

A Relevance Sampler for μ Rust_{sl}

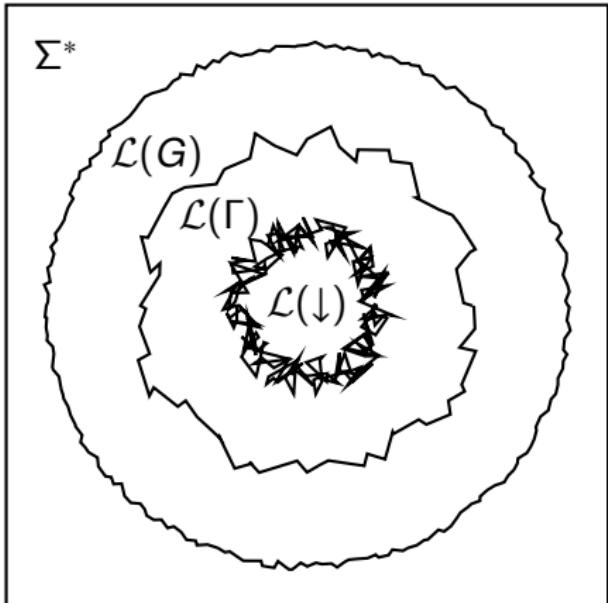
Breandan Mark Considine

December 13, 2025



Programming language [in]approximability

- ▶ Σ^* : all words over Σ
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}(G)$: syntactically valid
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}(\Gamma)$: type-safe programs
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}(\downarrow)$: halting programs
- ▶ Most LLMs: $\sigma \hookleftarrow \Sigma^*$
- ▶ Typesafe: $\sigma \hookleftarrow \mathcal{L}(\Gamma)$
- ▶ Tighter approximations require ever-increasing expressive power
- ▶ Volumes are not to scale



High-level plan

Morally, we want to generate type-safe Rust code. We will focus on a straight-line fragment with nominal relevance, lower this into a context-free grammar (CFG) using a fixed-parameter tractable embedding, and then decode the CFG by slice sampling.

1. Consider μRust , a tiny sublanguage of Rust.
2. Restrict to straight-line fragment, $\mu\text{Rust}_{\text{SL}} \subset \mu\text{Rust}$.
3. Embed $\mu\text{Rust}_{\text{SL}}$ into a CFG, $G := \langle \Sigma, V, P, S \rangle$.
4. Sample words from $\sigma \leftarrow \mathcal{L}(G) \cap \Sigma^n$.

Substructural type systems

	$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash A}{\Delta, \Gamma \vdash A}$	$\frac{\Gamma, A, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, A \vdash B}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \vdash C}$	
	Exchange	Contraction	Weakening	Usage
Ordered	✗	✗	✗	$= 1$
Linear	✓	✗	✗	$= 1$
Affine	✓	✗	✓	≤ 1
Relevant	✓	✓	✗	≥ 1
Classical	✓	✓	✓	≥ 0

Table: Each typing discipline enforces different usage obligations.

Exchange allows permutation of assumptions, **contraction** allows duplication or merging, and **weakening** allows discarding assumptions.

Context-free grammars (CFG)

Definition. A CFG is a quadruple $G := \langle \Sigma, V, P, S \rangle$ where:

- ▶ Σ is a finite set of *terminals*,
- ▶ V is a finite set of *nonterminals*, disjoint from Σ ,
- ▶ $P \subseteq V \times (V \cup \Sigma)^*$ is a finite set of *productions* $W \rightarrow \sigma$,
- ▶ $S \in V$ is the *start symbol*.

Chomsky Normal Form (CNF). A CFG is in CNF if every $p \in P$ is either

$$W \rightarrow XZ \quad \text{or} \quad W \rightarrow a,$$

with $W, X, Z \in V$, $a \in \Sigma$.

- ▶ Every CFG G has an equivalent CFG G' in CNF s.t. $\mathcal{L}(G') = \mathcal{L}(G)$.
The conversion has polynomial worst case blowup.

μ Rust: Syntax and semantics

Consider a singly-typed language with the following terms:

```
FUN ::= fn f0 ( PRM ) -> T { BDY }
PRM ::= PID : T | PRM , PID : T
BDY ::= INV | STM BDY
STM ::= let PID = INV ;
INV ::= FID ( ARG )
ARG ::= PID | ARG , ARG
PID ::= p1 | ... | pk
FID ::= f0 | f1 | ... | fm
```

Assume an ambient context, Γ , consisting of f_1, \dots, f_m :

$$\Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, f_- : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_k) \rightarrow \tau$$

The unrestricted semantics are conventional.

