Type Inference by Example

```
function f(x) {
    return x * 2;
}

function f(x : $1) : $2 {
    return x * 2;
}

function f(x : Int) : Int {
    return x * 2;
}
```

```
function range(from, to) {
    let numbers = [];
    for(let i = from; i ≤ to; i++) {
        numbers[i - from] = i;
    }
    return numbers;
}

function range(from : Int, to : Int) : Array<Int> {
    let numbers : Array<Int> = [];
    for(let i : Int = from; i ≤ to; i++) {
        numbers[i - from] = i;
    }
    return numbers;
}
```

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```
function f(x) {
   return x * 2;
```

x:\$1

Type variables function f(x : \$1) : \$2 { return x * 2; }

x:\$1

```
function f(x : $1) : $2 {
   return x * 2;
}

*: (Int, Int) => Int
```

x:\$1

Type constraints:

Int == \$1

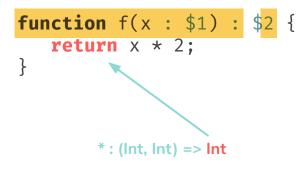
```
function f(x : $1) : $2 {
   return x * 2;
}

*:(Int, Int) => Int
```

x:\$1

Type constraints:

Int == \$1 \$2 == Int



x:\$1

function f(x : \$1) : \$2 {
 return x * 2;
}

Type constraints:

Int == \$1 \$2 == Int

x:\$1

function f(x : \$1) : \$2 {
 return x * 2;
}

Type constraints:

Int == \$1 \$2 == Int



Substitution:

\$1 := Int \$2 := Int

x:\$1

function f(x : Int) : Int {
 return x * 2;
}

Type constraints:

Int == \$1 \$2 == Int

Substitution:

\$1 := Int \$2 := Int

Longer example

Type constraints:

Substitution:

```
function range(from, to) {
  let numbers = [];
  for(let i = from; i ≤ to; i++) {
     numbers[i - from] = i;
  }
```

return numbers;

numbers: \$4 from: \$1 i:\$5 to:\$2

function range(from : \$1, to : \$2) : \$3 {

for(let i : \$5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) { numbers[i - from] = i;

return numbers;

let numbers : \$4 = [];

Type constraints:

```
Environment:
```

Type constraints:

\$4 == Array<\$6>

numbers: \$4 from: \$1 i:\$5 to:\$2

function range(from : \$1, to : \$2) : \$3 { **let** numbers : \$4 = [];

for(let i : \$5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) {

numbers[i - from] = i;

return numbers;

Type constraints:

from: \$1 numbers: \$4 to: \$2 i: \$5

function range(from : \$1, to : \$2) : \$3 {
 let numbers : \$4 = [];
 for(let i : \$5 = from; i \le to; i++) {
 numbers[i - from] = i;
 }
 return numbers;

\$4 == Array<\$6> \$5 == \$1 \$5 == \$2 \$5 == Int \$2 == Int

Type constraints:

numbers: \$4 from: \$1 i:\$5 to:\$2

\$4 == Array<\$6> \$5 == \$1

\$4 == Array<\$5> \$5 == \$2

\$5 == Int \$2 == Int

function range(from : \$1, to : \$2) : \$3 { **let** numbers : \$4 = [];

for(let i : \$5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) { numbers[i - from] = i;

return numbers;

numbers: \$4 from: \$1 i:\$5 to:\$2

function range(from : \$1, to : \$2) : \$3 {

for(let i : \$5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) {

numbers[i - from] = i;

let numbers : \$4 = [];

return numbers;

Type constraints:

\$4 == Array<\$6> \$5 == \$1 \$4 == Array<\$5> \$5 == \$2 \$5 == Int

\$3 == \$4 \$2 == Int

numbers: \$4 from: \$1 i:\$5 to:\$2

Type constraints:

```
$4 == Array<$6> $5 == $1
$4 == Array<$5> $5 == $2
                 $5 == Int
$3 == $4
                 $2 == Int
```

Substitution:

\$4 := Arrav<\$6>

```
function range(from : $1, to : $2) : $3 {
  let numbers : $4 = [];
  for(let i : $5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) {
      numbers[i - from] = i;
  return numbers;
```

```
Environment:
```

Type constraints:

```
numbers: $4
from: $1
                i:$5
to:$2
```

```
$4 == Array<$6> $5 == $1
Array<$6> == Array<$5> $5 == $2
                       $5 == Int
$3 == $4
                       $2 == Int
```

