Extending Bindex

Programming language designers often want to experiment with a language by modifying a feature or adding new features. Here, we study what is involved in such experimentation in the context of some changes to the BINDEX language.

1 Call-by-Value vs. Call-by-Name

Reconsider the BINDEX substitution-model evaluation clause for bind:

```plaintext
and eval exp =
  match exp with
    | Bind(name,defn,body) ->
        eval (subst1 (Lit (eval defn)) name body)
```

This clause evaluates the definition expressions `defn` to an integer before substituting the integer for the bound name in the body. This strategy is called call-by-value evaluation because each definition expression must first be evaluated to a value before any other evaluation can take place.

For example, in the expression

```plaintext
(bind c (/ 5 0) 17)
```

the call-by-value strategy results in a divide-by-zero error even though the `c` is never used in the body expression.

There is an alternative strategy, call-by-name evaluation, in which the unevaluated definition expression is substituted for the bound name. It is easy to modify the BINDEX substitution-model evaluator to express call-by-name evaluation:

```plaintext
and eval exp =
  match exp with
    | Bind(name,defn,body) ->
        (* call-by-name evaluation of bind expression *)
        eval (subst1 defn name body)
```

With this interpreter, the expression `(bind c (/ 5 0) 17)` evaluates to 17 without signaling an error, because `( / 5 0)` is never evaluated. The ALGOL60 language was an influential early language that used call-by-name evaluation.

It is also possible to modify the environment-model evaluator for a language like BINDEX to express call-by-name evaluation. We will explore this later in the semester.

In call-by-name, the number of times a definition expression is evaluated is the number of times it appears in the body. For instance, in

```plaintext
(bind a (+ 1 2) (* a a))
```

the addition `( + 1 2)` will be evaluated twice in call-by-name but only once in call-by-value. For reasons of efficiency, most modern languages employ the call-by-value strategy. An important exception is HASKELL, which uses a modified version of call-by-name known as call-by-need. Call-by-need evaluates a definition expression at most once, but doesn’t evaluate it if it is not used. We will study call-by-need evaluation later in the semester.
2 \ sigma: A Summation Construct

We now consider extending BINDEX with the following construct:

\[(\sigma I_{var} E_{lo} E_{hi} E_{body})\]

Assume that \(I_{var}\) is a variable name, \(E_{lo}\) and \(E_{hi}\) are expressions denoting integers that are not in the scope of \(I_{var}\), and \(E_{body}\) is an expression that is in the scope of \(var\). Returns the sum of \(E_{body}\) evaluated at all values of the index variable \(I_{var}\) ranging from the integer value of \(E_{lo}\) up to the integer value of \(E_{hi}\), inclusive. This sum would be expressed in traditional mathematical summation notation as:

\[\sum_{I_{var}=E_{lo}}^{E_{hi}} E_{body}\]

If the value of \(E_{lo}\) is greater than that of \(E_{hi}\), the sum is 0.

Fig. 1 show some examples using \(\sigma\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematical Notation</th>
<th>BINDEX Notation</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\sum_{i=3}^{7} i)</td>
<td>((\sigma i 3 7 i))</td>
<td>(3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sum_{j=1+2}^{2+3} j^2)</td>
<td>((\sigma j (+ 1 2) (* 2 3)(* j j)))</td>
<td>(3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2 + 6^2 = 86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sum_{j=5}^{1} j^2)</td>
<td>((\sigma j 5 1 (* j j)))</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sum_{i=2}^{5} \sum_{j=i}^{4} i \cdot j)</td>
<td>((\sigma i 2 5 \sigma j i 4 (* i j)))</td>
<td>(2 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 4 + 3 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 4 + 4 \cdot 4 = 55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sum_{i=1}^{5} i \sum_{i=\sum_{k=1}^{3} k^2}^{5} i)</td>
<td>((\sigma i (\sigma k 1 3 (* k k))\sigma j 1 5 j))</td>
<td>(\sum_{i=14}^{1+2+3+4+5} i = \sum_{i=14}^{15} = 14+15 = 29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Examples of the \(\sigma\) construct.
What changes must be made to the BINDEX implementation in order to add the sigma construct?\(^1\) We consider a minimal set of changes, ignoring some details (such as extending the fold and uniquify functions) that would be needed in a complete implementation.

