Formal Specification and Verification of Java Refactorings

Alejandra Garrido and José Meseguer

Technical Report UIUCDCS-R-2006-2731
(Engineering No. UILU-ENG-2006-1771)
Department of Computer Science.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana IL 61801, USA.
{garrido, meseguer}@cs.uiuc.edu
May 2006

Abstract. There is an extensive literature about refactorings of object-oriented programs, and many refactoring tools for the Java programming language. However, except for a few studies, in practice it is difficult to find precise formal specifications of the preconditions and mechanisms of automated refactorings. Moreover, there is usually no formal proof that a refactoring is correct, i.e., that it preserves the behavior of the program. We present an equational semantics based approach to Java refactoring. Specifically, we use an executable Java formal semantics in the Maude language to: (i) formally specify a number of useful Java refactorings; and (ii) give detailed proofs of correctness for two of those refactorings, showing that they are behavior-preserving transformations. Besides the obvious benefits of providing rigorous specifications for refactoring tool builders and rigorous correctness guarantees, our approach has the additional advantage of its executability: our formal refactoring specifications can be used directly to refactor Java programs and yield a provably correct Java refactoring tool. Another important advantage of our approach is its extensibility by new user-defined refactorings that, when defined in terms of a basic library of verified refactorings, can be guaranteed to be correct by construction.

1 Introduction

Refactorings were defined by Opdyke and Johnson [1] in 1990 as transformations of the source code that make it easier to understand and reuse, while preserving its behavior. The term ‘refactoring’ differs from program restructuring in that transformations are applied

"not so much to infuse structure into a poorly structured program, but rather to refine the design of an already structured program, and make it easier to reuse." [2]

In his thesis [2], Opdyke provides a catalog of low-level refactorings for C++ code and precisely describes the preconditions and mechanisms for each one. Roberts
does a similar job for Smalltalk code [3]. There have been many publications about refactoring object-oriented programs [4–8], and numerous Java refactoring tools have been built [9–12], but there is usually no documentation specifying precisely the preconditions and mechanisms of refactorings, nor there is any proof of correctness.

In order to guarantee the correctness of refactoring tools, two tasks are absolutely essential: (1) refactoring themselves should be formally specified; and (2) each refactoring should be proved correct, i.e., behavior-preserving, with respect to the language’s formal semantics. We address tasks (1) and (2) for some Java refactorings in this paper. As further explained in the Related Work section, other researchers have also made contributions in this direction for different languages, including [13–18]. However, most of that work, with the exception of [13, 14], has concentrated primarily on task (1).

Our approach to tasks (1) and (2) is based on an equational executable semantics of sequential Java specified in Maude [19, 20] as part of the JavaFAN project [21]. In fact, the Java semantics in [21] includes also the concurrent features; however, in this work we restrict ourselves to the sequential fragment, which is specified as an equational theory. Our formal specification of several frequently-used Java refactorings (task (1)) extends this equational Java semantics and has the important advantage of being executable. This means that the formal definitions of refactorings are at the same time their implementation, yielding a Java refactoring tool for free from such definitions. It also means that there is no gap between specification and implementation, so that any refactoring specification proved correct will indeed operate correctly as specified.

We give also a detailed mathematical proof of correctness (task (2)) for two of those refactorings. That is, we show that they preserve program behavior with respect to the formal Java semantics. Without a formal semantics of the underlying language such mathematical proofs of correctness would of course be impossible. Our proofs do indeed make essential use of the equational axioms defining the Java semantics and also of the formal refactoring specifications.

Besides the obvious benefits of providing rigorous specifications for refactoring tool builders and rigorous correctness guarantees, plus the already-mentioned benefit of obtaining a provably correct Java refactoring tool for free from the formal specifications, a further important advantage of our approach is its extensibility: the algebraic approach we propose makes it straightforward for a user to introduce new user-defined refactorings. Such user-defined refactorings can be defined as algebraic expressions in terms of a basic library of already verified refactorings, and can then be guaranteed to be correct by construction, without any need for additional verification. Finally, our approach is not restricted to Java or OOP: it can be used in conjunction with any language for which an equational or rewriting logic semantics has been provided. We have, for example, applied the same methodology described in this paper to the C Preprocessor (C++), i.e., we have used Maude to specify C++ refactorings on top of a formal specification of C++, which allowed us to prove C++ refactorings correct based on the semantics of the language [22].
This paper is organized as follows. The next subsection describes other efforts to formalize refactorings. Section 2 gives an overview of rewriting logic specification for the Java syntax and semantics on which we base our work. Section 3 first describes some generic operations that are used by different refactorings. It then provides details of the specification of ‘Pull Up Method’, ‘Push Down Method’, ‘Push Down Field’, ‘Pull Up Field’ and ‘Rename Temporary’ and then describes how refactorings can be composed to create new refactorings. Section 4 presents the formal proofs of correctness for ‘Push Down Method’ and ‘Pull Up Field’ and Section 5 concludes with some remarks and future work.

1.1 Related work

We discuss related work on formal approaches to refactoring and also some related work on program transformation.

Most formal approaches to refactoring focus on task (1), that is, on giving a precise formal specification of refactorings. Work in this direction includes [13–18]. Several formalisms are used for this purpose. For example, [15, 16] represent programs as graphs and use graph rewriting to specify refactorings. Instead, [17] uses monads and polymorphic functions in Haskell to specify refactorings in a language-generic way. The work in [18, 13, 14] agrees in specifying refactorings as transformation rules with formal predicates for applicability preconditions. In [18] the emphasis is on allowing user-defined refactorings by composing basic ones, whereas in [13, 14] refactorings are viewed as bi-directional transformation rules for which preconditions are specified for use in each direction. Our approach to task (1) has some similarities with [15–17], since we represent programs as terms and specify refactorings equationally as conditional term rewrite rules, which are similar to both graph rewrite rules with applicability constraints and to functional program definitions. What the approaches in [15–18] lack in relation to our work is a formal semantics of the underlying programming language.