```
$4 := Arrav<$6>
```

```
function range(from : $1, to : $2) : $3 {
  let numbers : $4 = [];
  for(let i : $5 = from; i ≤ to; i++) {
      numbers[i - from] = i;
  return numbers;
```

```
numbers: $4
from: $1
                i:$5
to:$2
```

```
function range(from : $1, to : $2) : $3 {
```

let numbers : \$4 = [];

return numbers;

numbers[i - from] = i;

```
$4 == Array<$6>
                                                                                  $5 == $1
for(let i : $5 = from; i \le to; i++) {
                                                          $6 == $5
                                                                                  $5 == $2
                                                                                  $5 == Int
                                                          $3 == $4
                                                                                  $2 == Int
```

Type constraints:

```
$4 := Arrav<$6>
```

from: \$1 numbers: \$4 to: \$2 i: \$5

```
function range(from : $1, to : $2) : $3 {
   let numbers : $4 = [];
   for(let i : $5 = from; i \le to; i++) {
      numbers[i - from] = i;
   }
   return numbers;
}
```

Type constraints:

\$4 == Array<\$6> \$5 == \$1 \$6 == \$5 \$5 == \$2 ... \$5 == Int \$3 == \$4 \$2 == Int

Substitution:

\$1 := Int \$2 := Int \$3 := Array<Int> \$4 := Array<Int> \$5 := Int \$6 := Int

\$3 := Array<Int>
\$4 := Array<Int>

\$5 := Int \$6 := Int

function range(from : Int, to : Int) : Array<Int> {

for(let $i : Int = from; i \leq to; i++)$ {

let numbers : Array<Int> = [];

numbers[i - from] = i;

return numbers;

```
numbers: $4
  from: $1
                    i:$5
  to:$2
Type constraints:
  $4 == Array<$6>
                             $5 == $1
  $6 == $5
                             $5 == $2
                             $5 == Int
  $3 == $4
                             $2 == Int
Substitution:
  $1 := Int
  $2 := Int
```

Calling generic functions

```
function map(array : Array<$3>, body : $3 ⇒ $4) : Array<$4>

function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

```
Environment:
```

items: \$1 map:...

x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
function map(array : Array<$3>, body : $3 ⇒ $4) : Array<$4>

function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

items: \$1 map:...

x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
function map(array : Array<$3>, body : $3 ⇒ $4) : Array<$4>

function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

Type constraints:

\$1 == Array<\$3>

```
function map(array : Array<$3>, body : $3 ⇒ $4) : Array<$4>

function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

Type constraints:

```
function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

function map(array : Array \leqslant 3>, body : $\$3 \Rightarrow \4) : Array \leqslant 4>

Environment:

items: \$1 map:...
x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
$1 == Array<$3>
($3 => $4) == ($5 => $6)
$5 == Int
$6 == Int
```

```
function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

function map(array : Array<\$3>, body : \$3 \Rightarrow \$4) : Array<\$4>

Environment:

items: \$1 map:...
x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

function map(array : Array \leqslant 3>, body : $\$3 \Rightarrow \4) : Array \leqslant 4>

Environment:

items: \$1 map:...
x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
function map(array : Array<$3>, body : $3 ⇒ $4) : Array<$4>

function square(items : $1) : $2 {
   return map<$3, $4>(
        items,
        (x : $5) ⇒ x * x
   );
}
```

items: \$1 map:...
x:\$5 (only within the lambda)

Type constraints:

```
$1 := Array<Int>
$2 := Array<Int>
$3 := Int
$4 := Int
$5 := Int
$6 := Int
```

```
function map(array : Array\leqslant3>, body : \$3 \Rightarrow \$4) : Array\leqslant4>
                                                                            items: $1
                                                                                              map:...
                                                                            x: $5 (only within the lambda)
                                                                          Type constraints:
function square(items : Array<Int>) : Array<Int> {
    return map<Int, Int>(
                                                                            $1 == Array<$3>
        items,
                                                                            $3 == $5
                                                                                            $4 == $6
        (x : Int) \Rightarrow x * x
                                                                            $5 == Int
    );
                                                                            $6 == Int $2 == Array<$4>
                                                                          Substitution:
                                                                            $1 := Array<Int>
                                                                            $2 := Array<Int>
                                                                            $3 := Int
                                                                            $4 := Int
                                                                            $5 := Int
                                                                            $6 := Int
```

Unification

Or: How to solve equality constraints

Equality constraint

unify: Type × Type → Substitution

"Given two types, find the substitution (if any), that makes them equal."

unify: Type × Type → Substitution

```
Types:
Int — a plain type
Array<Int> — a generic type
(Int, Int) ⇒ Int — a function type
$1 — a type variable
```

Types:

Int — a plain type

Array<Int> — a generic type

(Int, Int) \Rightarrow Int — a function type

\$1 — a type variable

Type constructors, fully applied.

Type variable.

