What We Talk About When We Talk About Types

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Types in everyday programming

```
- fun map f [] = []
   map f(x::xs) = fx :: map fxs;
val map = fn: ('a -> 'b) -> 'a list -> 'b list
public static <T extends Comparable <? super T>>
    T max(Collection<T> coll) { ... }
> [] + []
> [] + {}
[object Object]
> {}+[]
               CASE Ap:
                            { LET f, a = eval(H2!x, e), eval(H3!x, e)
                              LET bv, body, env = H1!f, H2!f, H3!f
> {} + {}
                              RESULTIS eval(body, mk3(bv, a, env))
Nan
```

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." - Harper

ong?

on-strict?

inferred or explicit?

Tatent?

type safe? type sound? memory safe?

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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

```
SUB-EXISTS C \langle P_1, \ldots, P_m \rangle \text{ is a subclass of } D \langle \overline{\hat{\tau}}_1, \ldots, \overline{\hat{\tau}}_n \rangle
\Gamma, \Gamma \overset{\varnothing}{\leftarrow} \Gamma' \vdash D \langle \overline{\hat{\tau}}_1, \ldots, \overline{\hat{\tau}}_n \rangle [P_1 \mapsto \overline{\hat{\tau}}_1, \ldots, P_m \mapsto \overline{\hat{\tau}}_m] \approx_{\theta_i} D \langle \overline{\hat{\tau}}_1', \ldots, \overline{\hat{\tau}}_n' \rangle
for all v' in \Gamma', exists i in 1 to n with \theta(v') = \theta_i(v')
for all i in 1 to i, \Gamma, \Gamma : \Delta, \Delta \vdash \overline{\hat{\tau}}_i[P_1 \mapsto \overline{\hat{\tau}}_1, \ldots, P_m \mapsto \overline{\hat{\tau}}_m] \cong \overline{\hat{\tau}}_i'[\theta]
for all i in i
```

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
⊃	\rightarrow
٨	×
V	+

Proof normalization

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

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

Now reduce intro/elim pairs

$$\frac{\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x: A. M: A \to B} \quad \Gamma \vdash N: A$$
$$\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x: A. M) N: B$$

- · 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". Ill-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,...)
 - · 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
 **Sernantics imperfect

Intrinsic models "bottom up"

- Interpret types as sets (objects)
- $\cdot [\![x_1:A_1,\ldots,x_n:A_n]\!] = [\![A_1]\!] \times \cdots \times [\![A_n]\!] \text{ (product)}$
- $\cdot [A \rightarrow B] = [B]^{A}$ (set of functions, exponential)
- Interpret terms as functions (morphisms)
- $\cdot \llbracket \Gamma \vdash M : A \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \to \llbracket A \rrbracket$
- 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

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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

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

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

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Extrinsic models "top down"

- $\cdot [nat] = \{in_1(n) | n \in \mathbb{N}\}\$
- $\cdot [A \to B] = \{in_2(f) | \forall v \in [A], fv \in [B]_{\perp}\}$
- 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

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

- · 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
 - · 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 $(3 \ true) \nrightarrow$
 - · Prove preservation, if M: A and $M \to M'$ 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
 - · 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

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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
 - · What does it mean to say complex numbers are an abstract type?
 - · When are two implementations of complex numbers equivalent?
 - · 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
- $\cdot \forall A, B, R \subseteq A \times B, (a, b) \in R, (f_A a, f_B b) \in R$ $\cdot \text{ Write } (f_A, f_B) \in R \to R$
- Any function of type $\forall X. List X \rightarrow List X$ just reorganizes its input in a fixed way
- $\cdot \ \forall A, B, R \subseteq A \times B, (as, bs) \in List R, (f_A as, f_B bs) \in List R$
- $\cdot \forall A, B, as: List A, h: A \rightarrow B, f_B(map \ h \ as) = map \ h \ (f_A as)$

