract machine configuration

The abstract machine AM has **configuration** of the form:

$$\langle c, st, s \rangle$$

where

- c is a **code**, i.e. the sequence of instructions to be executed,
- st is the **evaluation stack**, and
- s is the **storage**, expressed by state $s \in \mathbf{State}$ and is used to hold the values of variables.

We use the evaluation stack to evaluate arithmetic and Boolean expressions. Formally, **stacks** are enclosed into semantic domain

$$st \in \mathbf{Stack} = (\mathbf{Z} \cup \mathbf{B})^*$$

and each element is a stack - finite sequence of numbers and/or truth values, e.g.

$$v_1 : v_2 : t_1 : v_3 : \dots : v_n$$

where v_i are numeric values and t_j are truth values, v_1 is on the top of stack.

Syntax of instructions

We shall define two syntactic domains:

- $ins \in \mathbf{Instr}$ – for **instructions**; and
- $c \in \mathbf{Code}$ – for **code**, sequences of instructions.

The instructions of **AM** are given by the abstract syntax:

$$\begin{aligned} ins ::= & \text{PUSH-}n \mid \text{ADD} \mid \text{MULT} \mid \text{SUB} \mid \text{TRUE} \mid \text{FALSE} \\ & \mid \text{EQ} \mid \text{LE} \mid \text{AND} \mid \text{NEG} \mid \text{FETCH-}x \mid \text{STORE-}x \\ & \mid \text{EMPTYOP} \mid \text{BRANCH}(c, c) \mid \text{LOOP}(c, c) \end{aligned}$$
$$c ::= \varepsilon \mid ins : c$$

where ε is the empty sequence.

Semantics of instructions

The semantics of the instructions of the abstract machine is given by an operational semantics. **Transition relation** specifies how to execute the instructions:

$$\langle c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c', st', s' \rangle$$

Final configuration has a form

$$\langle \varepsilon, \varepsilon, s \rangle$$

which means that all instructions were executed on **AM** and the resulting state is s .

Semantics of instructions

Instruction `PUSH- n` pushes a constant value n onto the stack.

$$\langle \text{PUSH-}n : c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, \mathcal{N}[[n]] : st, s \rangle \quad (1_{AM})$$

Instructions `ADD`, `MULT` and `SUB` assume, that on the top of stack two numeric values $v_1, v_2 \in \mathbf{Z}$ are pushed. They are removed by instruction, arithmetic operation is evaluated and the result is pushed onto the stack.

$$\langle \text{ADD} : c, v_1 : v_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (v_1 \oplus v_2) : st, s \rangle \quad (2_{AM})$$

$$\langle \text{MULT} : c, v_1 : v_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (v_1 \otimes v_2) : st, s \rangle \quad (3_{AM})$$

$$\langle \text{SUB} : c, v_1 : v_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (v_1 \ominus v_2) : st, s \rangle \quad (4_{AM})$$

Semantics of instructions

Instructions **TRUE** and **FALSE** push the constants **tt** and **ff**, respectively, onto the stack:

$$\langle \mathbf{TRUE} : c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, \mathbf{tt} : st, s \rangle_{(5_{AM})}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{FALSE} : c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, \mathbf{ff} : st, s \rangle_{(6_{AM})}$$

Instruction **EQ** assumes two numeric values $v_1, v_2 \in \mathbf{Z}$ on the top of stack. They are removed from stack and the result of the relation $=$ (whether the values are equal) is pushed onto the stack:

$$\langle \mathbf{EQ} : c, v_1 : v_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (v_1 = v_2) : st, s \rangle_{(7_{AM})}$$

Instruction **LE** assumes two numeric values $v_1, v_2 \in \mathbf{Z}$ on the top of stack. They are removed from stack and the result of the relation \leq is pushed onto the stack:

$$\langle \mathbf{LE} : c, v_1 : v_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (v_1 \leq v_2) : st, s \rangle_{(8_{AM})}$$

Semantics of instructions

Instruction **AND** assumes two Boolean values $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbf{B}$ on the top of stack. They are removed from stack and the result of conjunction \wedge (value **tt** or **ff**) is pushed onto the stack:

$$\langle \mathbf{AND} : c, t_1 : t_2 : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle c, \mathbf{tt} : st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t_1 = \mathbf{tt} \text{ and } t_2 = \mathbf{tt}, \\ \langle c, \mathbf{ff} : st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t_1 = \mathbf{ff} \text{ or } t_2 = \mathbf{ff}. \end{cases} \quad (9_{AM})$$