```
sealed abstract class Type

case class TConstructor(
   name : String,
   generics : List[Type] = List()
) extends Type

case class TVariable(
  index : Int
) extends Type
```

```
Int - TConstructor("Int")
Array<Int> - TConstructor("Array", List(TConstructor("Int")))
(Int, Int) \Rightarrow Int - TConstructor("Function2", List(TConstructor("Int"), TConstructor("Int")))
$1 - TVariable(1)
```

```
$1 := Int
$2 := Array<$1>
$3 := $1 ⇒ $2
...
Map[Int, Type]
```

```
freshTypeVariable() : Type

get(index : Int) : Type

substitute(t : Type) : Type

substituteExpression(e : Expression) : Expression
```

```
class Substitution() {
   private var typeVariables : Map[Int, Type] = Map()

   def freshTypeVariable() : TVariable = {
     val result = TVariable(typeVariables.size)
     typeVariables += (typeVariables.size → result)
     result
   }

// ... as well as the following methods ...
```

```
def get(index : Int) : Type =
  typeVariables(index) match {
   case TVariable(i) if i ≠ index ⇒ get(i)
   case t ⇒ t
}
```

```
$1 := $2
$2 := $3
$3 := $4
$4 := Int
```

```
def get(index : Int) : Type =
  typeVariables(index) match {
  case TVariable(i) if i ≠ index ⇒
    val t = get(i)
    typeVariables(index) = t
    t
  case t ⇒ t
  }
}
Path compression
```

```
def substitute(t : Type) : Type =
  t match {
    case TVariable(i) \Rightarrow
      if(has(i)) substitute(get(i)) else t
    case TConstructor(name, generics) ⇒
       TConstructor(name, generics.map(t \Rightarrow substitute(t)))
def has(index : Int) : Boolean =
  typeVariables(index) match {
    case TVariable(i) \Rightarrow i \neq index
    case \_\Rightarrow true
```

```
def substituteExpression(e : Expression) : Expression =
   e match {

    case ELet(name, typeAnnotation, value, body) ⇒
       val newTypeAnnotation = typeAnnotation.map(substitute)
      val newValue = substituteExpression(value)
      val newBody = substituteExpression(body)
      ELet(name, newTypeAnnotation, newValue, newBody)

// ...
}
```

```
def unify(t1 : Type, t2 : Type) : Unit = (t1, t2) match {
    case (TVariable(i1), TVariable(i2)) if i1 = i2 ⇒
    case (TVariable(i), _) if has(i) ⇒ unify(get(i), t2)
    case (_, TVariable(i)) if has(i) ⇒ unify(t1, get(i))
    case (TVariable(i), _) ⇒
        typeVariables(i) = t2
    case (_, TVariable(i)) ⇒
        typeVariables(i) = t1
    case (TConstructor(name1, generics1), TConstructor(name2, generics2)) ⇒
        assert(name1 = name2 & generics1.size = generics2.size)
        for((t1, t2) ← generics1.zip(generics2)) unify(t1, t2)
}
```

```
def unify(t1 : Type, t2 : Type) : Unit = (t1, t2) match {
  case (TVariable(i1), TVariable(i2)) if i1 = i2 \Rightarrow
  case (TVariable(i), ) if has(i) \Rightarrow unify(get(i), t2)
  case (, TVariable(i)) if has(i) \Rightarrow unify(t1, get(i))
  case (TVariable(i), ) \Rightarrow
    assert(!occursIn(i, t2))
    typeVariables(i) = t2
  case (, TVariable(i)) \Rightarrow
                                                  Infinite type: $1 = Array<$1>
    assert(!occursIn(i, t1))
    tvpeVariables(i) = t1
  case (TConstructor(name1, generics1), TConstructor(name2, generics2)) ⇒
    assert(name1 = name2 & generics1.size = generics2.size)
    for((t1, t2) \leftarrow generics1.zip(generics2)) unify(t1, t2)
def occursIn(index : Int, t : Type) : Boolean = t match {
  case TVariable(i) if has(i) \Rightarrow occursIn(index. get(i))
  case TVariable(i) \Rightarrow i = index
```

case TConstructor(, generics) \Rightarrow generics.exists(t \Rightarrow occursIn(index, t))

Type inference

"Given an expression in an environment, compute its type (if any)."



Map[String, Type]

The variables that are in scope.