1. Extend the exp data type to include sigma:
   
   ```plaintext
   and exp = ...
   | Sigma of var * exp * exp * exp (* name * lo * hi * body *)
   ```

2. Extend sexpToExp to parse sigma:
   
   ```plaintext
   (* val sexpToExp: Sexp.sexp -> BindexPlus.exp *)
   and sexpToExp sexp =
   match sexp with
   |
   | Seq [Sym "sigma"; Sym name; lox; hix; bodyx] ->
   ```

3. Extend expToSexp to unparsre sigma:
   
   ```plaintext
   (* val expToSexp: BindexPlus.exp -> Sexp.sexp *)
   and expToSexp e =
   match e with
   |
   | Sigma(name,lo,hi,body) ->
   ```

4. Extend freeVarsExp to calculate the free variables of a sigma expression (necessary in order for varCheck to work):
   
   ```plaintext
   (* val freeVarsExp: BindexPlus.exp -> BindexPlus.S.t *)
   and freeVarsExp e =
   match e with
   |
   | Sigma(name,lo,hi,body) ->
   ```

\(^1\)A version of the BINDEX interpreter with the sigma construct and the bindseq/bindpar constructs from the next section can be loaded via `#use "load-bindex-plus.ml"` in the `/cs251/download/bindex` folder.
5. Extend the environment-model eval function to handle sigma:

\[
\text{(* val eval: BindexPlus.exp -> int Env.env -> int *)}
\]
\[
\text{and eval exp env =}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{match exp with} & \\
\text{:} & \\
\text{| Sigma(name,lo,hi,body) ->}
\end{align*}
\]

There are many ways to perform the summation, but \text{range}, \text{map}, and \text{foldr} are an elegant approach. Note how the evaluation of the sigma body expression at a particular index variable \(i\) is expressed via:

\[
(\text{fun } i \to \text{eval body (Env.bind name } i \text{ env)})
\]

Only body is evaluated in an extended environment, because it is the only subexpression in the scope of the sigma-bound name.

6. Extend the subst function to handle sigma expressions (necessary for the substitution model):

\[
\text{(* val subst: BindexPlus.exp -> BindexPlus.exp Env.env}
\]
\[
\text{-> BindexPlus.exp *)}
\]
\[
\text{let rec subst exp env =}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{match exp with} & \\
\text{:} & \\
\text{| Sigma(name,lo,hi,body) ->}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{let name' = StringUtils.fresh name in}
\]

7. Extend the substitution-model eval function to handle sigma:

\[
\text{(* val eval: BindexPlus.exp -> int *)}
\]
\[
\text{and eval exp =}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{match exp with} & \\
\text{:} & \\
\text{| Sigma(name,lo,hi,body) ->}
\end{align*}
\]

This is similar to the environment model, except that substitution is use to associate \(i\) with the index variable in the body expression.
3 Multiple Bindings: bindpar and bindseq

To explore multiple bindings in BINDEX, we consider extending BINDEX with two constructs that allow multiple bindings:

1. \((\text{bindpar} \ ((\text{name}_1 \ E_{\text{defn}_1}) \ldots (\text{name}_n \ E_{\text{defn}_n})) \ E_{\text{body}}))\) binds the names \(\text{name}_1 \ldots \text{name}_n\) to the values of the expressions \(E_{\text{defn}_1} \ldots E_{\text{defn}_n}\), where these values are determined \textit{in parallel}: all definition expressions are evaluated in the same environment in which the \text{bindpar} itself is evaluated. The result of the \text{bindpar} is the result of evaluating \(E_{\text{body}}\) in an environment that extends the current environment with bindings between all the names and the values of their respective definitions.

2. \((\text{bindseq} \ ((\text{name}_1 \ E_{\text{defn}_1}) \ldots (\text{name}_n \ E_{\text{defn}_n})) \ E_{\text{body}}))\) binds the names \(\text{name}_1 \ldots \text{name}_n\) to the values of the expressions \(E_{\text{defn}_1} \ldots E_{\text{defn}_n}\), where these values are determined \textit{sequentially}: each definition expression is evaluated in the environment of the \text{bindseq} extended with bindings for the names that appear in the bindings of the \text{bindseq} that precede it. The result of the \text{bindseq} is the result of evaluating \(E_{\text{body}}\) in an environment that extends the current environment with bindings between all the names and the values of their respective definitions.