Instruction **NEG** assumes one Boolean value $t \in \mathbf{B}$ on the top of stack. This value is removed from the stack and their logical negation is pushed onto the stack:

$$\langle \mathbf{NEG} : c, t : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle c, \mathbf{tt} : st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t = \mathbf{ff} \\ \langle c, \mathbf{ff} : st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t = \mathbf{tt} \end{cases} \quad (10_{AM})$$

Semantics of instructions

Instruction **FETCH- x** pushes the value bound to x onto the stack – a value in actual state s x :

$$\langle \text{FETCH-}x : c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, (s \ x) : st, s \rangle \quad (11_{AM})$$

Instruction **STORE- x** pops the topmost element off the stack and updates the storage so that the popped value is bound to x :

$$\langle \text{STORE-}x : c, v : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, st, s[x \mapsto v] \rangle \quad (12_{AM})$$

Instruction **EMPTYOP** is an empty instruction, it changes neither the state nor the stack:

$$\langle \text{EMPTYOP} : c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c, st, s \rangle \quad (13_{AM})$$

Semantics of instructions

Instruction $\text{BRANCH}(c_1, c_2)$ changes the flow control.

If the topmost of the stack is the value \mathbf{tt} (that is some Boolean expression has been evaluated to true) then the stack is popped and c_1 is to be executed next. Otherwise, if the topmost element of the stack is \mathbf{ff} then it will be popped and c_2 will be executed next:

$$\langle \text{BRANCH}(c_1, c_2) : c, t : st, s \rangle \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \langle c_1 : c, st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t = \mathbf{tt} \\ \langle c_2 : c, st, s \rangle, & \text{if } t = \mathbf{ff} \end{cases} \quad (14_{\text{AM}})$$

Semantics of instructions

A looping construct such as the `while`-construct can be implemented using the instruction `LOOP(c_1, c_2)`. The semantics of this instruction is defined by rewriting it to a combination of other constructs including the `BRANCH`-instruction and itself:

$$\langle \text{LOOP}(c_1, c_2) : c, st, s \rangle \\ \Rightarrow \langle c_1 : \text{BRANCH}(c_2 : \text{LOOP}(c_1, c_2), \text{EMPTYOP}) : c, st, s \rangle \quad (15_{AM})$$

We emphasize that the assumptions for every instruction are necessary for the continuation of **AM** work.

If the **AM** is expecting value(s) on the top of stack and

- on the top of stack the values are missing, or
- the type of values does not correspond

then the execution of abstract machine **stops**.

Computation sequence

The **execution of program** on **AM** is expressed by computation sequence. Given a sequence c of instructions and a storage s , a **computation sequence** for c and s is either:

- a **finite sequence** of configurations

$$\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$$

satisfying

$$\alpha_0 = \langle c, \varepsilon, s \rangle \quad \alpha_i \Rightarrow \alpha_{i+1} \quad \alpha_n = \langle \varepsilon, st, s' \rangle,$$

for $0 \leq i < k, k \geq 0$ and where there is no α such that $\alpha_n \Rightarrow \alpha$. This sequence **terminates**.

- a **finite sequence** of configurations as above but

$$\alpha_n = \langle c, st, s \rangle.$$

Here the execution of program is **stopped**.

- an **infinite sequence** of configurations

$$\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots$$

We say that the sequence is looping – it is infinite.

Example

We consider the following program for abstract machine:

PUSH-1 : FETCH- x : ADD : STORE- x

with an initial state $s \ x = 2$.

A computation sequence of this program is:

$$\alpha_0 = \langle \text{PUSH-1 : FETCH-}x : \text{ADD : STORE-}x, \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$$

$$\alpha_1 = \langle \text{FETCH-}x : \text{ADD : STORE-}x, \mathbf{1}, s \rangle \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$$

$$\alpha_2 = \langle \text{ADD : STORE-}x, \mathbf{2} : \mathbf{1}, s \rangle \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$$

