

# CS6848 - Principles of Programming Languages

## Principles of Programming Languages

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## Recursive types

- A data type for values that may contain other values of the same type.
- Also called inductive data types.
- Compared to simple types that are finite, recursive types are not.

```
interface I {  
    void s1(boolean a);  
    int m1(J a);  
}
```

```
interface J {  
    boolean m2(I b);  
}
```

- Infinite graph.



## Recap

- Type rules.
- Simply typed lambda calculus.
- Type soundness proof.



## Recursive types

- Can be viewed as directed graphs.
- Useful for defining dynamic data structures such as Lists, Trees.
- Size can grow in response to runtime requirements (user input); compare that to static arrays.



# Equality and subtyping

- In Java two types are considered equal iff they have the same name. Tricky example?
- Same with subtyping.
- Contrast the name based subtyping to structural subtyping.
- Why is structural subtyping interesting?



# Type derivation example

- Type of the lambda term  $\lambda x.xx$ .
- Use a type  $u = \mu\alpha.(\alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ .

$$\frac{\frac{\phi[x : u] \vdash x : u \rightarrow \text{Int} \quad \phi[x : u] \vdash x : u}{\phi[x : u] \vdash xx : \text{Int}}}{\phi \vdash \lambda x : u.xx : u \rightarrow \text{Int}}$$



# Grammar for recursive types

- We will extend the grammar of our simple types.

$$t ::= t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \mid \text{Int} \mid \alpha \mid \mu\alpha.(t_1 \rightarrow t_2)$$

where

- $\alpha$  is a variable that ranges over types.
- $\mu\alpha.t$  - is a recursive type that allows unfolding.

$$\mu\alpha.t = t[(\mu\alpha.t)/\alpha]$$

- Example: Say  $u = \mu\alpha.(\alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ . Now unfold
  - Once:  $u = u \rightarrow \text{Int}$
  - Twice:  $u = (u \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \text{Int}$
  - ...
  - Infinitely: Infinite tree - the type of  $u$ .
- A type derived from this grammar will have finite number of distinct subtrees - regular trees.
- Any regular tree can be written as a finite expression using  $\mu s$ .



# Type derivation, example II

- $Y = \lambda f.(\lambda x.f(xx))(\lambda x.f(xx))$
- Y-combinator is also called fixed point combinator or paradoxical combinator.
- When applied to any function  $g$ , it produces a fixed point of  $g$ .
- That is  $Y(E) = E(Y(E))$

$$\begin{aligned} Y(E) &=_{\beta} (\lambda x.E(xx))(\lambda x.E(xx)) \\ &=_{\beta} E((\lambda x.E(xx))(\lambda x.E(xx))) \\ &=_{\beta} E(Y(E)) \end{aligned}$$

**Useless assignment:** For the factorial function  $F = \lambda f.\lambda n.\text{if } (\text{zero? } n) \text{ 1 } (\text{mult } n \text{ (f pred } n))$ , show that  $(Y F) n$  computes factorial  $n$ .

Use the definition of factorial function:

Fact  $n = \text{if } (\text{zero? } n) \text{ 1 } (\text{mult } n \text{ (Fact (pred } n)))$  **Useless assignment II:**

Write the Y combinator in Scheme.



# Type derivation of Y-combinator

- Y combinator cannot be typed with simple types.
- Use a type  $u = \mu\alpha.(\alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ .

$$\frac{\phi[f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}] \vdash (\lambda x.f(xx))(\lambda x.f(xx)) : \text{Int}}{\phi \vdash \lambda f.(\lambda x.f(xx))(\lambda x.f(xx)) : (\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \text{Int}}$$

- If we can get the type of  $\lambda x.f(xx)$  to be type  $u$  then using  $u = u \rightarrow \text{Int}$  like above, we can get the premise.
- Goal  $\phi[f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}] \vdash \lambda x.f(xx) : u$

$$\frac{\phi[f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}][x : u] \vdash f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \quad \phi[x : u] \vdash xx : \text{Int}}{\phi[f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}][x : u] \vdash f(xx) : \text{Int}} \\ \frac{}{\phi[f : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}] \vdash \lambda x : u.f(xx) : u}$$

- Not all terms can be typed with recursive types either:  
 $\lambda x.x(\text{SUCC } x)$
- Type soundness theorem can be proved for recursive types as well.