Task (2), in the full sense of proving behavior preservation with respect to the language semantics, is studied much less often, or is even despairs of as in [16], where it is asserted (pg. 253) that “all researchers agree that a full guarantee of preservation of behavior is impossible,” although [16] nevertheless shows some preservation of static properties. We of course beg to disagree with such pessimism. In fact, the work in [13, 14] has shown how, for a simplified Java-like sequential language, refactorings can be formally proved correct with respect to an axiomatic, weakest precondition (WP) semantics. Our work is indeed in the same spirit as [13, 14], but addresses Java itself, and uses a different semantics (algebraic, instead of axiomatic) with two important advantages: (1) executability, since for us both the Java semantics and the refactoring specifications are executable and yield Java tools; and (2) extensibility, since our language definitions are modular and will support reasoning about refactorings in a more general context such as multithreaded programs (already supported with a rewriting semantics in [21]), whereas extensibility of a WP semantics with new features such as exceptions or concurrency would be a nontrivial and perhaps problematic task.
We can also mention some related work on program transformation. Visser [23] surveys several approaches and extensions to term rewriting, like different strategies for tree parsing, tree traversal and programmable transformations. Examples of these approaches are those in Stratego [24] and ASF+SDF [25]. However, these approaches to program transformation differ from refactoring in that transformation rules are usually applied to the entire program, with the objective of normalizing the program or optimizing it [23].

Another formalism for program transformation is the method based on WSL (Wide Spectrum Language) [26]. It has an associated tool with a library of transformations that have been proved correct, and the transformations are applied to refine a specification or to abstract a program written in WSL. Translators to/from WSL exist for IBM 370 Assembler and Jovial [26].

Ahrend, Roth and Sasse have used Maude and the formal specification of the Java language written in Maude [21] to cross-validate the rules of a programming language proof calculus called KeY [27, 28]. The rules in KeY are program transformation rules that apply only to the first statement of the remaining program [27, 28].

2 Maude Specification of the Java Semantics

Rewriting logic provides a powerful framework for specifying the semantics of both sequential and concurrent programming languages by unifying SOS and equational semantics [29]. Moreover, the Maude environment [19, 20] allows the direct execution of semantic specifications as interpreters with high efficiency.

The semantics of the Java programming language is specified as a rewrite theory \( (\Sigma_{Java}, E_{Java}, R_{Java}) \), where the signature \( \Sigma_{Java} \) specifies Java's syntax, \( E_{Java} \) is a set of equations that specify the semantics of all the sequential features of Java and of the auxiliary operations, and \( R_{Java} \) is a set of labelled rules that specify the semantics of all the concurrent features of Java [21]. The complete specification can be found in [30]. In this work we will not consider the concurrent aspects of Java, so we restrict ourselves to the equational theory \( (\Sigma_{Java}, E_{Java}) \).

The formal specification of a programming language is defined in Maude by a sequence of modules [29]. Since we do not consider the concurrent aspects of Java in this presentation, we will only deal with functional modules. A Maude’s functional module is a set of definitions that specify an equational theory \( (\Sigma, E) \), with \( \Sigma \) a signature specifying a collection of sorts and operations on these sorts, and \( E \) a collection of equational axioms. Such functional modules are defined between the keywords \texttt{fmod} and \texttt{endfm}. Figure 1 shows three Maude modules specifying the syntax of Java classes (\texttt{CLASS-SYNTAX}), field declarations (\texttt{FIELD-DECLARATION-SYNTAX}) and methods (\texttt{METHOD-DECLARATION-SYNTAX}), extracted from [30]. In order to help understand Fig. 1, Maude’s basic syntax and semantics is described below.

A Maude module extends a previously defined module by importing it with the keyword \texttt{pr} (for ‘protecting’) or \texttt{ex} (for ‘extending’). There is a subtle difference between the two, but it is out of the scope of this presentation; a detailed
figmod CLASS-SYNTAX is pr TYPE.
sorts Modifier ClassMember ClassMembers ClassBody Supers Class.
subsort ClassMember < ClassMembers.
ops final static abstract public private protected transient native: -> Modifier.
op _; : Modifier Modifier -> Modifier [comm assoc prec 30].
op _; : -> ClassBody.
op {} : -> ClassBody.
op { } : ClassMembers -> ClassBody [prec 80].
op noMember : -> ClassMembers.
op _; : ClassMembers ClassMembers -> ClassMembers [assoc prec 100 id: noMember].
op extends_ : CType -> Supers [prec 85].
op extends_implements_ : CType ITypes -> Supers [prec 85].
op implements_ : IType -> Supers [prec 85].
op _Class___ : Modifier Qid Supers ClassBody -> Class [prec 90].
op _Interface_extends___ : Modifier Qid ITypes ClassBody -> Class [prec 90].
endfm

figmod FIELD-DECLARATION-SYNTAX is ex CLASS-SYNTAX.
ex DECLARATION-SYNTAX.
sort FieldDeclaration.
subsort FieldDeclaration < ClassMember.
op _; : Modifier Declaration -> FieldDeclaration [prec 75].
endfm

figmod METHOD-DECLARATION-SYNTAX is ex CLASS-SYNTAX.
ex DECLARATION-SYNTAX.
ex TYPE.
sorts MethodDeclaration Parameters.
subsort MethodDeclaration < ClassMember.
subsort Declaration < Parameters.
op void : -> Type.
op _('(') : -> Parameters.
op _; : Parameters Parameters -> Parameters [assoc prec 80 id: _].
op _; : Modifier Type Qid Parameters Block -> MethodDeclaration [prec 95].
op _; : Modifier Type Qid Parameters CTypes Block -> MethodDeclaration [prec 95].
--- constructors:
op _; : Modifier Qid Parameters Block -> MethodDeclaration [prec 95].
op _; : Modifier Qid Parameters CTypes Block -> MethodDeclaration [prec 95].
endfm

Fig. 1. Specification of the syntax of classes, field declarations and methods

Explanation can be found in [20]. Sorts are declared with the keywords sort or sorts. For example, Class, ClassMember and FieldDeclaration are declared as sorts in the Java syntax specification of Figure 1. The modules in the figure use sorts declared in other modules, like Type for basic Java types, CType for class types, Declaration which represents a variable declaration, and Qid, a sort defined in Maude to represent quoted identifiers.