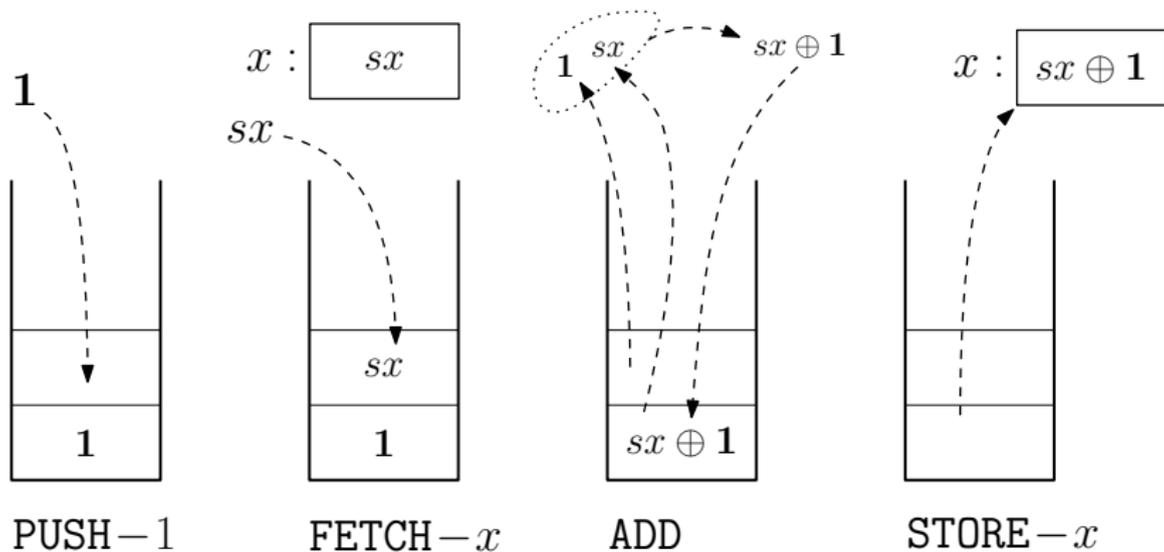
$$\alpha_3 = \langle \text{STORE-}x, \mathbf{3}, s \rangle \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$$

$$\alpha_4 = \langle \varepsilon, \varepsilon, s[x \mapsto \mathbf{3}] \rangle$$

Computation sequence terminates and the resulting state is $s \ x = 3$.



Semantics of instructions – Example



Properties of computation sequence

We denote

- $\langle c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k \langle c', st', s' \rangle$ computation sequence of length k ,
- $\langle c, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \langle c', st', s' \rangle$ finite computation sequence.

Lemma 1: Let $c_1, c_2, c' \in \mathbf{Code}$ be codes, $st_1, st_2, st' \in \mathbf{Stack}$ are stacks and $s, s' \in \mathbf{State}$ are states of **AM**. If

$$\langle c_1, st_1, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k \langle c', st', s' \rangle$$

then

$$\langle c_1 : c_2, st_1 : st_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k \langle c' : c_2, st' : st_2, s' \rangle$$

□

This means that we can extend the code component as well as the stack component without changing the behavior of the machine.

Properties of computation sequence

Lemma 2: Let $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbf{Code}$ be codes, $st, st', st'' \in \mathbf{Stack}$ are stack and $s, s', s'' \in \mathbf{State}$ are states of **AM**. If for some natural k

$$\langle c_1 : c_2, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k \langle \varepsilon, st'', s'' \rangle$$

then exists configuration $\langle \varepsilon, st', s' \rangle$ and natural numbers k_1, k_2 with $k_1 + k_2 = k$ such that

$$\langle c_1, st, s \rangle \Rightarrow^{k_1} \langle \varepsilon, st', s' \rangle \quad \text{and}$$

$$\langle c_2, st', s' \rangle \Rightarrow^{k_2} \langle \varepsilon, st'', s'' \rangle$$

□

This means that the execution of a composite sequence of instructions can be split into two pieces.

Properties of computation sequence

Lemma 3: Semantics of abstract machine is **deterministic** if for all choices of $\alpha, \alpha', \alpha''$:

$$\text{if } \alpha \Rightarrow \alpha' \text{ and } \alpha \Rightarrow \alpha'', \text{ then } \alpha' = \alpha''.$$

□

We shall define the **meaning** of a sequence of instructions as a (partial) function from **State** to **State**:

$$\mathcal{M} \llbracket c \rrbracket s = \begin{cases} s', & \text{if } \langle c, \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, st, s' \rangle, \\ \perp, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Specification of the translation

A **translation** of *Jane* into instructions of **AM** – a **code generating** is defined:

- by **translation functions**,
- for each syntactic domain we define **one** translation function,
- and we define it for **all** alternatives in the given production rule.

