

OCaml_{light} (ESOP '08) is a formal semantics for a substantial subset of the Objective Caml core language, suitable for writing and verifying real programs.

OCaml_{light} key points

- Written in Ott
 - Faithful to Objective Caml (very nearly)
 - Type soundness proof mechanized in HOL
(Coq and Isabelle/HOL definitions generated too)
 - Operational semantics validated on test programs
 - Small-step operational semantics (131 rules)
 - Type system (179 rules, below)

- definitions:
 - variant data types (e.g., type $t = I$ of int | C of char),
 - record types (e.g., type $t = \{f : \text{int}; g : \text{bool}\}$),
 - parametric type constructors (e.g., type ' a $t = C$ of ' a '),
 - type abbreviations (e.g., type ' a $t =$ ' a * int),
 - mutually recursive combinations of the above (excepting abbreviations),
 - exceptions, and values;
 - expressions for type annotations, sequencing, and primitive values (functions, lists, tuples, and records);
 - with (record update), if, while, for, assert, try, and raise expressions;
 - let-based polymorphism with an SML-style value restriction;
 - mutually-recursive function definitions via let rec;
 - pattern matching, with nested patterns, as patterns, and “or” (|) patterns;
 - mutable references with ref, !, and :=;
 - polymorphic equality (the Objective Caml = operator);
 - 31-bit word semantics for ints (using an existing HOL library); and
 - IEEE-754 semantics for floats (using an existing HOL library).

The OCaml_{*light*} Operational Semantics (131 rules)

This diagram illustrates the state transition graph of the JRepr interpreter, showing the flow from various initial states to final states through a series of transitions. The states are categorized by their purpose: Pattern matching, Expression evaluation, Recursion, Function values, Unary primitive evaluation, Binary primitive evaluation, and Definition sequence evaluation.

Initial States:

- expr matches pattern**: The starting point for pattern matching.
- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$** : The starting point for expression evaluation.
- store $\xrightarrow{L} store'$** : The starting point for store transitions.

Pattern Matching States:

- expr matches pattern $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr matches pattern $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr matches pattern $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr matches pattern $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- Pattern matching with substitution creation states** (e.g., **expr matches pattern $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z] [substs, w]**): Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- Pattern matching step states** (e.g., **expr with pattern_matching $\Rightarrow \text{pattern_matching}$**): Reached via L from **expr with pattern_matching**.
- Pattern matching finished states** (e.g., **expr with pattern_matching $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$**): Reached via L from **expr with pattern_matching**.

Expression Evaluation States:

- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$ [substs, x]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$ [substs, x] [substs, y]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z] [substs, w]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- Expression evaluation states** (e.g., **expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z] [substs, w] [substs, v]**): Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.

Recursion States:

- recfun (letrec_bindings, pattern_matching) $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- recfun (letrec_bindings, pattern_matching) $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- recfun (letrec_bindings, pattern_matching) $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- recfun (letrec_bindings, pattern_matching) $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.
- recfun (letrec_bindings, pattern_matching) $\Rightarrow \text{expr}$ [substs, x] [substs, y] [substs, z] [substs, w]**: Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.

Function Value States:

- funval (e) $\Rightarrow \text{function_value}$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.

Unary Primitive Evaluation States:

- unary_prim expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.

Binary Primitive Evaluation States:

- expr binary_prim expr $\xrightarrow{L} expr'$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.

Definition Sequence Evaluation States:

- (definitions, program) $\xrightarrow{L} (\text{definitions}', \text{program}')$** : Reached via L from **expr matches pattern**.