As an example of the difference between these two binding constructs, consider invoking the following program on the values 10 and 2:

\[
(bindex \ (a \ b) \ ; \ a = 10, \ b = 2
\quad(bindpar \ ((a \ (/ \ a \ b))
\quad(b \ (- \ a \ b)))
\quad(bindpar \ ((a \ (* \ a \ b))
\quad(b \ (+ \ a \ b)))
\quad(+ \ a \ b))))
\]

As indicated by the annotations in the comments, this invocation yields 53 as a result. If we change each \text{bindpar} to a \text{bindseq}, the result of invoking the program on the same arguments is 33:

\[
(bindex \ (a \ b) \ ; \ a = 10, \ b = 2
\quad(bindseq \ ((a \ (/ \ a \ b))
\quad(b \ (- \ a \ b)))
\quad(bindseq \ ((a \ (* \ a \ b))
\quad(b \ (+ \ a \ b)))
\quad(+ \ a \ b))))
\]

Many languages have constructs analogous to \text{bindpar} and \text{bindseq}. For example, in OCAML, parallel binding is expressed via a \texttt{let} followed by any number of \texttt{ands}, while sequential binding is expressed by a sequence of \texttt{lets}:

\[
# \texttt{let parTest a b =}
\quad\texttt{let a = a/b}
\quad\texttt{and b = a-b}
\quad\texttt{in let a = a*b}
\quad\texttt{and b = a+b}
\quad\texttt{in a+b;;}
\quad\texttt{val parTest : int -> int -> int = <fun>}
\]
In the SCHEME programming language, `let` is a parallel binding construct but `let*` is a sequential binding construct:

```
(define (par-test a b)
  (let ((a (/ a b))
        (b (- a b)))
    (let ((a (* a b))
          (b (+ a b)))
      (+ a b))))
;Value: par-test
(par-test 10 2)
;Value: 53
```

```
(define (seq-test a b)
  (let* ((a (/ a b))
         (b (- a b)))
    (let* ((a (* a b))
           (b (+ a b)))
      (+ a b))))
;Value: seq-test
(seq-test 10 2)
;Value: 33
```

We now study the changes we need to make to the BINDEX language implementation in order to add `bindpar` and `bindseq`. As in the example of extending BINDEX with a `sigma` construct, there are seven changes we need to make:

1. Extend the `exp` data type with constructors for `bindpar` and `bindseq`.
2. Extend the `sexpToExp` function to parse the new constructs.
3. Extend the `expToSexp` function to unparse the new constructs.
4. Extend the `freeVarsExp` function to determine the free variables of the new constructs.
5. Extend the environment-model `eval` function handle the new constructs.
6. Extend the `subst` function to perform substitution on the new constructs.
7. Extend the substitution-model `eval` function handle the new constructs.
3.1 Extending the exp Data Type

Our first step is to extend the exp data type to include summands for bindpar and bindseq:

\[
\text{and exp =}
\]
\[
: \\
| \text{Bindpar of var list * exp list * exp (* parallel binding of names to defns in body *)} \\
| \text{Bindseq of var list * exp list * exp (* sequential binding of names to defns in body *)}
\]

We could represent the bindings as a list of var/exp pairs, but we instead choose to unzip these into a var list and an exp list because the unzipped form is more convenient for most processing of these expressions. We may always assume that these lists have the same length.

3.2 Parsing

In order to parse the new binding expressions, we must extend sexpToExp. We begin by defining some auxiliary functions for parsing bindings. The parseBinding function parses bindings whose s-expression form is \((I_{name} E_{defn})\):

\[
(* \text{val parseBinding : Sexp.sexp -> (string, exp) *}) \\
\]
\[
\text{let rec parseBinding sexp =} \\
\text{match sexp with} \\
\text{Seq [Sym name; defn] -> (name, sexpToExp defn)} \\
| _ -> raise (SyntaxError ("parseBinding -- invalid binding form: ") \\
\text{" (sexpToString sexp)))}
\]

The parseBindings function parses lists of bindings whose s-expression form is \(((I_1 E_1) \ldots (I_n E_n))\):

\[
(* \text{val parseBindings : Sexp.sexp -> (strings, exps) *}) \\
\text{and parseBindings sexp =} \\
\text{match sexp with} \\
\text{Seq bindingsx -> unzip (map parseBinding bindingsx)} \\
| _ -> raise (SyntaxError ("parseBindings -- invalid bindings list: ") \\
\text{" (sexpToString sexp)))}
\]

We will assume that the names bound in a bindpar or bindseq are distinct, but parseBindings does not verify this assumption. It would be straightforward to extend it to verify that the returned list of strings does not contain any duplicates.

