

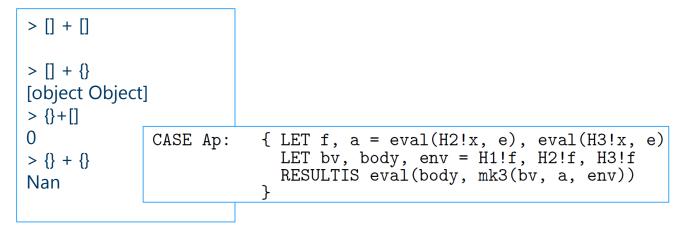
What We Talk About When We Talk About Types

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Types in everyday programming

```
- fun map f [] = []
| map f (x::xs) = f x :: map f xs;
val map = fn : ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
```

public static <T extends Comparable<? super T>>
 T max(Collection<T> coll) { ... }



We don't talk about types, we argue about them...

typed or untyped? (Or unityped?)

static"Dynamic typing is but a special
case of static typing, one that limits,
rather than liberates, one that shuts
down opportunities, rather than
opening up new vistas." - Harperong?Image: Description of the static typing is but a special
case of static typing, one that limits,
rather than liberates, one that shuts
opening up new vistas." - HarperImage: Description of the special
opening up new vistas."

inferred or explicit?

type safe? type sound? memory safe? Tatent?

For and against

- Static catches errors early, dynamic catches errors
- Static does away with runtime tests
- Static aids other static analysis and optimization
- IDE exploits types for completion, etc.
- Type info for garbage collection
- Can enforce security-critical invariants (e.g. JVM)
- Code can be generated or inferred from types
- Aids evolution, refactoring
- Documenting, communicating interfaces
- Mental scaffolding, blueprint during design
- Static too complex and bureaucractic
- Static too brittle, hinders "loose coupling"
- Too restrictive: "we don't need no stinkin' types"

In programming language conferences

- Polymorphism, modules, dependent types, refinements, overloading, subtyping, classes...
- Effect analysis, information flow, access control, communication protocols, lock usage, reactivity, distribution, data representation, staging, complexity
- Type theory and logic

$$\begin{split} \text{SUB-EXISTS} \\ C \langle P_1, \ \dots, \ P_m \rangle \text{ is a subclass of } D \langle \overline{\tau}_1^{\overline{3}}, \ \dots, \ \overline{\tau}_n^{\overline{3}} \rangle \\ \mathbb{\Gamma}, \Gamma & \xleftarrow{\mathcal{O}} \Gamma' \vdash D \langle \overline{\tau}_1^{\overline{3}}, \ \dots, \ \overline{\tau}_n^{\overline{3}} \rangle [P_1 \mapsto \overline{\tau}_1, \ \dots, \ P_m \mapsto \overline{\tau}_m] \approx_{\theta_i} D \langle \overline{\tau}_1', \ \dots, \ \overline{\tau}_n' \rangle \\ \text{for all } v' \text{ in } \Gamma', \text{ exists } i \text{ in 1 to } n \text{ with } \theta(v') = \theta_i(v') \\ \text{for all } i \text{ in 1 to } n, \ \Pi, \Gamma : \Delta, \Delta \vdash \overline{\tau}_i^{\overline{3}} [P_1 \mapsto \overline{\tau}_1, \ \dots, \ P_m \mapsto \overline{\tau}_m] \cong \overline{\tau}_i'[\theta] \\ \text{for all } v <:: \overline{\tau} \text{ in } \Delta', \ \Pi, \Gamma : \Delta, \Delta \vdash \theta(v) <: \overline{\tau}[\theta] \\ \text{for all } v ::> \overline{\tau} \text{ in } \Delta', \ \Pi, \Gamma : \Delta, \Delta \vdash \overline{\tau}[\theta] <: \theta(v) \\ \\ \mathbb{\Gamma} : \Delta \vdash \exists \Gamma : \Delta(\Delta). \ C \langle \overline{\tau}_1, \ \dots, \ \overline{\tau}_m^{\overline{n}} \rangle <: \exists \Gamma' : \Delta'(\Delta'). \ D \langle \overline{\tau}_1', \ \dots, \ \overline{\tau}_n'^{\overline{n}} \rangle \end{split}$$

The logical, proof-theoretic view, and propositions as types

$$\Gamma, x: A \vdash x: A \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x: A. M: A \rightarrow B}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M: A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash N: A}{\Gamma \vdash M N: B}$$

propositions = types proofs = terms

Logic	Types
\supset	\rightarrow
Λ	×
V	+

Proof normalization

- Simplify (identify) proofs by removal of "detours"
- Substitution lemma:

$$\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: B \quad \Gamma \vdash N: A$$
$$\Gamma \vdash M[N/x]: B$$