The set of declared sorts can be partially ordered by a subsort relationship. The keywords subsort and the “<” character are used for this purpose. The subsort relationship s ≲ s’ is interpreted semantically by the subset inclusion \( A_s \subseteq A_{s’} \) between the sets \( A_s \) and \( A_{s’} \) of data elements associated to \( s \) and \( s’ \) in an algebra \( A \) [20]. In Figure 1, the expression

```
subsort FieldDeclaration < ClassMember
```

means that a FieldDeclaration is a ClassMember (note that the same is true for a MethodDeclaration). Moreover, the expression

```
subsort ClassMember < ClassMembers
```
says that a ClassMember is a list of ClassMembers (a list with one element), which makes it easy to deal with lists or single elements in the same way.

Operations are declared using the keyword op or ops followed by the name of the operation(s), then a colon, then the sorts of the arguments, then an arrow, and finally the sort of the result. Maude understands both prefix and mixfix notation for operations. When declaring an operation with mixfix notation, underscore characters are used to specify the places for the arguments. For example, the operation

\[
\text{op \{\_\} \colon \text{ClassMembers} \rightarrow \text{ClassBody}}
\]

constructs a ClassBody by placing a list of ClassMembers between curly braces. Although not shown in Fig. 1, a Java program is defined to have sort \(\text{Pgm}\) and is constructed with the following operation:

\[
\text{op \_\_ \colon \text{Classes Exp} \rightarrow \text{Pgm}}
\]

that is, a set of classes and an expression to evaluate.

A binary operation in Maude can be declared to satisfy some equational axioms like associativity (with the keyword assoc), commutativity (with the keyword comm), and identity with respect to an identity element (keyword id). Moreover, precedence for an operation may be set with the keyword prec and a natural number (the lower the number, the higher the precedence). An example is the operation:

\[
\text{op \_\_ \colon \text{ClassMembers ClassMembers} \rightarrow \text{ClassMembers} } \\
\quad \text{[assoc pred 100 id: noMember]}
\]

which concatenates ClassMembers by using empty juxtaposition syntax and declaring the operation as associative, with a precedence of 100 and having noMember as the identity element.

Other modules presented later in the paper use variable declarations and equations. Mathematical variables are declared inside a module with the keywords var or vars, followed by the variable name(s), a colon and the sort to which the variable(s) belong. Equations define the properties that the operations should satisfy. Equations start with the keyword eq followed by two expressions separated by an “=” character. As a final note on the Maude syntax, comments can be added by preceding them with three asterisks or three dashes.

The semantics of Java in Maude uses continuation-passing style [29] to capture the next statement or expression to execute. Continuations in Maude are first-order structures resembling stacks [29]. The continuation is part of a State data structure, which also includes the current state of the memory and environment. The elements of the state have sort StateAttribute and are specified with constructor operators that take as argument the value that each one stores. The StateAttributes are:

- Context: specified with the constructor c, which takes three elements:
  - Continuation: wrapped with operation k, it includes ContinuationItems that are concatenated with the operator \(\rightarrow\).
  - Environment: wrapped with operation e, and mapping variable names to locations.
Current object: on which the current method is executed. It is specified with three components: the static type, the dynamic type and the object environment, all wrapped by the operation o.

- Memory: specified with the constructor m, it maps locations to values.
- Next free location in memory: specified with a natural number wrapped with operation n.
- Classes: the cl operation wraps the list of all class definitions used in the program.
- Static environment: wrapped with the operation s, the static environment includes all static attributes of all classes.
- Output: this is the accumulated output that is wrapped inside the constructor out and its value is returned at the end of the computation.

To execute a program, the operation run is called on a Pgm, that is, a set of classes Cl and an expression E, and the operation creates the initial state, which includes Cl and a continuation with E as the next expression to evaluate. The result is the final value of the state attribute out. In the Appendix, we present more details about semantic definitions. The full specification used for the Java semantics can be found in [30].

3 Formal Semantics of Java Refactorings

This section presents the formal specifications of five Java refactorings: ‘Pull Up Method’, ‘Push Down Method’, ‘Push Down Field’, ‘Pull Up Field’ and ‘Rename Temporary’. Their preconditions and transformations are based on the formal specification of the Java syntax presented in the previous section.

The module JAVA-REF in Figure 2 specifies the basic syntax of refactoring operations. It defines three sorts and three overloaded versions of the operation <~ that applies a refactoring to different parts of the code:

- a JavaRefactoring is applied to a Pgm (a Java program) and returns a transformed Pgm (or the same Pgm if the preconditions do not hold); an example is the refactoring ‘Rename Field’;
- a JavaClassesRefactoring is applied to a set of Classes and returns the same or a transformed set of Classes; an example is the refactoring ‘Push Down Method’;
- a JavaBlockRefactoring is applied to a Block and returns the same or a transformed Block. An example is ‘Rename Temporary’ refactoring.

During the course of specifying refactorings, we have created some generic operations that were found applicable in many refactorings. These operations are important, since they ease the introduction of new refactorings. We present a few of them in the first subsection. The complete formal specification of auxiliary operations and refactorings in this section can be found in [30].

Finally, the last subsection describes how refactorings can be composed to create new refactorings.
3.1 Generic Auxiliary Operations

In this subsection we list a few of the generic auxiliary operations used in the refactorings described later.

**getMethod.** This is an example of a query operation. The typing of this operation is:

```plaintext
op getMethod : Class Qid Types -> ClassMembers
```

where the first argument is the class that defines the method, the second is the method name, and the third is the parameter types. The return value has sort `ClassMembers` to account for the possibility of a `noMember` value (see Fig. 1).