Specification of the translation

Translation of **arithmetic expressions** is defined by function

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}} : \mathbf{Expr} \rightarrow \mathbf{Code}$$

for all syntactic forms of arithmetic expressions in *Jane*:

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[n] = \mathbf{PUSH-}n$$

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[x] = \mathbf{FETCH-}x$$

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1 + e_2] = \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_2] : \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1] : \mathbf{ADD}$$

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1 * e_2] = \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_2] : \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1] : \mathbf{MULT}$$

$$\mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1 - e_2] = \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_2] : \mathcal{T}^{\mathcal{E}}[e_1] : \mathbf{SUB}$$

Note: Code generated for binary expressions consists of the code for the *right* argument followed by that for the *left* argument and finally the appropriate instruction for the operator.

Specification of the translation

Translation of **Boolean expressions** is defined by function:

$$\mathcal{IB} : \mathbf{Bexpr} \rightarrow \mathbf{Code}$$

for all syntactic forms of Boolean expressions in *Jane*:

$$\mathcal{IB}[\mathbf{true}] = \mathbf{TRUE}$$

$$\mathcal{IB}[\mathbf{false}] = \mathbf{FALSE}$$

$$\mathcal{IB}[e_1 = e_2] = \mathcal{IE}[e_2] : \mathcal{IE}[e_1] : \mathbf{EQ}$$

$$\mathcal{IB}[e_1 \leq e_2] = \mathcal{IE}[e_2] : \mathcal{IE}[e_1] : \mathbf{LE}$$

$$\mathcal{IB}[\neg b] = \mathcal{IB}[b] : \mathbf{NEG}$$

$$\mathcal{IB}[b_1 \wedge b_2] = \mathcal{IB}[b_2] : \mathcal{IB}[b_1] : \mathbf{AND}$$

Example 1

Consider an arithmetic expression $x * (x - 1)$ and generate a code for **AM**:

$$\mathcal{IE}[x * (x - 1)] = \mathcal{IE}[x - 1] : \mathcal{IE}[x] : \text{MULT}$$

$$= \mathcal{IE}[x - 1] : \text{FETCH-}x : \text{MULT}$$

$$= \mathcal{IE}[1] : \mathcal{IE}[x] : \text{SUB} : \text{FETCH-}x : \text{MULT}$$

$$= \text{PUSH-1} : \text{FETCH-}x : \text{SUB} : \text{FETCH-}x : \text{MULT}$$



Specification of the translation

Translation of **statements** is defined by the function:

$$\mathcal{IS} : \mathbf{Statm} \rightarrow \mathbf{Code}$$

for all syntactic forms of statements in *Jane*:

$$\mathcal{IS} \llbracket x := e \rrbracket = \mathcal{IE} \llbracket e \rrbracket : \mathbf{STORE}\text{-}x$$

$$\mathcal{IS} \llbracket \mathbf{skip} \rrbracket = \mathbf{EMPTYOP}$$

$$\mathcal{IS} \llbracket S_1 ; S_2 \rrbracket = \mathcal{IS} \llbracket S_1 \rrbracket : \mathcal{IS} \llbracket S_2 \rrbracket$$

$$\mathcal{IS} \llbracket \mathbf{if } b \mathbf{ then } S_1 \mathbf{ else } S_2 \rrbracket = \mathcal{IB} \llbracket b \rrbracket : \mathbf{BRANCH}(\mathcal{IS} \llbracket S_1 \rrbracket, \mathcal{IS} \llbracket S_2 \rrbracket)$$

$$\mathcal{IS} \llbracket \mathbf{while } b \mathbf{ do } S \rrbracket = \mathbf{LOOP}(\mathcal{IB} \llbracket b \rrbracket, \mathcal{IS} \llbracket S \rrbracket)$$

Example 2

Consider a simple program $z:=0; \text{while } (y \leq x) \text{ do } (z:=z + 1; x:=x - y)$ and generate a code for **AM**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{IS} \llbracket z:=0; \text{while } (y \leq x) \text{ do } (z:=z + 1; x:=x - y) \rrbracket \\ &= \mathcal{IS} \llbracket z:=0 \rrbracket : \mathcal{IS} \llbracket \text{while } (y \leq x) \text{ do } (z:=z + 1; x:=x - y) \rrbracket \\ &= \mathcal{IE} \llbracket 0 \rrbracket : \text{STORE-}z : \text{LOOP}(\mathcal{IB} \llbracket y \leq x \rrbracket, \mathcal{IS} \llbracket z:=z + 1; x:=x - y \rrbracket) \\ &= \text{PUSH-0} : \text{STORE-}z \\ &\quad : \text{LOOP}(\mathcal{IE} \llbracket x \rrbracket : \mathcal{IE} \llbracket y \rrbracket : \text{LE}, \mathcal{IS} \llbracket z:=z + 1 \rrbracket : \mathcal{IS} \llbracket x:=x - y \rrbracket) \\ &= \text{PUSH-0} : \text{STORE-}z \\ &\quad : \text{LOOP}(\text{FETCH-}x : \text{FETCH-}y : \text{LE}, \\ &\quad \quad \text{PUSH-1} : \text{FETCH-}z : \text{ADD} : \text{STORE-}z \\ &\quad \quad : \text{FETCH-}y : \text{FETCH-}x : \text{SUB} : \text{STORE-}x) \end{aligned}$$