Now reduce intro/elim pairs

 $\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: B$ $\Gamma \vdash N: A$ $\overline{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x: A. M: A \rightarrow B}$ $\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x: A. M) N: B$

- reduces to $\Gamma \vdash M[N/x]: B$ proof simplification = beta reduction

Discussion

- Subject reduction (reduction preserves types)
- Strong normalization (all reduction sequences terminate, logical consistency)
- Sequent calculus presentations too (cut elimination)
- Very syntactic. Rules of the game given by beautiful symmetries, etc.
- Types are *intrinsic, prescriptive, synthetic* "*Church style*". III-typed terms aren't considered.
- Hugely successful, influential approach
 - Generalizes to lots of other propositional logics (linear, S4 for staged computation, S5 for distribution, lax logic for monads, classical logic and control,...)
 - $\cdot\,$ Also to richer logics, program extraction in dependent type theory
- Not so easy to extend to "real" PL type systems
- Analogy between proof simplification and operational
 ²⁶Semantics imperfect

Intrinsic models "bottom up"

- Interpret types as sets (objects)
- $\cdot \llbracket x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \rrbracket = \llbracket A_1 \rrbracket \times \dots \times \llbracket A_n \rrbracket \text{ (product)}$
- $\cdot \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket = \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\llbracket A \rrbracket}$ (set of functions, exponential)
- Interpret terms as functions (morphisms)
- $\cdot \, \llbracket \Gamma \vdash M {:} A \rrbracket : \, \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket$
- Semantics models equations induced by beta & eta equivalent proofs/terms interpreted by equal morphisms
- Denotational models in this general style do work for richer languages, even when the logical, prooftheoretic story breaks down

Extrinsic semantics & "well-typed programs don't go wrong"

- Quite different approach: programs come first
 - · Give semantics to all type-free programs, which may involve some notion of dynamic error
- Types are *extrinsic*, *descriptive*, *analytic* properties of programs
- e.g. Milner starts with semantics of untyped CBV lambda calculus in a universal domain

 $V \cong \mathbb{N} + (V \to V_{\perp}) + \{wrong\}$

- $\cdot \llbracket M N \rrbracket \rho = let f = \llbracket M \rrbracket \rho; v = \llbracket N \rrbracket \rho in apply(f, v)$
- where, e.g. $apply(in_1(n), v) = [in_3(wrong)]$
- \cdot Carves out meanings of types as certain subsets of V 26/02/2014 10

Extrinsic models "top down"

- $\cdot \llbracket nat \rrbracket = \{in_1(n) | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$
- $\cdot \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket = \{ in_2(f) | \forall v \in \llbracket A \rrbracket, fv \in \llbracket B \rrbracket_{\perp} \}$
- Then not all elements have a type, some have more than one type (e.g. identity function)
- Give Curry-style type assignment for type-free terms $\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: B$

$$\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. B : A \to B$$

- \cdot If $\Gamma \vdash M: A$ and $\rho \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$ then $\llbracket M \rrbracket \rho \in \llbracket A \rrbracket_{\perp}$
- In particular, well-typed programs don't go wrong

Syntactic type soundness

- Can construct extrinsic models of types over operational semantics too
- but Wright and Felleisen ('94) came up with something simpler
 - \cdot Work with small step operational semantics
 - · Define `proper' values (fully evaluated expressions)
 - Instead of explicitly saying $(3 true) \rightarrow wrong$ just allow the semantics to get *stuck*, so $(3 true) \not\rightarrow$
 - Prove preservation, if M: A and $M \rightarrow M'$ then M': A (cf. subject reduction)
 - Prove progress, if M: A and M is not a value, then $\exists M', M \rightarrow M'$
 - · Hence, well-typed programs don't get stuck
- This is widely held to be *the* definition of type safety/soundness

Discussion

- It *is* simple, and superficially natural for simple types (think of writing an interpreter in ML)
- Only talks about specific type rules and internal details of specific operational semantics
- Have to extend typing rules to objects that only appear in operational semantics (heaps, stacks, pointers, configurations)
- For fancier types (effects, locks,...) have to *instrument* operational semantics, introducing new, fictitious stuck states that weren't there before
 - $\cdot\,$ Gets silly, e.g. for TAL machine code programs don't go wrong
- Never says what types *mean*, fails to capture compositional role as interface contracts (functions = functions?)
- Reduces static types to dynamic types