**noSuperCalls.** This is an example of the kind of test operations invoked during the checking of preconditions. Its typing is:  

```plaintext
op noSuperCalls : Block -> Bool
```

and it checks whether the method body represented by the parameter contains any method calls using "super".

**usesVar.** This operation checks whether a block refers to a variable. Its signature is:  

```plaintext
op usesVar : Block Var -> Bool
```

**moveClassMemberMult.** This operation is called from every refactoring where there is a class member (a field or a method) that should be removed from a set of classes and added to another set of classes. Examples of these refactorings are *Push Down Method*, *Push Down Field*, and *Pull Up Field*. The typing of this operation is:  

```plaintext
op moveClassMemberMult : ClassMember Classes Classes -> Classes.
```

where the first parameter is the field or method to be moved, the second represents the classes (or a single class) from where the member is to be removed, the third parameter is the set of classes (or single class) to which the member is added, and the return value is the set of all transformed classes.

**removeAll.** This operation is called after the previous one to remove from the set of all classes those that have been modified, and return the remaining, unchanged classes. Its typing is:  

```plaintext
op removeAll : Classes Classes -> Classes.
```

The semantics is very general and just removes from the first set of classes the ones in the second set given as parameter.
### 3.2 Pull Up Method Refactoring

This refactoring helps to generalize a method by moving it from a class to its superclass. Our implementation does not require that all subclasses define the method to be pulled up, but instead just removes the method from all subclasses that define it in the same way, and adds the method to the superclass. The module defining the semantics of this refactoring appears in Figure 3. The operation that carries out this refactoring is specified as follows:

```
op PullUpMethod : Qid Qid Types -> JavaClassesRefactoring.
eq Cl <- PullUpMethod(CN, MN, TS)
  = if precondsPullUpMethodHold(Cl, CN, MN, TS)
      then applyPullUpMethod(Cl, CN, MN, TS)
      else Cl fi .
```

The input parameters are: the name of the subclass (CN), the method name (MN) and argument types (TS). The refactoring is applied on the program’s set of classes (Cl) and if the preconditions hold, the transformation is applied; otherwise, the same set of classes is returned without changes. The preconditions for this refactoring are the following:

1. The input is valid, i.e., there is a class named CN which defines a method MN with parameter types TS.
2. Class CN has a superclass different than Object.
3. The body of MN(TS) does not refer to the fields defined in CN.
4. The superclass of CN does not define MN(TS) with a different body.
5. The body of MN does not call other methods using super.

Some equations in Fig. 3 that check preconditions have been numbered to provide easy reference with the previous list. The operation `checkBodyWithSClass`, which checks if the superclass of CN defines MN(TS), compares the method bodies using the operator `==` predefined in Maude. This condition could be relaxed to allow for renaming of temporal variables, by defining an appropriate comparison operation for method bodies.

Note the use of the attribute `[owise]` (otherwise) in the fifth equation of Fig. 3, which makes it applicable when all the previous equations have failed to apply, i.e., the set Cl is not empty but it does not contain a class named CN. The attribute `[owise]` can be desugared into an equivalent conditional specification [20].

The operation `applyPullUpMethod` carries out the transformation by calling `moveMethodUp`. The latter first moves the method from CN to the superclass by calling `moveClassMember`, which is an auxiliary operation that removes the member from the first class and adds it to the second class, if the second class does not already defines the member. Finally, the auxiliary operation `removeClassMemberFromSiblings` removes the method MN(TS) from sibling classes of CN that define it with the same body.
3.3 Push Down Method Refactoring

With this refactoring, a user selects a method \( MN \) in a class \( CN \) and, if the preconditions hold, \( MN \) is moved from \( CN \) to all subclasses of \( CN \). Figure 4 shows the module specifying this refactoring. The main operation is specified similarly to \( \text{PullUpMethod} \) with:

\[
\text{op \ PushDownMethod} : \text{Qid Qid Types} \rightarrow \text{JavaClassesRefactoring}.
\]

The same parameter types. The operation \( \text{PushDownMethod} \), when applied to a set of classes \( Cl \), first checks the preconditions by calling \( \text{precondsPushDownMethodHold} \), and if the result is \( \text{true} \) applies the transformation by calling \( \text{applyPushDownMethod} \). Otherwise, it just returns the same set of classes \( Cl \). This is simply specified with the first equation in module \( \text{PUSH-DOWN-METHOD} \) (see Figure 4).
The preconditions for this refactoring are the following (note that some equations in Fig. 4 are numbered on the right to provide easy reference with the following list):

1. The input is valid, i.e., there is a class named $CN$ which defines a method $MN$ with parameter types $TS$.
2. Class $CN$ is abstract, i.e., it has been defined with the modifier $\text{abstract}$.
3. Method $MN(TS)$ is not static.
4. The body of $MN$ does not call other methods using $\text{super}$.
5. Class $CN$ has subclasses, and none of the subclasses call $MN$ by way of $\text{super}$.

The mechanics of $\text{applyPushDownMethod}$ are to retrieve the method $MN(TS)$ from the class $CN$, retrieve $CN$'s subclasses, and call the overloaded version of $\text{applyPushDownMethod}$. The latter first calls the auxiliary operation $\text{moveClassMemberMult}$ to move the $\text{MethodDeclaration}$ $MD$ from the superclass $C$ to all subclasses $\text{SubCl}$, and then calls the operation $\text{removeAll}$, to append to the result of $\text{moveClassMemberMult}$ (the changed classes), the rest of the classes that have not been changed.
3.4 Push Down Field Refactoring

This refactoring is helpful when a field FN is defined in a class CN but is only used in some subclasses of CN, so FN is moved to those subclasses. Figure 5 shows the module that specifies this refactoring. The typing of the operation that carries out this refactoring is:

\[ \text{op PushDownField : Qid Qid -> JavaClassesRefactoring.} \]

where the first argument is the name of the superclass (CN) and the second argument is the field name (FN).