```
sealed abstract class Expression
case class ELambda(x : String, e : Expression) extends Expression
case class EApply(e1 : Expression, e2 : Expression) extends Expression
case class EVariable(x : String) extends Expression
```

```
case ELambda(x, e) \Rightarrow
  val t1 = freshTypeVariable()
  val t2 = infer(e, environment.updated(x, t1))
  TConstructor("Function", List(t1, t2))
case EApply(e1, e2) \Rightarrow
  val t1 = infer(e1, environment)
  val t2 = infer(e2, environment)
  val t3 = freshTypeVariable()
  unify(t1, TConstructor("Function", List(t2, t3)))
  t3
case EVariable(x) \Rightarrow
  environment.getOrElse(x,
    throw TypeError("Variable not in scope: " + x)
```

```
val e = ELambda("x", EApply(EVariable("-"), EVariable("x")))
x ⇒ -x
```

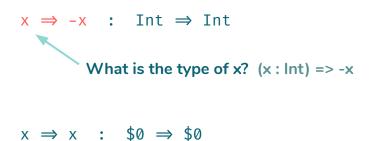
```
val e = ELambda("x", EApply(EVariable("-"), EVariable("x")))
        x \Rightarrow -x
val t1 = infer(e, Map("-", Int \Rightarrow Int))
t1 = TConstructor("Function", List(TVariable(0), TVariable(1)))
      $0 ⇒ $1
val t2 = substitute(t1)
t2 = TConstructor("Function",
           List(TConstructor("Int"), TConstructor("Int")))
      Int \Rightarrow Int
```

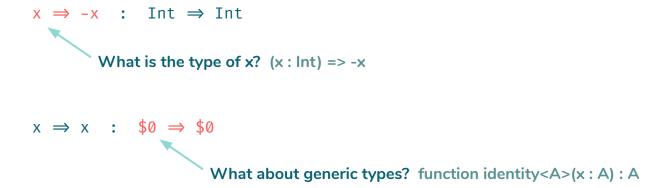
infer : Expression \times Environment \rightarrow Type

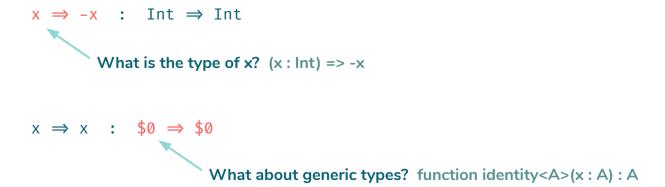
oones.

```
x \Rightarrow -x : Int \Rightarrow Int
```

 $x \Rightarrow x : \$0 \Rightarrow \0







What about recursive functions?

Type reconstruction

... and a richer language!

"Given an environment and an expected type, fill in the missing types in the expression."

```
(x : Int, y : String) : Bool ⇒ f(x, y)

case class ELambda(
  parameters : List[Parameter],
  returnType : Option[Type],
  body : Expression
) extends Expression

case class Parameter(
  name : String,
  typeAnnotation : Option[Type]

case class EApply(
  function : Expression,
  arguments : List[Expression]
) extends Expression
```

```
let x : Int = 42;
x + x

case class ELet(
  name : String,
  typeAnnotation : Option[Type],
  value : Expression,
  body : Expression
) extends Expression
```

```
[1, 2, 3];
"Hello, World"
```

```
case class EInt(
   value : Int
) extends Expression

case class EString(
   value : String
) extends Expression

case class EString(
   value : String
) extends Expression

case class ESemicolon(
   before : Expression,
   after : Expression
) extends Expression
```

```
case ELet(name, typeAnnotation, value, body) ⇒
  val newTypeAnnotation = typeAnnotation.getOrElse(substitution.freshTypeVariable())
  val newValue = infer(environment, newTypeAnnotation, value)
  val newEnvironment = environment.updated(name, newTypeAnnotation)
  val newBody = infer(newEnvironment, expectedType, body)
  ELet(name, Some(newTypeAnnotation), newValue, newBody)
```