μ Rust: Examples

This admits straight line programs (SLPs) of the following shape,

```
fn f0(p1 : T, p2 : T) -> T {  
    let p3 = mul(p1, p2);  
    let p4 = add(p1, p1);  
    let p5 = mul(p1, p3);  
    let p6 = add(p3, p1);  
    add(p3, p5)  
}
```

> Warning: p4, p6 are unused!

however unused resources, i.e., names may remain after returning.

Ambient context

Now, let us interpolate `f0` as a string inside the following context:

```
[forbid(unused_variables)]
```

```
[derive(Clone, Copy, Debug)]
```

```
[must_use]
```

```
pub struct T(i128);
```

```
fn add(_ : T, _ : T) -> T { T(0) }
```

```
fn mul(_ : T, _ : T) -> T { T(0) }
```

```
...
```

```
fn fm(_ : T, ..., _ : T) -> T { T(0) }
```

```
fn f0(p1 : T, ..., pk : T) -> T { <...> }
```

```
fn main() { println!("{:?}", f0(T(0), T(1))) }
```

μ Rust_{SL}: Relevance semantics

Obligations. For $f\emptyset$ with parameters $p_1 : \tau_1, \dots, p_k : \tau_k$, initialize $\Phi = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$. Each bound name must be used *at least once*. Locals introduced by let also carry obligations. Body is well-typed iff all obligations are discharged, i.e., $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \text{BDY} : \tau \mid \Phi' \Rightarrow \emptyset$.

Judgments: $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash t : \tau \mid \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi'$.

$$\frac{p : \tau \in \Gamma \quad p \in \Phi}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash p : \tau \mid \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi \setminus \{p\}} \text{ (VAR)} \qquad \frac{p : \tau \in \Gamma \quad p \notin \Phi}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash p : \tau \mid \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi} \text{ (VAR}_\notin\text{)}$$

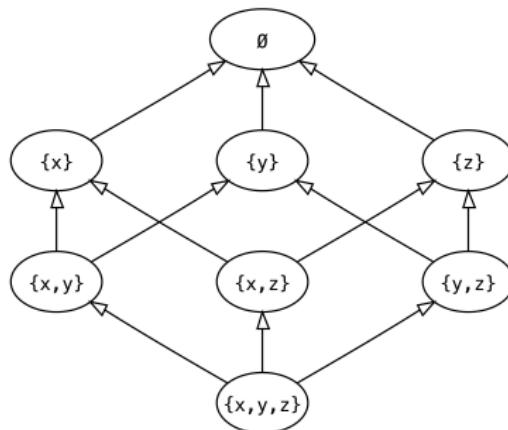
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f_ : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m) \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash e_i : \tau_i \mid \Phi_{i-1} \Rightarrow \Phi_i \ \forall i \in [1, m]}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash f_ (e_1, \dots, e_m) : \tau \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_m} \text{ (INV)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_1 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1 \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_2 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_1 \Rightarrow \Phi_2}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_1 ; s_2 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2} \text{ (SEQ)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash e : \tau \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1 \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash x : \tau \mid \Phi_1 \cup \{x\} \Rightarrow \Phi_2}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \text{let } x = e : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2} \text{ (LET)}$$

CFG embedding: intuition

To express all $\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi'$ possible transitions, we must construct a Hasse diagram, H_k , e.g., for $k = 3$ parameters $\{x, y, z\}$,



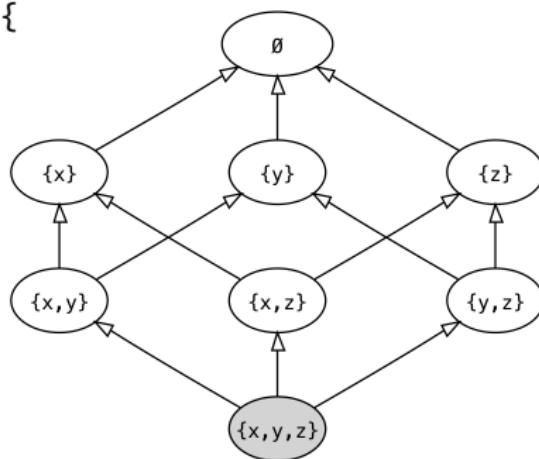
for all relevant productions. This will be tractable for $k \lesssim 10$.

$$|\{v, v' \in H_k \mid v \subset v'\}| = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} (2^{k-i} - 1) = 3^k - 2^k.$$