The preconditions for this refactoring are the following:
1. The input is valid, i.e., there is a class named CN which defines a field FN.
2. The class CN is abstract or the field FN is not public.
3. Class CN has subclasses.
4. There are no methods in CN that refer to FN.

The preconditions are checked by operation precondsPushDownFieldHold (note that we have numbered again the equations for precondsPushDownFieldHold for easy reference with the previous list). In turn, the operation checkFieldAccess checks that class CN defines a field FN and calls the auxiliary operation methodsAccessField, which returns true if the field passed as first argument is accessed by any of the methods specified as second argument.

If the preconditions hold, the transformation is carried out with operation applyPushDownField, which similarly to the previous refactorings, also uses moveClassMemberMult to move the field from the superclass to only those subclasses that refer to FN (the operation classesAccessField returns from a set of classes those that access the specified field).

3.5 Pull Up Field Refactoring

This refactoring is used when all subclasses of a class CN define the same field FN, which should be therefore abstracted to the superclass CN. Figure 6 shows the formal specification of this refactoring. The operation that applies the refactoring is PullUpField, which receives the class name CN and the field name FN as parameters, and in the same way as in the previous refactorings, carries out the transformation if the preconditions hold.

The preconditions for this refactoring are:
1. There is a class named CN in the set of classes.
2. Class CN has at least one subclass.
3. Class CN does not define the field FN.
4. All subclasses of CN define the field FN.

These preconditions are checked by operation precondsPullUpFieldHold (again, the equations in Fig. 6 are numbered to show which equation checks each precondition).

The transformation is carried out by operation applyPullUpField, which in turn calls moveClassMemberMult to move the field from the subclasses to the superclass, and calls removeAll to get the subset of unchanged classes, just like in previous cases.
fmod PUSH-DOWN-FIELD is
pr JAVA-REF . pr CLASS-REF-HELPERS .
var Cl:Classes. vars CN FN:Qid. var C:Class. var CM:ClassMember. var T:Type.
var md:Modifier. var sp:Supers. var cb:ClassBody. var F:FieldDeclaration.
var Cls:ClassMembers. var pl:Parameters. var blk:Block. var SubCl:Classes.
op PushDownField : Qid Qid -> JavaClassesRefactoring .
eq Cl <- PushDownField(CN, FN)
  = if precondsPushDownFieldHold(Cl, CN, FN) then applyPushDownField(Cl, CN, FN) else Cl fi .
op precondsPushDownFieldHold : Classes Qid Qid -> Bool .
eq precondsPushDownFieldHold(noClass, CN, FN) = false .
eq precondsPushDownFieldHold((md Class CN sp cb Cl), CN, FN)
  = subclasses(#c(CN), Cl) /= noClass and
  checkFieldAccess(getField((md Class CN sp cb), FN), (md Class CN sp cb), FN).
eq precondsPushDownFieldHold(Cl, CN, FN) = false [owise] .
op checkFieldAccess : FieldDeclaration Class Qid -> Bool .
eq checkFieldAccess(noMember, C, FN) = false . ---class doesn't define field
neq checkFieldAccess(F, C, FN) = (isAbstractClass(C) or not isPublicField(F))
  and not methodsAccessField(FN, methods(C)) .
op applyPushDownField : Classes Qid Qid -> Classes .
eq applyPushDownField(Cl, SubCl, FN, Cl)
  = (moveClassMemberMultiple(getField(C, FN), C, SubCl) removeAll(Cl, SubCl)) .
endfm

Fig. 5. Specification of Push Down Field Refactoring

fmod PULL-UP-FIELD is
pr JAVA-REF . pr CLASS-REF-HELPERS .
var Cl:Classes. vars CN FN:Qid. var C:Class. var CM:ClassMember. var md:Modifier.
var cb:ClassBody. vars SubC SupC :Class. var SubCl:Classes. var sp:Supers.
op PullUpField : Qid Qid -> JavaClassesRefactoring .
eq Cl <- PullUpField(CN, FN)
  = if precondsPullUpFieldHold(Cl, CN, FN) then applyPullUpField(Cl, CN, FN) else Cl fi .
op precondsPullUpFieldHold : Classes Qid Qid -> Bool .
eq precondsPullUpFieldHold(noClass,CN,FN) = false .
eq precondsPullUpFieldHold((md Class CN sp cb Cl), CN, FN)
  = subclasses(#c(CN), Cl) /= noClass and
  getField((md Class CN sp cb), FN) == noMember and
  allClassesDefineField(subclasses(#c(CN), Cl), FN) .
eq precondsPullUpFieldHold(Cl, CN, FN) = false [owise] .
op allClassesDefineField : Classes Qid -> Bool .
eq allClassesDefineField(noClass, FN) = true .
eq allClassesDefineField(Cl, FN) = (getField(C, FN) /= noMember) and allClassesDefineField(Cl, FN) .
op applyPullUpField : Classes Qid Qid -> Classes .
eq applyPullUpField((md Class CN sp cb Cl), CN, FN)
  = applyPullUpField(subclasses(#c(CN), Cl), (md Class CN sp cb), FN, Cl) .
neq applyPullUpField(Cl, SubCl, FN, Cl)
  = (moveClassMemberMultiple(getField(SubC, FN), SubC, SupC) removeAll(Cl, (SubC SubCl)) .
endfm

Fig. 6. Specification of Pull Up Field Refactoring
3.6 Rename Temporary Refactoring

Renaming is probably the best known and most used refactoring. Figure 7 shows the Maude specification of Rename Temporary Variable for Java. It differs from the previous refactorings in several aspects: it is an example of a JavaBlockRefactoring, it does not involve code movement, and it requires the construction of a symbol table of the block on which the refactoring is applied, to check variable declarations and visibility. The operation that carries out this refactoring is RenameTemp. It receives as parameters the Old name and the New name for the variable, and the code location L of the selected declaration for Old. This location helps to distinguish between different possible declarations of Old. The location L is specified as a list of numbers (of sort NatList) that represents a path from the root in the syntax tree and identifies the positions of the nested scopes that contain the declaration for Old, with the entire list of numbers indicating the position for the declaration itself. Each entry in the symbol table has an associated NatList specifying the location of its declaration.