# Equality of types

- Isorecursive types:  $\mu\alpha.t$  and  $t[\mu\alpha.t/\alpha]$  are distinct (disjoint) types.
- Equirecursive types: Type type expressions are same if their infinite trees match.
  - Direct comparison is not enough.
  - Convert a given type into a canonical (normal/standard) form and then compare.



# Representation of types - as functions

- Denote an alphabet  $\Sigma$  that contains all the labels and paths of the type tree.
- We can represent such a tree by a function that maps paths to labels — called a term.
- Say we denote left by 0 and right by 1, for the types discussed before:  $\text{path} \in \{0, 1\}^*$ .
- And the labels are from the set  $\Sigma = \{\text{Int}, \rightarrow\}$ .
- A term  $t$  over  $\Sigma$  is a partial function

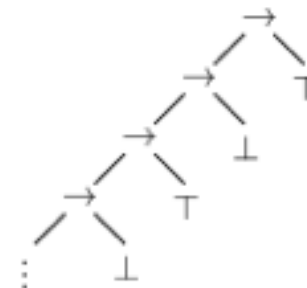
$$t : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \Sigma$$

- The domain  $D(t)$  must satisfy:
  - $D(t)$  is non-empty and is prefix-closed.
  - if  $t(\alpha) = \rightarrow$  then  $\alpha 0, \alpha 1 \in D(t)$ .



# Types as functions (contd)

- Example.



- The term is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} t(0^n) &= \rightarrow \\ t(0^{2n}1) &= \top \\ t(0^{2n+1}1) &= \perp \end{aligned}$$

- A term  $t$  is finite if its domain  $D(t)$  is a finite set.
- A term  $t$  is regular if it has finitely many distinct subterms.



# Types as automata

If  $t$  is a term then following are equivalent:

- $t$  is regular.
- $t$  is representable by a term automata
- $t$  is describable by a type expression involving  $\mu$ .



# Recap

- Recursive types
- Examples of recursive types
- Types as Functions and automata



# Subtyping

- We want to denote that some types are more informative than other.
- We say  $t_1 \leq t_2$  to indicate that every value described by  $t_1$  is also described by  $t_2$ .
- That is, if you have a function that needs a value of type  $t_2$ , you can give safely pass a value of type  $t_1$ .
- $t_1$  is a subtype of  $t_2$  or  $t_2$  is a super type of  $t_1$ .
- Example: C++ and Java.

$$\text{subsumption} \frac{A \vdash e : t \quad t \leq t'}{A \vdash e : t'}$$



# Rules for subtyping

- 
- 
- 

$$\text{(reflexive)} \quad t \leq t$$

$$\text{transitive} \frac{t_1 \leq t_2 \quad t_2 \leq t_3}{t_1 \leq t_3}$$

$$\text{Arrow} \frac{t_1 \leq s_1 \quad s_2 \leq t_2}{s_1 \rightarrow s_2 \leq t_1 \rightarrow t_2}$$

- The subtype relation is reversed (contravariant) for the argument types.
- The subtype relation in the result types - covariant.



# Special types

- $(Top)t \leq \top$
- $\top$  = Java Object class.
- $\perp$  = Subtype of all the classes - undefined type.
  - (lambda (x) (zero? x) 4 (error # mesg))
- $t = \text{Int} \mid \perp \mid \top \mid t \rightarrow t \mid \nu.(t \rightarrow t)$



# Subtyping algorithm for recursive types

- Roberto M Amadio. and Luca Cardelli. Subtyping recursive types. In ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages, 1990. - self reading.
- Dexter Kozen, Jens Palsberg, and Michael I. Schwartzbach. Efficient recursive sub-typing. In ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages, 1993.



# Parity

- The parity of  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^*$  is even - if  $\alpha$  has even number of zeros.
- The parity of  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}^*$  is odd - if  $\alpha$  has odd number of zeros.
- Denote parity of  $\alpha$  by  $\pi\alpha = 0$  if even, 1 if odd.
- We will define two orders.
  - co-variant:  $\perp \leq_0 \rightarrow \leq_0 \top$
  - contra-variant:  $\top \leq_1 \rightarrow \leq_1 \perp$



# Type ordering

- For two types  $s$ , and  $t$ , we define  $s \leq t$ , iff  $s(\alpha) \leq_{\pi\alpha} t(\alpha)$  for all  $\alpha \in D(s) \cap D(t)$ .