Intensional versus extensional

- What do we think we're doing when we write an operational semantics?
 - We're defining a language, but do we take the intermediate configurations seriously?
 - The compiler only cares about observable behaviour. If performs optimizing transformations and then emits machine code whose traces bear only a loose similarity with the original operational semantics
- Milner's semantics is mostly extensional. There are terms that inhabit a semantic type without being typable in the original system *if true then 3 else false : nat*
- But still assumes dynamic test on summands of universal type

Parametricity and abstraction

- "Type structure is a syntactic discipline for enforcing levels of abstraction" Reynolds
- Collection of techniques originating in study of abstract datatypes, representation independence and parametric polymorphism
 - \cdot What does it mean to say complex numbers are an abstract type?
 - $\cdot\,$ When are two implementations of complex numbers equivalent?
 - $\cdot\,$ In what sense do polymorphic functions behave "uniformly"?
- Central idea: go from types as subsets to types as relations (and type operators as operators on relations)

Free theorems

- Any function f of type $\forall X. X \rightarrow X$ is the identity
- $\cdot \forall A, B, R \subseteq A \times B, (a, b) \in R, (f_A a, f_B b) \in R$
 - Write $(f_A, f_B) \in R \to R$
- Any function of type $\forall X. List X \rightarrow List X$ just reorganizes its input in a fixed way
- · $\forall A, B, R \subseteq A \times B, (as, bs) \in List R, (f_Aas, f_Bbs) \in List R$
- $\cdot \forall A, B, as: List A, h: A \rightarrow B, f_B(map h as) = map h (f_A as)$

Top-down relational models of types

- Carve out meanings of types as relations over an untyped model (these days, often just operational semantics)
- $\cdot \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket = \llbracket A \rrbracket \to \llbracket B \rrbracket \text{ (n.b. relational } \to !)$
- $\cdot \, \llbracket \forall X.A \rrbracket \rho = \bigcap_R \llbracket A \rrbracket \rho [X \mapsto R]$
- Want type meanings to be *partial equivalence relations* (PERs)
- So subset of values together with a coarser notion of equality
- Defined together as values inhabiting compound types must respect equality on components

Discussion

- \cdot No need to ever talk about errors
- Relational semantics neither stronger nor weaker
 than syntactic safety
 - \cdot Syntactically untypable expressions can inhabit semantic types
 - $\cdot\,$ Syntactically type-safe operations that break abstraction are ruled out
 - · $\lambda f: nat \rightarrow nat. if f = (\lambda x. x) then 3 else 4 \notin [[(nat \rightarrow nat) \rightarrow nat]]$
- \cdot We get equational rules as well as inhabitation
- Traditionally started with system then looked for model, but these are the properties we wanted all along

Example: Information flow

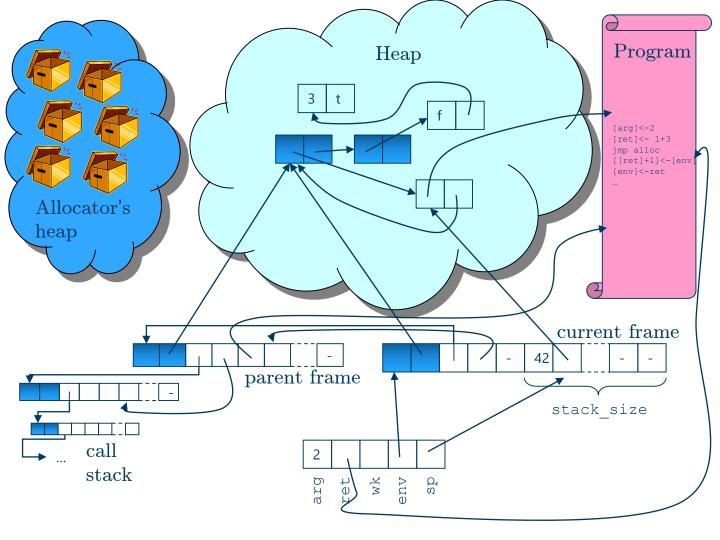
- Want to ensure no information flows from highsecurity variables to low-security ones
- This is not something one can naturally even explain in terms of runtime errors
- $\cdot \, [\![C]\!] : \mathbb{N}_h \times \mathbb{N}_l \to \mathbb{N}_h \times \mathbb{N}_l$
- $\begin{array}{l} \cdot \; \forall (n_h, n_l), (n_h', n_l'), if \; n_l = n_l' \; then \; \pi_2 \llbracket C \rrbracket (n_h, n_l) = \\ \pi_2 \llbracket C \rrbracket (n_h', n_l') \end{array}$
- $\cdot (\llbracket C \rrbracket, \llbracket C \rrbracket) \in T \times \Delta \to T \times \Delta$
- There's a very natural relational logic that captures this and many other static analyses and the transformations they enable

Dimensions, etc.