The preconditions for this refactoring are checked with operation precond-sRenTempHold, which requires the construction of the symbol table. The operation computeSymbolTable is specified in module SYMBOL-TABLE. This module is extended by the module ST-QUERIES, which specifies the operations isDeclarationAt, used to check if there is a declaration for Old at location L, and isNameVisible, to check that the New name is not visible in the scope of Old.

The operation applyRenTemp traverses nested blocks until the scope for the selected variable Old is found (in the third equation for applyRenTemp), when it calls replace to change each reference to Old by New. Intermediate scopes are replaced by operation replaceSubtree. We only give a few equations for these two operations but the other questions are very similar; they can be found in [30].

3.7 User-Definable Refactorings

Kniesel and Koch [18] argue that refactoring tools should allow the composition of refactorings by end users. With our approach, composition of refactorings is not only possible but easy, by arranging refactorings in a sequence with the <-> operator. For example, take the refactoring ‘Pull Up Field’; as described in [6], it is possible that originally, the fields to be pulled up do not have the same name, so it is first necessary to give all fields the same name and then pull the field up. Therefore, a user may want to define a refactoring ‘Rename And Pull Up Field’ applicable to this more general situation. It takes a class name, the list of different field names in the subclasses and the target name for all fields, and then first applies ‘Rename Field’ to the fields in the subclasses and then applies ‘Pull Up Field’. This can be easily defined by the equation:

\[
eq C1 \leftarrow \text{RenameAndPullUpField}(CN, LNs, TN) \\
= (C1 \leftarrow \text{RenameFieldAny}(\text{subclasses}(\#c(CN), C1), LNs, TN)) \leftarrow \text{PullUpField}(CN, TN). 
\]

where C1:Classes, CN,TN:Qid, LNs:QidList, and RenameFieldAny renames, in each class received as first parameter, the fields with any of the names in the second parameter, to the target name in the third parameter.
fmod RENAME-VAR-REF is
  pr JAVA-REF, pr BLOCK-REF-HELPERS, pr ST-QUERIES.
  var B: Block. vars Old New: Name. var L: NatList. var ST: SymbolTable.
  vars bs NewS : BlockStatements. var N: Nat. vars St St':Statement.
  var dc:Declaration. var SE:StExp. vars E E':Exp.

  op RenameTemp : Name Name NatList -> JavaBlockRefactoring.
  eq B <- RenameTemp(Old, New, L)
    = if preconditionRenTempHold(computeSymbolTable(B), Old, New, L)
    then applyRenTemp(B, Old, New, front(L)) else B fi .

  op preconditionRenTempHold : SymbolTable Name Name NatList -> Bool.
  eq preconditionRenTempHold(ST, Old, New, L)
    = isDeclarationAt(ST, Old, L) and not isNameVisible(ST, New, front(L)) .

  op applyRenTemp : Block Name Name NatList -> Block.
  eq applyRenTemp({ bs }, Old, New, (0 L)) = { applyRenTemp(bs, Old, New, L) } .
  eq applyRenTemp(bs, Old, New, (N L)) = replaceSubtree(bs, N, applyRenTemp(subterm(bs, N), Old, New, L)).
  eq applyRenTemp(bs, Old, New, nil) = replace(Old, New, bs) .

  op replaceSubtree : BlockStatements Nat BlockStatements -> BlockStatements.
  eq replaceSubtree(St, 0, NewS) = NewS .
  eq replaceSubtree((St bs), 0, NewS) = (NewS bs) .
  eq replaceSubtree((St bs), s(N), NewS) = (St replaceSubtree(bs, N, NewS)) .
  eq replaceSubtree((if E St else St' fi), 0, NewS) = (if E NewS else St' fi) .
  eq replaceSubtree((if E St else St' fi), 1, NewS) = (if E St else NewS fi) .

  op replace : Name Name BlockStatements -> BlockStatements.
  eq replace(Old, New, (bs)) = (replace(Old, New, bs)) .
  eq replace(Old, New, (dc ;) ) = (replaceDecl(Old, New, dc ;) ) .
  eq replace(Old, New, (SE ;)) = (replaceStExp(Old, New, SE ;)) .
  eq replace(Old, New, (if E St else St' fi)) = (if replaceExp(Old, New, E)
    replace(Old, New, St) else replace(Old, New, St') fi) .
  eq replace(Old, New, (while E St)) = while replaceExp(Old, New, E)
    replace(Old, New, St) .

  -- more equations for each kind of statement and other replacing operations

endfm

Fig. 7. Specification of Rename Temporary Refactoring

Note that any user-definable refactoring constructed this way, as successive application of a finite number of basic refactorings, will preserve program behavior by construction, provided we have already verified that the basic refactorings it uses do preserve such behavior.

4 Proving Correctness of Java Refactorings

4.1 Correctness of Push Down Method

Theorem 1. Applying PushDownMethod does not change the output of the program:

\[
\text{run(C1 E) = run(((C1 <- PushDownMethod(CN, MN, TS)) E)}
\]