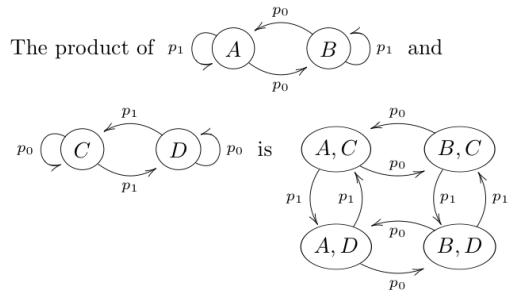


- A counter example to  $s \leq t$ :  $\exists$  a path  $\alpha \in D(s) \cap D(t)$ , where  $s(\alpha) \not\leq_{\pi\alpha} t(\alpha)$ 
  - Two trees are ordered if no common path detects a counter example.



# Recap product automata

- A product automata represents interaction between two finite state machines.



If we start from A,C and after the word  $w$  we are in the state A,D we know that  $w$  contains an even number of  $p_0$ s and odd number of  $p_1$ s

Slide from Thierry

Coquand @ University of Gothenburg

- Effect of varying the final state. Union, intersection, or more.



# Modified product automata

- Given two term automata  $M$  and  $N$ , we will construct a product automata

$$A = (Q^A, \Sigma, q_0^A, \delta^A, F^A)$$

where

- $Q^A = Q^M \times Q^N \times \{0, 1\}$
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$
- $q_0^A = (q_0^M, q_0^N, 0)$  – start state of  $A$ .
- $\delta^A : Q^A \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q^A$ .

For  $b, i \in \Sigma, p \in Q^M$ , and  $q \in Q^N$ , we have  $\delta^A((p, q, b), i) = (\delta^M(p, i), \delta^N(q, i), b \oplus \pi i)$

( $\oplus = \text{xor}$ )

- Final states
  - Recall:  $s \not\leq t$  iff  $\{\alpha \in D(s) \cap D(t) \mid s(\alpha) \not\leq \pi \alpha t(\alpha)\}$
  - Goal: create an automata, where final states are denoted by states that will lead to  $\not\leq$ .

$$F^A = \{(p, q, b) \mid l^M(p) \not\leq_b l^N(q)\} - l \text{ gives the label of that node.}$$



# Decision procedure for subtyping

**Input:** Two types  $s, t$ .

**Output:** If  $s \leq t$ .

- 1 Construct the term automata for  $s$  and  $t$ .
- 2 Construct the product automaton  $s \times t$ . Size = ?
- 3 Decide, using depth first search, if the product automaton accepts the nonempty set.
  - Does there exist a path from the start state to some final state?
- 4 If yes, then  $s \not\leq t$ . Else  $s \leq t$ .

Compute the time complexity -  $O(n^2)$



# Example 0

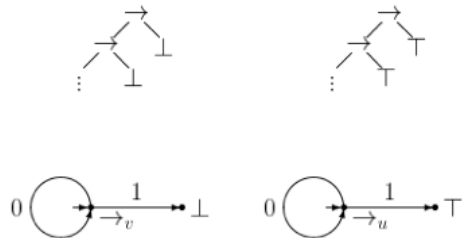
- $(\perp \rightarrow \top)$  and  $(\top \rightarrow \perp) \not\leq$
- $((\perp \rightarrow \top) \rightarrow (\perp))$  and  $((\top \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow (\perp)) \leq$



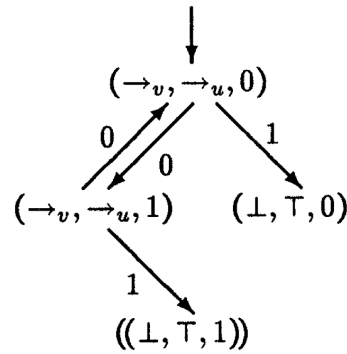
# Example 1

- $\mu v.(v \rightarrow \perp)$  and  $\mu u.(u \rightarrow \top)$

## Term automata



## Product automata



### Unreachable states

- $((\rightarrow v, \top, 1)), (\rightarrow v, \top, 0), (\top, \rightarrow v, 1), ((\top, \rightarrow v, 0)), (\rightarrow u, \perp, 1), ((\rightarrow u, \perp, 0)), ((\perp, \rightarrow u, 1)), (\perp, \rightarrow u, 0)$