Now we are ready to extend sexpToExp:

\[
(* \text{val sexpToExp: Sexp.sexp -> BindexPlus.exp *}) \\
\text{and sexpToExp sexp =} \\
\text{match sexp with} \\
\text{Seq [Sym "bindpar"; bindingsx; bodyx] ->} \\
\text{Seq [Sym "bindseq"; bindingsx; bodyx] ->}
\]

A subtle point is that the above clauses must come before the clause for processing binary applications:
Why? Because otherwise the pattern `Seq [Sym p; rand1x; rand2x]` will match both the `bindpar` and `bindseq` forms and an exception will be raised by `stringToBinop` indicating that these are not valid binops!

### 3.3 Unparsing

In order to unparse the new binding expressions, we must extend `expToSexp`. Unparsing is more straightforward than parsing:

```
(* val expToSexp: BindexPlus.exp -> Sexp.sexp *)
and expToSexp e =
  match e with
  :
    | Bindpar(ns,ds,b) ->

    | Bindseq(ns,ds,b) ->
```

### 3.4 Free Variables

In the expression `bindpar (((I_{name_1} E_{defn_1}) \ldots (I_{name_n} E_{defn_n}) E_{body})`, only the body expression `E_{body}` is in the scope of the names `I_{name_1} \ldots I_{name_n}`. So the free variables of this expression are the free variables of all the `E_{defn}` expressions unioned with the difference of the `E_{body}` expression and all the `I_{name}` identifiers. This calculation is expressed as a clause in the `freeVarsExp` function as follows:

```
(* val freeVarsExp: BindexPlus.exp -> BindexPlus.S.t *)
and freeVarsExp e =
  match e with
  :
    | Bindpar(names,defns,body) ->
```

If the extended `freeVarsExp` is in the module `BindexPlus`, we can test it as follows:
For `(bindseq ((I_{name_1} E_{defn_1}) \ldots (I_{name_n} E_{defn_n}) E_{body})`, the calculation of free variables is more complex because the scope of each variable `I_{name_i}` includes the definition expressions `E_{defn_{i+1}}` \ldots `E_{defn_n}` as well as `E_{body}`. So the bound variable of a binding needs to be subtracted off from the free variables of the definitions of subsequent bindings. This can be expressed succinctly in `freeVarsExp` clause using `foldr2` as follows:

```
| Bindseq(names,defns,body) ->
```

For example:

```
# setToList
(freeVarsExp
 (stringToExp
   "(bindseq ((a (+ d e))
              (b (- a f))
              (c (* b g)))
           (+ (* a b) (/ c d))")
   ));
- : BindexPlus.S.elt list = ["a"; "b"; "d"; "e"; "f"; "g"]
```