Top-down relational models of types

- Carve out meanings of types as relations over an untyped model (these days, often just operational semantics)
- $\cdot [A \rightarrow B] = [A] \rightarrow [B]$ (n.b. relational $\rightarrow !$)
- $\cdot [\![\forall X.A]\!] \rho = \bigcap_R [\![A]\!] \rho [X \mapsto R]$
- 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

- No need to ever talk about errors
- Relational semantics neither stronger nor weaker than syntactic safety
 - · Syntactically untypable expressions can inhabit semantic types
 - · Syntactically type-safe operations that break abstraction are ruled out
 - · $\lambda f: nat \rightarrow nat. if \ f = (\lambda x. x) \ then \ 3 \ else \ 4 \notin [[(nat \rightarrow nat) \rightarrow nat]]$
- 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
- $\cdot [\![C]\!]: \mathbb{N}_h \times \mathbb{N}_l \to \mathbb{N}_h \times \mathbb{N}_l$
- $\forall (n_h, n_l), (n'_h, n'_l), if \ n_l = n'_l \ then \ \pi_2 [C] (n_h, n_l) = \pi_2 [C] (n'_h, n'_l)$
- $\cdot (\llbracket C \rrbracket, \llbracket C \rrbracket) \in T \times \Delta \to T \times \Delta$
- There's a very natural relational logic that captures this and many other static analyses and the transformations they enable

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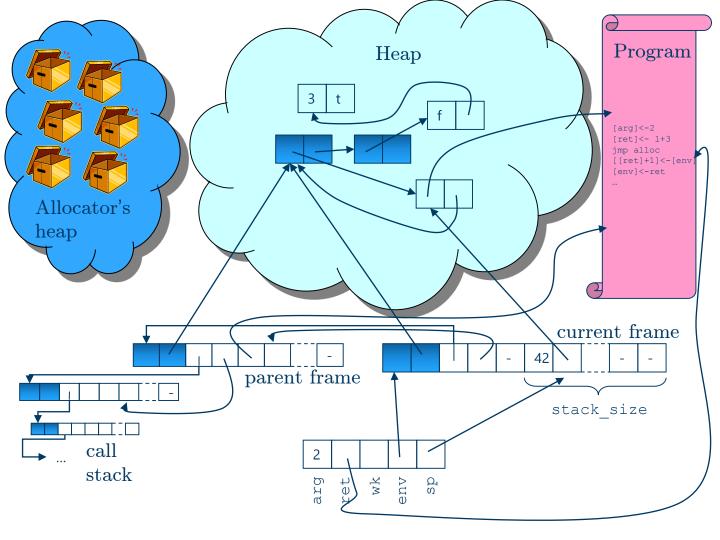
Dimensions, etc.

- Kennedy. Incorpórate 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 $f:real < a > \rightarrow real < a^2 >$ 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)!

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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]))) \times 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',
     (\text{stack\_ptr}, \text{stack\_ptr}' \mapsto \text{ptr\_result}, \text{ptr\_result}') \otimes (\text{stack\_ptr+1}, \text{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

$$\begin{array}{c} \Theta,x:X\vdash M:T_{\varepsilon}Y\\ \hline \Theta\vdash\lambda x:U(X).M:X\to T_{\varepsilon}Y\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \Theta\vdash \mathrm{val}\,V:T_{\emptyset}X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:\mathrm{bool}\quad \Theta\vdash M:T_{\varepsilon}X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:\mathrm{bool}\quad \Theta\vdash M:T_{\varepsilon}X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:\mathrm{int}\\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:\mathrm{int}\\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \\ \Theta\vdash V:X\\ \hline \end{array}$$

Semantics of refined types

Effect-dependent equivalences (1)

Dead Computation:

$$\frac{\Theta \vdash M : T_{\varepsilon}X \quad \Theta \vdash N : T_{\varepsilon'}Y}{\Theta \vdash \mathsf{let} \, x \! \Leftarrow \! M \, \mathsf{in} \, N = N : T_{\varepsilon'}Y} \, x \not \in \Theta, \mathsf{wrs}(\varepsilon) = \emptyset$$