- Kennedy. Incorporate physical dimensions (mass, length, time) into polymorphic type system that checks for dimensional consistency
 - real<d> is reals indexed by dimension d
 - · Purely syntactically, this is interesting because there are equations on dimension expressions
 - Implemented in F#
- But what does it mean?
 - Nature doesn't carry dimension tags around and raise an exception if they don't match up
 - · Essence of dimensional correctness is extensional, and rather beautiful: invariance under scaling
 - · If *f*:real < a > → real < a² > then $\forall k > 0, x, f(k * x) = k^2 * f(x)$
- Relational semantics also gives (non)definability results
- · Generalizes to e.g. geometry (invariance under transformations, AJK)
- And even to physics (laws of motion from conservation laws, Atkey)! 20 26/02/2014

Compositional type soundness of compilers

- Express meaning of high-level types as relational, extensional constraints on the behaviour of compiled code
- What does it mean to say a word in memory contains an integer, Boolean, code pointer, data structure pointer?
- It's a constraint on what information code that uses it is allowed to depend on
- This way of doing things supports cross-language linking



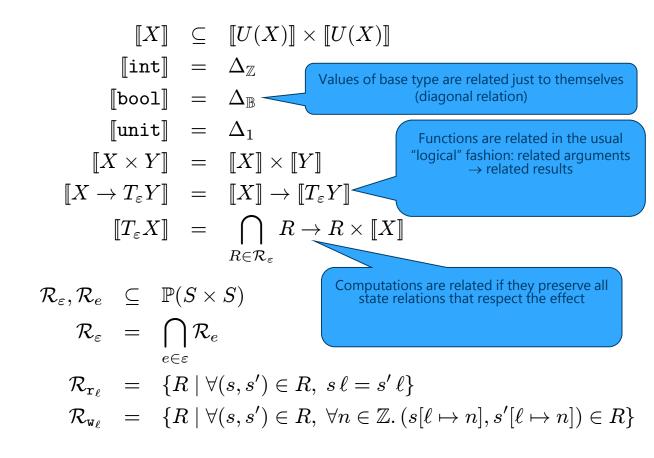
```
Fixpoint semantics_of_types (t:ExpType) (Ra:stateRel) ptr ptr' struct t :=
  match t with
  | Int P \Rightarrow lift (P ptr \land (ptr = ptr'))
  | Bool P \Rightarrow lift (P (n2b ptr) \land (n2b ptr = n2b ptr'))
  | a * b \Rightarrow Ex value, Ex value2, Ex value', Ex value2',
             (ptr,ptr',→value,value') ×
              (ptr+1,ptr'+1→value2,value2') × [b] Ra value value' × [a] Ra value2 value2')
  | a \longrightarrow b \Rightarrow Ex Rprivate,
             (ptr,ptr' \mapsto Later ( Perp (Pre_arrow Rprivate ptr ptr' Ra ([a]) ([b]))) × Rprivate)
  end
  where "'[', t ']' := (semantics_of_types t ).
Definition Post_arrow b (Ra Rc: stateRel) Rc_cloud (n n' stack_ptr stack_ptr': nat):=
  Ex ptr_result, Ex ptr_result',
    (stack_ptr, stack_ptr' \mapsto ptr_result, ptr_result') \otimes (stack_ptr+1, stack_ptr'+1\mapsto) \otimes
    ((b Ra ptr_result ptr_result') \times Rc_cloud) \otimes Ra \otimes Rc \otimes (spreg\mapsto stack_ptr,stack_ptr') \otimes
    (envreg\mapsto n,n') \otimes unused_space.
Definition Pre_arrow R_private ptr_function ptr_function' Ra a b:=
  Ex Rc, Ex Rc_cloud, Ex n, Ex n', Ex ptr_arg, Ex ptr_arg', Ex stack_ptr, Ex stack_ptr',
    (stack_ptr,stack_ptr'→ ptr_arg,ptr_arg') ⊗
    (stack_ptr+1, stack_ptr'+1→ ptr_function, ptr_function')
    \otimes (R_private \times a Ra ptr_arg ptr_arg' \times Rc_cloud) \otimes
    ((n+4,n'+4 → Later (Perp (Post_arrow b Ra Rc Rc_cloud n n' stack_ptr stack_ptr'))) × Rc) ⊗
```