Path enumeration

Our grammar will need to express all possible transition paths, e.g.,

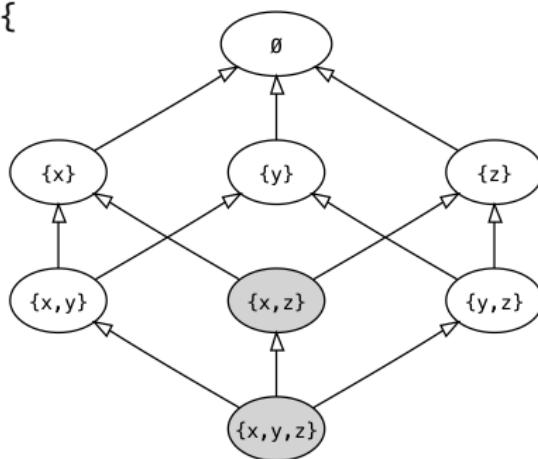
```
fn f0(x : T, y : T, z : T) -> T {  
    // Unused: {x,y,z}  
}
```



Path enumeration

Our grammar will need to express all possible transition paths, e.g.,

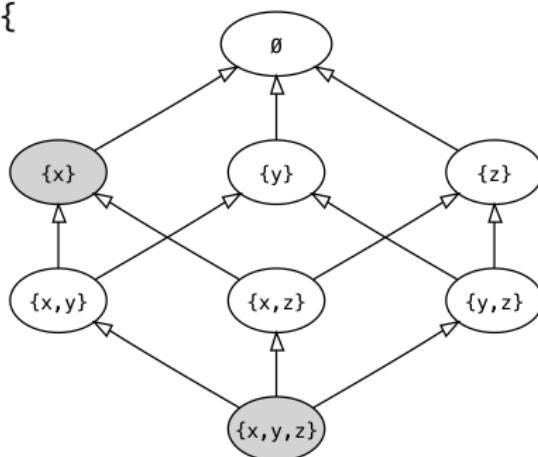
```
fn f0(x : T, y : T, z : T) -> T {  
    let _ = mul(y, y); // {x,z}  
    // BDY | {x,y,z} => {x,z}  
}
```



Path enumeration

Our grammar will need to express all possible transition paths, e.g.,

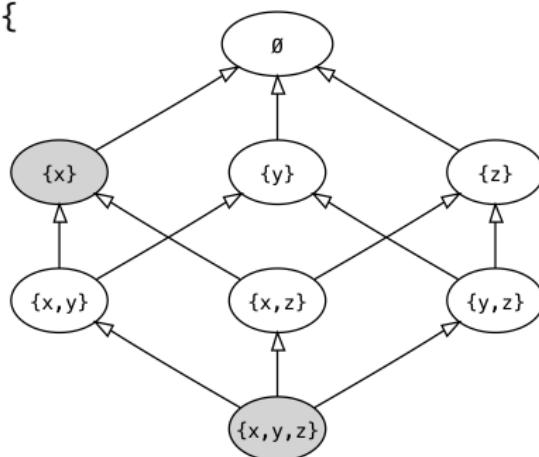
```
fn f0(x : T, y : T, z : T) -> T {  
    let _ = mul(y, y); // {x,z}  
    let _ = add(y, z); // {x}  
    // BDY | {x,y,z}=>{x}  
}
```



Path enumeration

Our grammar will need to express all possible transition paths, e.g.,

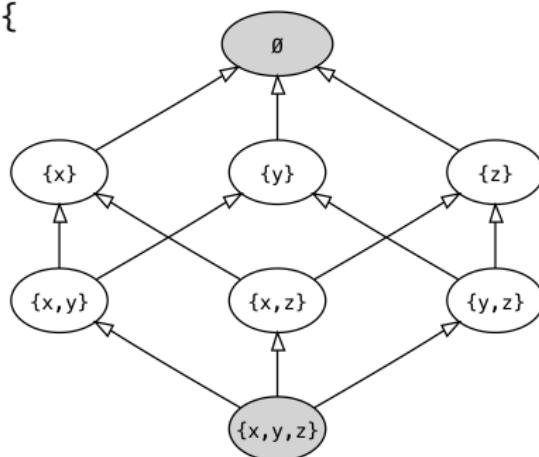
```
fn f0(x : T, y : T, z : T) -> T {  
    let _ = mul(y, y); // {x,z}  
    let _ = add(y, z); // {x}  
    let _ = mul(z, y); // {x}  
    // BDY | {x,y,z}=>{x}  
}
```



Path enumeration

Our grammar will need to express all possible transition paths, e.g.,

```
fn f0(x : T, y : T, z : T) -> T {  
    let _ = mul(y, y); // {x,z}  
    let _ = add(y, z); // {x}  
    let _ = mul(z, y); // {x}  
    let _ = mul(x, z); // {}  
    // BDY | {x,y,z}=>{}  
}
```



CFG embedding

We want to permit only functions with no outstanding obligations.