where C1:Classes, E:Exp, CN,MN:Qid and TS:Types.
Proof. If the return value of precondsPushDownMethodHold is false, no changes are applied to the set of classes Cl and the theorem trivially holds. Otherwise, we know that there is a class named CN in Cl, that it is abstract, it has a non-static method MN(TS) and has at least one subclass. Let us call that subclass SubCN. Using this information and by applying the equations in module PUSH-DOWN-METHOD, we can derive the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
Cl &\leftarrow \text{PushDownMethod}(CN, MN, TS) \\
&= \begin{cases} 
\text{applyPushDownMethod}(Cl, CN, MN, TS) & \text{if precondsPushDownMethodHold(Cl, CN, MN, TS)} \\
Cl & \text{else} 
\end{cases} \\
&= \text{applyPushDownMethod}(((md\ \text{Class}\ CN\ \text{sp}\ \{CMs\ (m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block)\})) \\
&(mds\ \text{Class}\ SubCN\ \text{sps}\ \{\ CMsub \}) Cl'), CN, MN, TS) \\
&= \text{applyPushDownMethod}(((CMs\ (m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block))), MN, TS), \\
&(md\ \text{Class}\ CN\ \text{sp}\ \{CMs\ (m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block))\})) , \\
&\text{subclasses(#c(CN), Cl), Cl}) \\
&= \text{moveClassMemberMultiple}(m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block), \\
&(md\ \text{Class}\ CN\ \text{sp}\ \{CMs\ (m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block))\})) , \\
&(mds\ \text{Class}\ SubCN\ \text{sps}\ \{\ CMsub \}) Cl') \\
&= ((md\ \text{Class}\ CN\ \text{sp}\ \{CMs\}) \\
&(mds\ \text{Class}\ SubCN\ \text{sps}\ \{\ CMsub (m\ T\ MN\ pl\ block)\}) Cl')
\end{align*}
\]
which is easily proven by evaluation of the equations in Fig. 8. Moreover, the precondition that SubCN methods do not call super.\textit{MN} ensures that \textit{MN} will not be searched starting from \textit{CN}.

Also, the precondition that the body of \textit{MN} does not call other methods using \text{super} ensures that no errors will occur during the execution of \textit{MN}. \hfill \Box

4.2 Correctness of Pull Up Field

\textbf{Theorem 2.} Applying \textit{PullUpField} does not change the output of the program:

\[ \text{run}(\text{Cl} \ E) = \text{run}((\text{Cl} \leftarrow \text{PullUpField(CN, FN))} \ E) \]

where \textit{Cl:Classes}, \textit{E:Exp}, and \textit{CN,FN:Qid}.

\textit{Proof.} If the return value of \text{precondsPullUpFieldHold} is false, no changes are applied to the set of classes \textit{Cl} and the theorem trivially holds. Otherwise, we know that there is a class named \textit{CN} in \textit{Cl}, and that every subclass of \textit{CN} defines \textit{FN} but \textit{CN} does not. Let us call SubCN one of those subclasses. Using this information and by applying the equations in module \text{PULL-UP-FIELD} we can derive the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Cl} & \leftarrow \text{PullUpField(CN, FN)} \\
& = \text{if precondsPullUpFieldHold(Cl, CN, FN)} \\
& \quad \text{then applyPullUpField(Cl, CN, FN) else Cl fi} \\
& = \text{applyPullUpField}(((\text{md Class CN sp \{ CMs \}}) \\
& \quad (\text{mds Class SubCN sps \{CMsub (m T FN ;)}\}) \text{ Cl'}, CN, FN) \\
& = \text{applyPullUpField}((\text{subclasses(#c(CN), Cl)}, (\text{md Class CN sp \{ CMs \}}), \\
& \quad (\text{mds Class SubCN sps \{CMsub (m T FN ;)}\}) \text{ Cl'}) \\
& = (\text{moveClassMemberMultiple}((m T FN ;), \\
& \quad (\text{md Class SubCN sps \{CMsub (m T FN ;)}\}), \\
& \quad (\text{md Class CN sp \{ CMs \}})) \\
& \quad \text{removeAll}((\text{md Class SubCN sps \{CMsub (m T FN ;)}\}) \text{ Cl'}, \\
& \quad (\text{md Class SubCN sps \{CMsub (m T FN ;)}\})) \\
& = ((\text{md Class CN sp \{CMs (m T FN ;)}\})) \\
& \quad (\text{md Class SubCN sps \{ CMsub \}) \text{ Cl'})
\end{align*}
\]

assuming variables \text{md}, \text{mds}, \text{m:Modifier}, \text{sp}, \text{sps:Supers}, \text{CMs}, \text{CMSub:ClassMembers} and \text{T:Type}, besides the variables previously defined. Note that \text{(m T FN ;)} represents the declaration for field \text{FN}. Also, if there is more than one subclass, the equations apply similarly.

As described in Section 2, the operation \text{run} creates the initial program \textit{State}, which in turn creates a continuation where the expression \text{E} is the next step to execute. From there, if an object of type \textit{CN} is created, it will have the additional field \textit{FN} but it will not be used (assuming we start from a correct program). So there will not be any change in the functionality, and therefore in the output.

Let us suppose that an object of class \textit{SubCN} is created. The semantics specifying how an object is created appears in Figure 9 in the Appendix. The first equation in that figure:

\[ \text{eq k((new CT (El)) \rightarrow K)} = \text{k((El) \rightarrow newObj(CT) \rightarrow K)} \]

shows that when a ‘new’ expression is found, the semantics is to first evaluate the arguments of the constructor and then apply the operation \text{newObj}. The
operation `newObj` calls itself on each class in the hierarchy from `CT` to `Object`, and once `Object` is reached, it stacks the operation `created` in the continuation. The fields of each class in the path from `CT` to `Object` are then ‘declared’, i.e., are added to the environment. At the end of the field declarations of each class, the names in the global environment are moved to the current object environment, pairing them with the name of the class that declares them. For example, suppose a class `A` with a field `a` and a subclass of `A` called `B` with a field `b`; if an instance of `B` is created, its environment will look like `(A, [a, La]) (B, [b, Lb])` where `La` and `Lb` are the locations for `a` and `b` respectively.