 $Ra \otimes (spreg \mapsto stack_ptr+1, stack_ptr'+1) \otimes (envreg \mapsto n,n') \otimes unused_space.$

Effect systems

$\Theta, x: X \vdash M: T_{\varepsilon}Y$	$\Theta \vdash V_1 : X \to T_{\varepsilon}Y \Theta \vdash V_2 : X$		
$\overline{\Theta \vdash \lambda x : U(X).M : X \to T_{\varepsilon}}$	$Y \qquad \qquad \Theta \vdash V_1 V_2 : T_{\varepsilon} Y$		
$\Theta \vdash V: X$	$\Theta \vdash M: T_{\varepsilon}X \Theta, x: X \vdash N: T_{\varepsilon'}Y$		
$\overline{\Theta dash$ val $V: T_{\emptyset}X$	$\Theta \vdash \texttt{let} x \! \Leftarrow \! M \texttt{in} N : T_{\varepsilon \cup \varepsilon'} Y$		
$\Theta dash V:$ bool 0	$\Theta \vdash M: T_{\varepsilon}X \Theta \vdash N: T_{\varepsilon}X$		
$\Theta \vdash \texttt{if} \ V \texttt{ then } M \texttt{ else } N: T_arepsilon X$			
	$\Theta \vdash V: \texttt{int}$		
$\Theta \vdash \texttt{read}(\ell) : T_{\{\texttt{r}_\ell\}}(\texttt{int})$	$\overline{\Theta \vdash \texttt{write}(\ell, V) : T_{\{\texttt{w}_\ell\}}(\texttt{unit})}$		
$\Theta \vdash V : X X \cdot X'$	$\Theta \vdash M : T_{\varepsilon}X T_{\varepsilon}X \cdot T_{\varepsilon'}X'$		
$\Theta \vdash V: X'$	$\Theta \vdash M: T_{arepsilon'}X'$		

Semantics of refined types



Effect-dependent equivalences (1)

Dead Computation:

$$\frac{\Theta \vdash M: T_{\varepsilon}X \quad \Theta \vdash N: T_{\varepsilon'}Y}{\Theta \vdash \operatorname{let} x \Leftarrow M \text{ in } N = N: T_{\varepsilon'}Y} x \notin \Theta, \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon) = \emptyset$$

Duplicated Computation:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \Theta \vdash M: T_{\varepsilon}X & \Theta, x: X, y: X \vdash N: T_{\varepsilon'}Y \\ \hline \\ \Theta \vdash & \underset{=}{\operatorname{let}} x \Leftarrow M \operatorname{in} \operatorname{let} y \Leftarrow M \operatorname{in} N \\ & = & \underset{X \Leftarrow M}{\operatorname{in}} N[x/y] \end{array} \operatorname{rds}(\varepsilon) \cap \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon) = \emptyset \end{array}$$

Effect-dependent equivalences (2)

Commuting Computations:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \Theta \vdash M_1 : T_{\varepsilon_1} X_1 & \Theta \vdash M_2 : T_{\varepsilon_2} X_2 & \Theta, x_1 : X_1, x_2 : X_2 \vdash N : T_{\varepsilon'} Y & \operatorname{rds}(\varepsilon_1) \cap \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon_2) = \emptyset \\ \hline \\ \Theta \vdash & \underset{=}{\operatorname{let} x_1 \Leftarrow M_1 \text{ in let } x_2 \Leftarrow M_2 \text{ in } N \\ = & \operatorname{let} x_2 \Leftarrow M_2 \text{ in let } x_1 \Leftarrow M_1 \text{ in } N \end{array} : T_{\varepsilon_1 \cup \varepsilon_2 \cup \varepsilon'} Y & \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon_1) \cap \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon_2) = \emptyset \\ \end{array}$$

Pure Lambda Hoist:

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \Theta \vdash M: T_{\{\}}Z & \Theta, x: X, y: Z \vdash N: T_{\varepsilon}Y \\ \hline \\ \Theta \vdash & & \texttt{val} \left(\lambda x: U(X).\texttt{let} \ y \Leftarrow M \ \texttt{in} \ N\right) \\ = & & \texttt{let} \ y \Leftarrow M \ \texttt{in} \ \texttt{val} \left(\lambda x: U(X).N\right) \end{array} : T_{\{\}}(X \to T_{\varepsilon}Y) \end{array}$