Construct a CFG, $G_\Gamma = \langle \Sigma, V_\Gamma, P_\Gamma, S_\Gamma \rangle$:

$$\frac{\vec{\tau} : \mathbb{T}^{0..k} \quad \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi' = \{p_i, \dots, p_k\} \Rightarrow \emptyset}{\left(S_\Gamma \rightarrow \text{fn } f0 \ (\underset{i=1}{\overset{|\vec{\tau}|}{\bullet}} (p_i : \vec{\tau}_i)) : \tau = \text{BDY}[\tau, \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi'] \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{FUN}_\varphi$$

We will decorate nonterminals with a pair of (1) the expression's local return type (τ), and (2) relevance obligations ($\Phi \Rightarrow \Phi'$):

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f_+ : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m) \rightarrow \tau \quad \Phi' \subseteq \Phi \quad \Phi \setminus \Phi' = \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{p_i\}}{\left(\text{INV}[\tau, \Phi \Rightarrow \Phi'] \rightarrow f_- (\underset{i=1}{\overset{m}{\bullet}} p_i) \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{INV}_\varphi$$

where $\bullet(\cdot)$ denotes a macro for a comma-separated list, i.e.,

$$\underset{i=1}{\overset{m}{\bullet}}(x_i) := x_1 , \dots , x_m \text{ if } m > 1 \text{ else } x_1 \text{ if } m = 1 \text{ else } \varepsilon$$

μ Rust_{SL}: Sequencing and binding

Sequencing. A sequence $s_1 ; s_2$ composes obligation contexts:

$$[\![s_1 ; s_2]\!] = [\![s_2]\!] \circ [\![s_1]\!].$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_1 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1 \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_2 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_1 \Rightarrow \Phi_2}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash s_1 ; s_2 : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2} \text{ (SEQ)}$$

Let-binding. A local binding introduces a fresh obligation that must be subsequently discharged:

$$\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \text{let } x = e \text{ acts as } \Phi_0 \xrightarrow{e} \Phi_1 \xrightarrow{\cup\{x\}} \Phi_2$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash e : \tau \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1 \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash x : \tau \mid \Phi_1 \cup \{x\} \Rightarrow \Phi_2}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \text{let } x = e : \text{unit} \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2} \text{ (LET)}$$

μ Rust_{SL} embedding: sequencing and binding

Sequencing. Recall the (SEQ) rule, which BDY_φ will mirror:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\text{BDY}[\tau, \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2] \rightarrow \text{STM}[\text{unit}, \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1] ; \text{BDY}[\tau, \Phi_1 \Rightarrow \Phi_2] \right) \in P_\Gamma, \\ & \left(\text{BDY}[\tau, \Phi \Rightarrow \emptyset] \rightarrow \text{INV}[\tau, \Phi \Rightarrow \emptyset] \right) \in P_\Gamma \end{aligned}$$

for all possible obligation states Φ_0, Φ_1, Φ_2 , s.t. $\Phi_2 \subseteq \Phi_1 \subseteq \Phi_0$.

Let-binding. STM_φ generates a set of STM productions. Whenever,

$$\Gamma, \Delta \vdash e : \tau \mid \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash x : \tau \mid \Phi_1 \cup \{x\} \Rightarrow \Phi_2,$$

we will add the corresponding production:

$$\left(\text{STM}[\text{unit}, \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_2] \rightarrow \text{let } x = \text{INV}[\tau, \Phi_0 \Rightarrow \Phi_1] \right) \in P_\Gamma,$$

These rules ensure every word $\sigma \in \mathcal{L}(\text{BDY}[\tau, \Phi \Rightarrow \emptyset])$ corresponds to a well-typed relevant μ Rust_{SL} fragment.

Future work

- ▶ More compact embeddings and asymptotic complexity
- ▶ Laziness: instantiate CFG productions during parsing
- ▶ Extend to richer type systems, e.g., polymorphism, higher-order functions, subtyping, nested scope
- ▶ “A Word Sampler for Well-Typed Functions” (Considine, 2025) explores a first order, simply typed language with finite types
- ▶ “A Tree Sampler for Bounded CFLs” (Considine, 2024) describes a uniform sampler for finite CFL intersections
- ▶ Other FPT embeddings. Open to suggestions!
- ▶ Applications to program synthesis and repair
- ▶ Feasible matrix multiplication algorithms
- ▶ Try it yourself at: <https://tidyparse.github.io/cnf.html>

Acknowledgements

Thank you!

- ▶ George Morgan
- ▶ Tali Benyon
- ▶ Ori Roth
- ▶ Chuta Sano
- ▶ Brigitte Pientka
- ▶ David Bieber
- ▶ David Chiang
- ▶ David Yu-Tung Hui
- ▶ Margaret Considine
- ▶ Mark Considine

Lastly, thank you to the MWPLS organizers!