Let us then apply the equations involved in the creation of an instance of `SubCN`, as defined in Figure 9. We will assume that the constructor does not take any arguments and that the superclass of `CN` is `Object`. Otherwise there would be extra steps involved below, but they do not interfere with the outcome of our proof.

\[
\begin{align*}
k((\text{new SubCN }()) & \to K) \\
= k(\text{noVal} & \to \text{newObj(SubCN)} \to K) \\
= k(\text{newObj(SubCN)} & \to \text{endnew...} \\
= k(\text{newObj(SuperClass(SubCN, Cl))} & \to \text{newObj(SubCN)} \to \text{endnew...} \\
= k(\text{newObj(CN)} & \to \text{newObj(SubCN)} \to \text{endnew...} \\
= k(\text{newObj(SuperClass(CN, Cl))} & \to \text{newObj(CN) -> newObj(SubCN) -> endnew...} \\
= k(\text{newObj(Object)} & \to \text{newObj(CN) -> newObj(SubCN) -> endnew...} \\
= k(\text{created} & \to \text{newObj(CN) -> newObj(SubCN) -> endnew...}
\end{align*}
\]

At this point, the next equation will call the operation `newObj` on the class `CN` and `CN`’s body, and a subsequent equation will call `newObj` on `SubCN` and `SubCN`’s body. Before the refactoring, the declaration for `FN` will be added to the environment when `SubCN`’s body is processed. After the refactoring has been applied, the declaration for `FN` will be added to the environment earlier than before, when `CN`’s body is processed, but since the environment is a commutative data structure, the order of field declarations does not change the semantics of the resulting object.

\[\Box\]

5 Conclusions

We have presented an executable formal specification of five Java refactorings that were developed on top of the formal specification of the Java programming language, and we have given detailed proofs of correctness of two such refactorings based on the underlying Java semantics. This work shows how three important goals can be simultaneously achieved within the same framework: (1) formally specifying refactorings for a language; (2) proving them correct with respect to the language semantics; and (3) deriving a provably correct refactoring tool from the formal refactoring specifications. However, this is work in progress and further research is needed both for Java refactoring and to make the technology more generic.
For Java, the obvious tasks ahead include: (i) extending the current library of
generic operations to facilitate the introduction of new refactorings; (ii) extend-
ing the library of basic refactorings to include most of the refactorings supported
by other tools and entirely new ones, for example for multi-threaded programs;
(iii) developing formal proofs of correctness for all those refactorings and also
mechanized versions of such proofs; (iv) developing a user interface for the Java
refactoring tool easing both refactoring application and introduction of new user-
defined refactorings; (v) integrating this tool within the JavaFAN environment
and experimenting with a substantial collection of case studies to evaluate the
tool in practice and compare it with other tools.

The semantics-based approach to refactoring is part of a broader effort to base
software tools on semantic definitions (see [29, 31, 32, 21, 28, 33]). A key emphasis
in this broader effort is the development of generic techniques, that can be ap-
plied to many concrete language instances. For example, the same methodology
applied here to Java has been applied in [22] to formally specify C preprocessor
refactorings and prove them correct. A longer-term goal is to develop a generic library of provably correct refactorings, based on modular semantic definitions of
language features, so that a correct refactoring tool for a given language will be
derived automatically from a modular semantics for it.

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank Ralf Sasse for his help in this
project. This research has been supported in part by ONR Grant N00014-02-1-
0715.

References

1. Opdyke, W., Johnson, R.: Refactoring: An Aid in Designing Application Fram-
eworks and Evolving Object-Oriented Systems. In: Proc. of Sym. on OO Program-
ming Emphasizing Practical Applications (SOOPPA’90). (1990)
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1992)
at Urbana-Champaign (1999)
4. Foote, B., Opdyke, W.: Lifecycle and refactoring patterns that support evolution
5. Tokuda, L., Batory, D.: Evolving object oriented designs with refactoring. In:
(1999)
7. Ó Cinnéide, M.: Automated Application of Design Patterns: a Refactoring Ap-
Software Engineering 30(2) (2004)
10. IntelliJ: IDEA: the most intelligent Java IDE. (http://www.intellij.com/idea/)
11. Instantiations: jFactor. (http://www.instantiations.com/jfactor/)

Appendix

sorts MethodAux MethodList .
subsort MethodAux < MethodList .

op _,_ : MethodAux Continuation -> Continuation .
op fn (_,_,_) -> _ : Object MName ValueList Continuation -> Continuation .
op m : CType Types Parameters Block -> MethodAux .
op none : -> MethodList .

var E:Exp. var mn:MName. var El:Exps. var K:Continuation. var CT CT': CT'': CType.
var T:Type. var block:Block. var md:Modifier.
var Vl:ValueList. var cnt:Context. var Env:ObjEnv. var p:Parameters.
vars CT CT':Classes. var Ti:Types. var Ml:MethodList. vars x:Qid. var CM:ClassMembers.
eq k((E . mn El) -> K) = k((E, El) -> . (mn) -> K) .
eq c(k((o(CT, CT', oEnv), Vl) -> . (mn) -> K), cnt), cl(Cl) = c(k(GetMethod(CT', mn, Vl, Cl) -> fn(o(CT, CT', oEnv), mn, Vl) -> K), e(Env), o(obj)) = k(set(p, Vl) -> (block -> endfn(obj, Env) -> K)), e(noEnv), o(o(CT'', CT', oEnv)) .

op GetMethod : CType MName ValueList Classes -> MethodAux .


op GetMethods : CType MName Classes -> MethodList .

op GetMethodList : CType MName Classes Classes -> MethodList .

op Compact : MethodList Classes -> MethodList .

--- first find all methods named mn and then filter by parameter types

op GetMethodList : CType MName CType ClassBody -> MethodList .

op GetMethodList : CType MName CType ClassMembers -> MethodList .

--- first find all methods named mn and then filter by parameter types

--- first find all methods named mn and then filter by parameter types

op Compact : MethodList Classes -> MethodList .

Fig. 8. Semantics of a method call
op newObj _  _  : CType Continuation  Continuation .
op newObj (_,_)  _  : CType ClassBody Continuation  Continuation .
op newObj (_,_)  _  : CType ClassMembers Continuation  Continuation .
op endnew (_,_,_)  _  : ValueList Object Env Continuation  Continuation .
op created  _  : Continuation  Continuation .

vars CT CT':CType. var El:Exps. var K:Continuation. var Vl:ValueList. var Env:Env.
var obj:Object. var Xc:Qid. var m:Modifier. var dc:Declaration. var MD:MethodDeclaration.


Fig. 9. Semantics of ‘new’