Duplicated Computation:

$$\frac{\Theta \vdash M : T_{\varepsilon}X \quad \Theta, x : X, y : X \vdash N : T_{\varepsilon'}Y}{\Theta \vdash \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \operatorname{let} x \Leftarrow M \text{ in let } y \Leftarrow M \text{ in } N \\ = \operatorname{let} x \Leftarrow M \text{ in } N[x/y] \end{array} \right. : T_{\varepsilon \cup \varepsilon'}Y} \operatorname{rds}(\varepsilon) \cap \operatorname{wrs}(\varepsilon) = \emptyset$$

Effect-dependent equivalences (2)

Commuting Computations:

$$\frac{\Theta \vdash M_1 : T_{\varepsilon_1} X_1 \quad \Theta \vdash M_2 : T_{\varepsilon_2} X_2 \quad \Theta, x_1 : X_1, x_2 : X_2 \vdash N : T_{\varepsilon'} Y}{\Theta \vdash \begin{cases} \text{let } x_1 \Leftarrow M_1 \text{ in let } x_2 \Leftarrow M_2 \text{ in } N \\ = \text{let } x_2 \Leftarrow M_2 \text{ in let } x_1 \Leftarrow M_1 \text{ in } N \end{cases} : T_{\varepsilon_1 \cup \varepsilon_2 \cup \varepsilon'} Y \quad \frac{\text{rds}(\varepsilon_1) \cap \text{wrs}(\varepsilon_2) = \emptyset}{\text{wrs}(\varepsilon_1) \cap \text{wrs}(\varepsilon_2) = \emptyset}$$

Pure Lambda Hoist:

$$\frac{\Theta \vdash M : T_{\{\}}Z \quad \Theta, x : X, y : Z \vdash N : T_{\varepsilon}Y}{\Theta \vdash \quad = \quad \frac{\operatorname{val}\left(\lambda x : U(X).\operatorname{let}y \Leftarrow M \text{ in }N\right)}{\operatorname{let}y \Leftarrow M \text{ in val}\left(\lambda x : U(X).N\right)} : T_{\{\}}(X \to T_{\varepsilon}Y)}$$

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

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V_1 : A \quad \Gamma \vdash V_2 : B}{\Gamma \vdash (V_1, V_2) : A \times B} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash V : A_1 \times A_2}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_i V : A_i}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : TB}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : A.M : A \to TB} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash V_1 : A \to TB \quad \Gamma \vdash V_2 : A}{\Gamma \vdash V_1 V_2 : TB}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{val } V : TA} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : TA \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash N : TB}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x \Leftarrow M \text{ in } N : TB}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash M : TA \quad \Gamma \vdash N : TA}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } V \text{ then } M \text{ else } N : TA}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{val}(\ell) : T \text{int}} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash V : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{write}(\ell, V) : T \text{unit}}$$

Base semantics in Set

```
egin{array}{lll} S &=& \operatorname{Locs} 
ightarrow \mathbb{Z} \ [\![\operatorname{unit}]\!] &=& 1 \ [\![\operatorname{int}]\!] &=& \mathbb{Z} \ [\![\operatorname{bool}]\!] &=& \mathbb{B} \ [\![A 	imes B]\!] &=& [\![A]\!] 	imes [\![B]\!] \ [\![A 
ightarrow TB]\!] &=& [\![A]\!] 
ightarrow [\![TB]\!] \ [\![TA]\!] &=& S 
ightarrow S 	imes [\![A]\!] \end{array}
```

Refined types and subtyping

- SubtypingTypes

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

$$\frac{X \cdot Y \quad Y \cdot Z}{X \cdot Z} \qquad \frac{X \cdot X' \quad Y \cdot Y'}{X \times Y \cdot X' \times Y'}$$

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

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.