# setToList
(freeVarsExp
 (stringToExp
   "(bindpar ((a (+ d e))
              (b (- a f))
              (c (* b g)))
           (+ (* a b) (/ c d))")
   ));
- : BindexPlus.S.elt list = ["a"; "b"; "d"; "e"; "f"; "g"]
```
3.5 Environment-Model Interpreter

In the environment model, we can extend the eval function to handle bindpar by using map to evaluate all definition expressions in parallel and then using Env.bindAll to extend the current environment with bindings that associate the resulting values to the corresponding variables names:

\[
(* \text{val eval: } \text{BindexPlus.exp} \to \text{int Env.env} \to \text{int} *)
\]

\[
\text{and eval exp env =}
\]

\[
\text{match exp with}
\]

\[
\text{:}
\]

\[
\text{| Bindpar(names,defns,body) ->}
\]

The sequential nature of bindseq makes it more challenging to implement its evaluation. We can use foldl2 to start with the initial environment env and incrementally build a sequence of environments that reflect the contribution of each binding.

\[
\text{| Bindseq(names,defns,body) ->}
\]

The current definition expression defn is evaluated in the extended-environment-so-far e, and its value is bound to the current variable name name in e to make the next environment. The bindseq expression returns the result of evaluating the body expression body in the environment that results from processing all the bindings.

The form of the eval clause for bindseq encourages thinking about other meanings for binding constructs that can be obtained by small tweaks to the clause:

- What if foldl2 is changed to foldr2?
- What if the e in (eval defn e) is changed to env (the parameter of eval)?
- What if the e in Env.bind ... e is changed to env?

There are eight possible permutations of these possibilities. Which correspond to the meaning of bindpar?
3.6 Substitution

Before we can extend the substitution-model interpreter, we must first extend the subst function to handle bindpar and bindseq. Recall that to prevent variable capture, the substitution function gives fresh names to all bound variables before performing substitution on the subexpressions. This is straightforward in the case of bindpar, because all the renamings can be performed in parallel:

\[
(* \text{val subst: BindexPlus.exp} \rightarrow \text{BindexPlus.exp Env.env} \\
\rightarrow \text{BindexPlus.exp} *)
\]

\[
\text{let rec subst exp env} = \\
\text{match exp with} \\
\text{\vdash Bindpar(names,defns,body) ->} \\
\text{let names' = map StringUtils.fresh names}
\]

For example:

\[
(* \text{make senv, a sample substitution environment \ast} *)
\]

\[
# \text{let senv = Env.make ["a"; "b"; "c"; "d"]} \\
\text{[BinApp(Add, Var "a", Var "b")}; \\
\text{BinApp(Sub, Var "a", Var "b")}; \\
\text{BinApp(Mul, Var "a", Var "b")}; \\
\text{BinApp(Div, Var "a", Var "b")}]~;~
\]

\[
\text{val senv : BindexPlus.exp Env.env = \langle abstr \rangle}
\]

\[
# \text{StringUtils.print} \\
\text{(expToString} \\
\text{(subst (stringToExp} \\
\text{"bindpar ((a (+ d e))} \\
\text{\quad (b (- a f))} \\
\text{\quad (c (* b g)))} \\
\text{\quad (+ (* a b) (/ c d))))")} \\
\text{\quad senv));;} \\
\text{(bindpar ((a.2 (+ (/ a b) e))} \\
\text{\quad (b.1 (- (+ a b) f))} \\
\text{\quad (c.0 (* (- a b) g)))} \\
\text{\quad (+ (* a.2 b.1) (/ c.0 (/ a b))))} \\
\text{- : unit = ()}
\]
Renaming the bound variables in bindseq is a fair bit trickier, because we must accurately model the fact that each variable name declared by bindseq is bound in the following definition expressions as well as the body expression. We can express this process via the following clause:

\[
\text{Bindseq}(\text{names,defns,body}) \rightarrow \\
\hspace{1cm} \text{let (names',defns',body') = substBindseq (zip (names,defns)) body env in Bindseq(names',defns',body')}
\]

where substBindseq is the following recursive function:

(* val substBindseq: 
  (BindexPlus.var * BindexPlus.exp) list 
  -> BindexPlus.exp 
  -> BindexPlus.exp Env.env 
  -> BindexPlus.var list * BindexPlus.exp list * BindexPlus.exp *)

and substBindseq bindings body env =

match bindings with
  [] ->
  | ((name,defn):: bindings') ->

substBindseq processes each binding by extending the current environment with a renaming of the binding's name to a fresh name. It also uses the current environment to perform renaming in the definition of the current binding. This process could also be express via \text{foldl2} (try it, as an exercise), but the recursive version may be easier to understand.

Here is an example of substituting into a bindseq expression, using the sample substitution environment \text{senv} from above:

```plaintext
# StringUtils.print
(expToString
  (subst (stringToExp
    "(bindseq ((a (+ d e))
       (b (- a f))
       (c (* b g)))
     (+ (* a b) (/ c d)))")
  senv));;
(bindseq ((a.3 (+ (/ a b) e))
  (b.4 (- a.3 f))
  (c.5 (* b.4 g)))
(+ (* a.3 b.4) (/ c.5 (/ a b))))
```

- : unit = ()
3.7 Substitution-Model Interpreter

Now we're ready to tackle evaluation in the substitution model. As to be expected, evaluating bindpar is easier than bindseq:

\[
\begin{align*}
(* \text{ val eval: } \text{BindexPlus.exp } \rightarrow \text{ int } *) \\
\text{and eval exp = } & \\
\text{match exp with } & \\
\text{ | Bindpar(names,defns,body) } & \\
\text{ | Bindseq(names,defns,body) } & \\
\end{align*}
\]

where evalBindseq is the following auxiliary function:

\[
\begin{align*}
(* \text{ val evalBindseq: } \text{BindexPlus.var list } & \rightarrow \text{ BindexPlus.exp list } \\
& \rightarrow \text{ BindexPlus.exp } \\
& \rightarrow \text{ int } *) \\
\text{and evalBindseq names defns body = } & \\
\text{match (names,defns) with } & \\
\text{ | ([],[]) } & \\
\text{ | (n::names’,d::defns’) } & \\
\text{| _ } & \rightarrow \text{ raise (EvalError("shouldn’t happen"))}
\end{align*}
\]

In the bindpar clause, eval is mapped over the definitions to evaluate them in parallel and substAll simultaneously substitutes these values for the variable names in the body. Evaluating bindseq is expressed in terms of the recursive evalBindseq function, which performs the substitution of a binding value for a binding name on all following definitions as well as the body.