Summary

- Please stop doing syntactic type soundness proofs!
- Types are about abstractions not about errors
- Can make that precise using relational parametricity
- All types are abstract, all type systems about information flow
- This way of doing things works at multiple levels of abstraction, from source to machine code
- Recent work on relations for languages with store, control, polymorphism, generativity, concurrency
- Approach yields useful, deep results, including contextual equational laws

Thank you

Standard typing rules

$\Gamma dash V_1 : A \Gamma dash$	$V_2: B$ I	$\Gamma \vdash V : A_1 \times$	A_2
$\Gamma \vdash (V_1, V_2) : A$	$\times B$	$\Gamma \vdash \pi_i V : A$	$\overline{4_i}$
$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : TB}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : A \cdot M : A \to TB}$		$: A \to TB$ $\Gamma \vdash V_1 V_2 :$	
$\Gamma \vdash V : A$	$\Gamma \vdash M : TA$	1 2	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash val V: TA}{\Gamma \vdash val V: TA}$		$c \leftarrow M \text{ in } N$	
$\Gamma dash V:$ bool	$\Gamma \vdash M: TA$	$\Gamma \vdash N: T_{*}$	4
$\Gamma \vdash \texttt{if} \ V \texttt{ then } M \texttt{ else } N:TA$			
		$\Gamma \vdash V: \texttt{int}$	
$\overline{\Gamma dash extsf{read}(\ell): T extsf{int}}$	$\overline{\Gamma \vdash wr}$	$\mathtt{ite}(\ell,V): 7$	Cunit

Base semantics in Set

 $\begin{array}{rcl} S & = & \operatorname{Locs} \to \mathbb{Z} \\ \llbracket unit \rrbracket & = & 1 \\ \llbracket int \rrbracket & = & \mathbb{Z} \\ \llbracket bool \rrbracket & = & \mathbb{B} \\ \llbracket A \times B \rrbracket & = & \llbracket A \rrbracket \times \llbracket B \rrbracket \\ \llbracket A \to TB \rrbracket & = & \llbracket A \rrbracket \to \llbracket TB \rrbracket \\ \llbracket TA \rrbracket & = & S \to S \times \llbracket A \rrbracket \end{array}$

Refined types and subtyping

SubtypingTypes

 $\begin{array}{rcl} X,Y &:= & \text{unit} \mid \text{int} \mid \text{bool} \mid X \times Y \mid X \to T_{\varepsilon}Y \\ \Theta &:= & x_1 : X_1, \dots, x_n : X_n \\ \varepsilon &\subseteq & \bigcup_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}} \{\mathbf{r}_{\ell}, \mathbf{w}_{\ell}\} \end{array}$

$$\frac{\overline{X \cdot X}}{\overline{X \cdot X}} \qquad \frac{X \cdot Y \quad Y \cdot Z}{\overline{X \cdot Z}} \qquad \qquad \frac{X \cdot X' \quad Y \cdot Y'}{\overline{X \times Y \cdot X' \times Y'}} \\
\frac{X' \cdot X \quad T_{\varepsilon}Y \cdot T_{\varepsilon'}Y'}{(\overline{X \to T_{\varepsilon}Y}) \cdot (X' \to T_{\varepsilon'}Y')} \qquad \qquad \frac{\varepsilon \subseteq \varepsilon' \quad X \cdot X'}{T_{\varepsilon}X \cdot T_{\varepsilon'}X'}$$

Results

- Soundness of subtyping: If $X \cdot Y$ then $[X] \subseteq [Y]$.
 - Fundamental theorem:

If $\Theta \vdash V : X, (\rho, \rho') \in \llbracket \Theta \rrbracket$ then $(\llbracket U(\Theta) \vdash V : U(X) \rrbracket \rho, \llbracket U(\Theta) \vdash V : U(X) \rrbracket \rho') \in \llbracket X \rrbracket$.

- Meaning of top effect: $\llbracket G(A) \rrbracket = \Delta_{\llbracket A \rrbracket}$.
- Equivalences
 - Effect-independent: congruence rules, β , η rules, commuting conversions
 - Effect-dependent: dead computation, duplicated computation, commuting computations, pure lambda hoist
 - Reasoning is quite intricate, involving construction of specific effect-respecting relations.