```
case ELambda(parameters, returnType, body) ⇒
  val newReturnType = returnType.getOrElse(substitution.freshTypeVariable())
  val newParameterTypes = parameters.map { p ⇒
    p.typeAnnotation.getOrElse(substitution.freshTypeVariable())
  val newParameters = parameters.zip(newParameterTypes).map { case (p, t) \Rightarrow
    p.copy(typeAnnotation = Some(t))
  val newEnvironment = environment ++ newParameters.map { p ⇒
    p.name → p.typeAnnotation.get
  val newBody = infer(newEnvironment, newReturnType, body)
  substitution.unify(expectedType,
    TConstructor(s"Function${parameters.size}", newParameterTypes ++ List(newReturnType))
  ELambda(newParameters, Some(newReturnType), newBody)
```

Generic types

& mutual recursion

```
generics : List[String],
   uninstantiatedType : Type
function identityA>(x : A) : A
identity : forall A. A \Rightarrow A
GenericType(List("A"),
    TConstructor("Function1", List(
        TConstructor("A"),
        TConstructor("A"),
```

case class GenericType(

```
Mutually recursive, generic functions.
case class EFunctions(
   functions : List[GenericFunction],
   body: Expression
) extends Expression
case class GenericFunction(
   name : String,
   typeAnnotation : Option[GenericType],
   lambda : Expression
```

```
function even(x) { return x = 0 \mid | odd(x - 1); } function odd(x) { return x \neq 0 \& even(x - 1); }
```

```
case EFunctions(functions, body) ⇒
  val recursiveEnvironment = environment ++ functions.map { function ⇒
    function.name → function.typeAnnotation.getOrElse(
      GenericType(List(), substitution.freshTypeVariable())
  }.toMap
  val ungeneralizedFunctions = functions.map { function ⇒
    val uninstantiatedType = recursiveEnvironment(function.name).uninstantiatedType
    function.copy(lambda =
      infer(recursiveEnvironment, uninstantiatedType, function.lambda)
                                        function even(x) { return x = 0 \mid | odd(x - 1); }
                                        function odd(x) { return x \neq 0 \& even(x - 1); }
```

```
case EFunctions(functions, body) ⇒
  // ...
  val newFunctions = ungeneralizedFunctions.map { function ⇒
    if(function.typeAnnotation.nonEmpty) function else {
      val functionType = recursiveEnvironment(function.name).uninstantiatedType
      val (newTypeAnnotation, newLambda) =
        generalize(environment, functionType, function.lambda)
      function.copy(typeAnnotation = Some(newTypeAnnotation), lambda = newLambda)
  val newEnvironment = environment ++ newFunctions.map { function ⇒
    function.name → function.typeAnnotation.get
  }.toMap
  val newBody = infer(newEnvironment, expectedType, body)
  EFunctions(newFunctions, newBody)
                                function compose(f, g) { return x \Rightarrow f(g(x)) }
                                function compose(f: \$3 \Rightarrow \$1, g: \$2 \Rightarrow \$3): \$2 \Rightarrow \$1
                                function compose<A, B, C>(f : C \Rightarrow A, g : B \Rightarrow C) : B \Rightarrow A
```

infer: Environment × Type × Expression → Expression

```
case EVariable(name, generics) \Rightarrow
  val genericType = environment.get(name)
  val newGenerics = genericType.generics.map( \Rightarrow substitution.freshTypeVariable())
  val instantiation = genericType.generics.zip(newGenerics).toMap
  val variableType = instantiate(instantiation, genericType.uninstantiatedType)
  if(generics.nonEmpty) {
    assert(generics.size = genericType.generics.size)
    for((t, v) \leftarrow generics.zip(newGenerics)) substitution.unify(t, v)
  substitution.unify(expectedType, variableType)
  EVariable(name, newGenerics)
```

Generalization & instantiation