The semantic function \mathcal{S}_{AM}

An **abstract implementation** of statement S is obtained by executing of the following steps:

- translating the statement S into code of **AM** by translation functions, and
- executing the code on **AM** by semantics of instructions.

This can be expressed by the **semantic function** \mathcal{S}_{AM} of abstract machine:

$$\mathcal{S}_{AM} : \mathbf{Statm} \rightarrow (\mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{State})$$

which is defined for statement $S \in \mathbf{Statm}$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{S}_{AM} \llbracket S \rrbracket = (\mathcal{I}\mathcal{I} \circ \mathcal{M}) \llbracket S \rrbracket$$

Correctness of abstract implementation

The **correctness of abstract implementation** amounts to showing that, if we first translate a statement into code for **AM** and then execute code, then we must obtain the same result as specified by the operational semantics of *Jane*.

Proof will be done in three steps:

- for arithmetic expressions,
- for Boolean expressions,
- for statements.

Correctness of the implementation of arithmetic expressions

Theorem 1: For all arithmetic expressions e we have:

$$\langle \mathcal{IE}[e], \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{E}[e]s, s \rangle$$

Proof: The proof is by structural induction on e .

1 The case n :

From translation function we have $\mathcal{IE}[n] = \text{PUSH-}n$.

From semantics of instruction it implies $\langle \text{PUSH-}n, \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{N}[n], s \rangle$.

Since

$$\mathcal{E}[n]s = \mathcal{N}[n]$$

we have completed the proof in this case.

Correctness of the implementation of arithmetic expressions

2 The case x (variable):

From translation function we have $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{E}[[x]] = \text{FETCH-}x$.

From semantics of instruction it implies $\langle \text{FETCH-}x, \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \varepsilon, (s\ x), s \rangle$.

Since:

$$\mathcal{E}[[x]]s = s\ x$$

this is required result.

Correctness of the implementation of arithmetic expressions

3 The case $e_1 + e_2$:

We have $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_1 + e_2] = \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_2] : \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_1] : \text{ADD}$.

The **induction hypothesis** (IH) applied to both expressions e_1, e_2 gives that:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_1], \varepsilon, s \rangle &\Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{E}[e_1]s, s \rangle \\ \langle \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_2], \varepsilon, s \rangle &\Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{E}[e_2]s, s \rangle\end{aligned}$$

In both cases all intermediate configurations will have a non-empty evaluation stack. Thus:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_2] : \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_1] : \text{ADD}, \varepsilon, s \rangle &\Rightarrow^* && \text{from IH and Lemma 1} \\ \langle \mathcal{I}\mathcal{E}[e_1] : \text{ADD}, \mathcal{E}[e_2]s, s \rangle &\Rightarrow^* && \text{from IH and Lemma 1} \\ \langle \text{ADD}, \mathcal{E}[e_1]s : \mathcal{E}[e_2]s, s \rangle &&& \text{from sem. AM} \\ \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{E}[e_1]s \oplus \mathcal{E}[e_2]s, s \rangle &&& \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\mathcal{E}[e_1 + e_2]s = \mathcal{E}[e_1]s \oplus \mathcal{E}[e_2]s$$

we have the desired result.

The proof for other cases is analogous.

Correctness of the implementation of Boolean expressions

Theorem 2: For all Boolean expressions b we have:

$$\langle \mathcal{TB}[\![b]\!], \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, \mathcal{B}[\![b]\!], s \rangle$$

Proof: The proof is analogous to the proof for correctness of arithmetic expressions.



Theorem 3: For every statement S of *Jane* we have:

$$\mathcal{S}_{ns}[\![S]\!] = \mathcal{S}_{AM}[\![S]\!]$$

Proof: The theorem is proved in two stages:

- 1 if $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$ then $\langle \mathcal{SS}[\![S]\!], \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \langle \varepsilon, \varepsilon, s' \rangle$;
- 2 if $\langle \mathcal{SS}[\![S]\!], \varepsilon, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k \langle \varepsilon, st, s' \rangle$ then $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$ and $st = \varepsilon$.