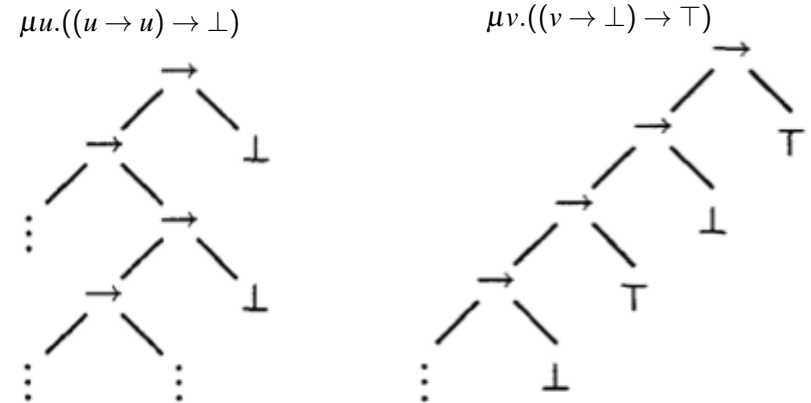
- $\mu v.(v \rightarrow \perp) \not\leq \mu u.(u \rightarrow \top)$



# Example 2

- $\mu u.((u \rightarrow u) \rightarrow \perp)$  and  $\mu v.((v \rightarrow \perp) \rightarrow \top)$

## Term automata



- Product automata - derive. Ans:  $\leq$ .



# First order unification

- Goal: To do type inference
- Given: A set of variables and literals and their possible types.
  - Remember: type = constraint.
- Target: Does the given set of constraints have a solution? And if so, what is the most general solution?
- Unification can be done in linear time: M. S. Paterson and M. N. Wegman, Linear Unification, Journal of Computer and System Sciences, 16:158167, 1978.
- We will instead present a simpler to understand, complex to run algorithm.



# Definitions

- We will stick to simple type expressions generated from the grammar:

$$t ::= t \rightarrow t \mid \text{Int} \mid \alpha$$

where  $\alpha$  ranges over type variables.

- Example:

$$((\text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \beta)[\alpha := \text{Int}, \beta := (\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int})] = (\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow (\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int})$$

$$((\text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \gamma)[\alpha := \text{Int}, \beta := (\text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha)] = (\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \gamma$$

- We say given a set of type equations, we say a substitution  $\sigma$  is an unifier or solution if for each of the equation of the form  $s = t, s\sigma = t\sigma$ .
- Substitutions can be composed:

$$t(\sigma \circ \theta) = (t\sigma)\theta$$

- A substitution  $\sigma$  is called a most general solution of an equation set provided that for any other solution  $\theta$ , there exists a substitution  $\tau$  such that  $\theta = \sigma \circ \tau$



## Unification algorithm

**Input:**  $G$ : set of type equations (derived from a given program).

**Output:** Unification  $\sigma$

- 1 failure = false;  $\sigma = \{\}$ .
- 2 while  $G \neq \emptyset$  and  $\neg$  failure do
  - 1 Choose and remove an equation  $e$  from  $G$ . Say  $e\sigma$  is  $(s = t)$ .
  - 2 If  $s$  and  $t$  are variables, or  $s$  and  $t$  are both `Int` then continue.
  - 3 If  $s = s_1 \rightarrow s_2$  and  $t = t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ , then  $G = G \cup \{s_1 = t_1, s_2 = t_2\}$ .
  - 4 If  $(s = \text{Int}$  and  $t$  is an arrow type) or vice versa then failure = true.
  - 5 If  $s$  is a variable that does not occur in  $t$ , then  $\sigma = \sigma \circ [s := t]$ .
  - 6 If  $t$  is a variable that does not occur in  $s$ , then  $\sigma = \sigma \circ [t := s]$ .
  - 7 If  $s \neq t$  and either  $s$  is a variable that occurs in  $t$  or vice versa then failure = true.
- 3 end-while.
- 4 if (failure = true) then output “Does not type check”. Else o/p  $\sigma$ .

Q: Composability helps?

Q: Cost?



## Examples

$$\alpha = \beta \rightarrow \text{Int}$$
$$\beta = \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$$
$$\alpha = \text{Int} \rightarrow \beta$$
$$\beta = \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}$$


## Recap

- Structural subtyping
- Unification algorithm