```
function f(x) {
                                                                         function g(y) {
def generalize(
                                                                           return (x, y);
  environment : Map[String, GenericType],
  t: Type,
                                                                         return x + 7:
  expression: Expression
) : (GenericType, Expression) = {
  val genericTypeVariables =
    substitution.freeInType(t) -- substitution.freeInEnvironment(environment)
  val genericNames =
    genericTypeVariables.map(\_ \rightarrow genericParameterNames.next()).toList
  val local = substitution.copy()
  for((i, name) ← genericNames) local.unify(local.get(i), TConstructor(name))
  val newExpression = local.substituteExpression(expression)
  val newType = local.substitute(t)
  GenericType(genericNames.map { case (_, name) ⇒ name }, newType) → newExpression
```

```
def freeInType(t : Type) : SortedSet[Int] = t match {
 case TVariable(i) if has(i) ⇒ freeInType(get(i))
 case TVariable(i) ⇒ SortedSet(i)
 case TConstructor(_, generics) ⇒
   generics.map(freeInType).fold(SortedSet[Int]()) { ++ }
```

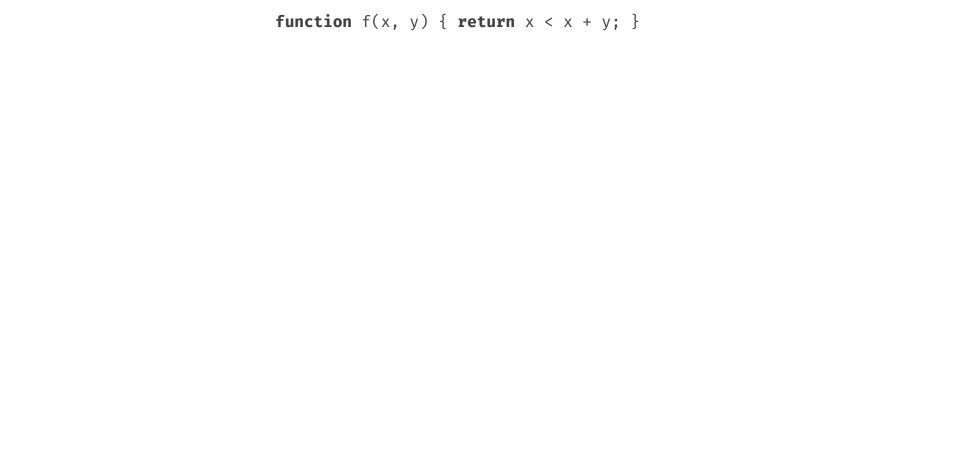
def freeInGenericType(t : GenericType) : SortedSet[Int] = {

def freeInEnvironment(environment : Map[String, GenericType]) : SortedSet[Int] = { environment.values.map(freeInGenericType).fold(SortedSet[Int]()) { ++ }

freeInType(t.uninstantiatedType)

```
def instantiate(instantiation : Map[String, Type], t : Type) : Type = t match {
  case TConstructor(name, generics) ⇒
    instantiation.get(name).map { instantiationType ⇒
      assert(generics.isEmpty)
      instantiationType
    }.getOrElse {
      TConstructor(name, generics.map(t \Rightarrow instantiate(instantiation, t)))
  case TVariable(i) if substitution.has(i) ⇒
    instantiate(instantiation, substitution.get(i))
  case TVariable(i) \Rightarrow
    t
                             function map<A, B>(array : Array<A>, f : A \Rightarrow B) : Array<B>
                                                        (Array < 1>, $1 \Rightarrow $2) \Rightarrow Array < 2>
```

Substitution & Inference
~100 lines each



```
function f(x, y) \{ return x < x + y; \}
```

```
Should we give it this type?
```

function f(x : Int, y : Int) : Bool

Or this type?

function f(x : Float, y : Float) : Bool

function f(x, y) { return x < x + y; }

Type classes

function f<T>(x : T, y : T) : Bool where Order<T>, Number<T>

function fullName(person) { return r.firstName + " " + r.lastName; }

```
function fullName(person) { return r.firstName + " " + r.lastName; }
```

Field constraints

```
function fullName<T>(person : T) : String where
  T.firstName : String, T.lastName : String
```

More?

Typing Haskell in Haskell Mark P Jones

https://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~mpj/thih/

```
// A, B, C, ... A1, B1, C1, ... A2, B2, C2, ..

val genericParameterNames = Iterator.iterate(('A', 0)) {
    case ('Z', i) ⇒ ('A', i + 1)
```

if(i = 0) x.toString else x.toString + i.toString

case $(x, i) \Rightarrow ((x + 1).toChar, i)$

 $.map { case (x, i) \Rightarrow }$