

Specialization

Concepts of Programming Languages
Lecture 24

Outline

- » Discuss **specialization** and how it relates to principle types
- » Demo an implementation of **constraint-based type inference**
- » Put the finishing touches on our discussion of type inference

Recap

Recall: Principle Types

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$$

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i.e, the **principle type** of e (note: it may not exist). Every type we *could* give e is a *specialization* of $\forall \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k. \mathcal{S}\tau$

Recall: Putting everything together

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input: program P (sequence of top-level let-expressions)

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2. *Unification*: Solve \mathcal{C} to get a most general unifier \mathcal{S} (**TYPE ERROR** if this fails)

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3. *Generalization*: Quantify over the free variables in $\mathcal{S}\tau$ to get the principle type $\forall \alpha_1 \dots \forall \alpha_k. \mathcal{S}\tau$ of e

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input: program P (sequence of top-level let-expressions)

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FOR EACH top-level let-expression $\text{let } x = e \text{ in } P$:

1. *Constraint-based inference*: Determine τ and \mathcal{C} such that $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$ is derivable
2. *Unification*: Solve \mathcal{C} to get a most general unifier \mathcal{S} (**TYPE ERROR** if this fails)
3. *Generalization*: Quantify over the free variables in $\mathcal{S}\tau$ to get the principle type $\forall \alpha_1 \dots \forall \alpha_k. \mathcal{S}\tau$ of e
4. Add $(x : \forall \alpha_1 \dots \forall \alpha_k. \mathcal{S}\tau)$ to Γ

Example

Determine the principle type of $\lambda f. \lambda x. f x + 1$

① Inference

$$\vdash \lambda f. \lambda x. f x + 1 : \boxed{\alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \gamma} + \mathcal{C}$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha\} \vdash \lambda x. f x + 1 : \beta \rightarrow \gamma + \mathcal{C}$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha, x : \beta\} \vdash f x + 1 : \text{int} + \boxed{\gamma \doteq \text{int}, \text{int} \doteq \text{int}, \alpha \doteq \beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha, x : \beta\} \vdash f x : \gamma + \alpha \doteq \beta \rightarrow \gamma$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha, x : \beta\} \vdash f : \alpha + \emptyset$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha, x : \beta\} \vdash x : \beta + \emptyset$$

$$\vdash \{f : \alpha, x : \beta\} \vdash 1 : \text{int} + \emptyset$$

Example

Determine the principle type of $\lambda f. \lambda x. f x + 1$

② Unification

$$\gamma \doteq \text{int}, \text{int} \doteq \text{int}, \alpha \doteq \beta \rightarrow \gamma$$

$$S = \{ \gamma \mapsto \text{int}, \alpha \mapsto \beta \rightarrow \text{int} \}$$

~~$\gamma \doteq \text{int}$~~ $v \doteq t$

~~$\text{int} \doteq \text{int}$~~ eq

~~$\alpha \doteq \beta \rightarrow \text{int}$~~ $v \doteq t$

③ Generalization

$$S \tau =$$

$$S(\alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \gamma) =$$

$$[\beta \rightarrow \text{int} / \alpha] [\text{int} / \gamma] (\alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \gamma) =$$

$$\forall \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_k. S \tau \text{ where } FV(S \tau) = \{ \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \} (\beta \rightarrow \text{int}) \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \text{int}$$

$$\text{Principle Type: } \forall \beta. (\beta \rightarrow \text{int}) \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \text{int}$$

Example

Show that $\text{let } f = \lambda x. x \text{ in } f(f\ 2 = 2)$ has no principle type

$\vdash \text{let } f = \lambda x. x \text{ in } f(f\ 2 = 2) : \boxed{\gamma} \vdash C$

$\vdash \lambda x. x \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \vdash \emptyset$

$\vdash \{x : \alpha\} \vdash x : \alpha \vdash \emptyset$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f(f\ 2 = 2) : \gamma \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{bool} \rightarrow \gamma, \beta \doteq \text{int}$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \vdash \emptyset$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f\ 2 = 2 : \text{bool} \vdash \beta \doteq \text{int}, \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{int} \rightarrow \beta$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f\ 2 : \beta \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{int} \rightarrow \beta$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \vdash \emptyset$

$\vdash \{f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash 2 : \text{int} \vdash \emptyset$

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Example

Show that $\text{let } f = \lambda x.x \text{ in } f(f\ 2 = 2)$ has no principle type

C

$$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{bool} \rightarrow \gamma, \beta \doteq \text{int}$$

$$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{int} \Rightarrow \beta$$

~~$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{bool} \rightarrow \gamma$~~ $\text{funty} \doteq \text{funty}$

~~$\beta \doteq \text{int}$~~ $v \doteq t$

~~$\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \doteq \text{int} \rightarrow \beta$~~ $\text{funty} \doteq \text{funty}$

~~$\alpha \doteq \text{bool}$~~ $v \doteq t$

~~$\text{bool } \alpha \doteq \gamma$~~ $t \doteq v$
 $\boxed{\text{bool } \alpha \doteq \text{int}}$ $\text{bool } \alpha \doteq \beta \text{ int}$

~~$S = \{ \beta \mapsto \text{int}$
 $\alpha \mapsto \text{bool}$
 $\gamma \mapsto \text{bool}$~~

UNIFICATION FAILURE

Specialization

Recall: HM⁻ (Syntax)

$$\begin{aligned} e ::= & \lambda x . e \mid ee \\ & \mid \text{let } x = e \text{ in } e \\ & \mid \text{if } e \text{ then } e \text{ else } e \\ & \mid e + e \mid e = e \\ & \mid n \mid x \end{aligned}$$
$$\sigma ::= \text{int} \mid \text{bool} \mid \alpha \mid \sigma \rightarrow \sigma$$
$$\tau ::= \sigma \mid \forall \alpha . \tau$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing)

$$\frac{n \text{ is an integer}}{\Gamma \vdash n : \text{int} \dashv \emptyset} \text{ (int)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \tau_3 \dashv \mathcal{C}_3}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau_3 \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \text{bool}, \tau_2 \doteq \tau_3, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2, \mathcal{C}_3} \text{ (if)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 = e_2 : \text{bool} \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \tau_2, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \text{ (eq)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{int} \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \text{int}, \tau_2 \doteq \text{int}, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \text{ (add)}$$

$$\frac{\alpha \text{ is fresh} \quad \Gamma, x : \alpha \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e : \alpha \rightarrow \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}} \text{ (fun)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2 \quad \alpha \text{ is fresh}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \alpha \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \tau_2 \rightarrow \alpha, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \text{ (app)}$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Variables)

$$\frac{(x : \forall \alpha_1 . \forall \alpha_2 \dots \forall \alpha_k . \tau) \in \Gamma \quad \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k \text{ are fresh}}{\Gamma \vdash x : [\beta_1 / \alpha_1] \dots [\beta_k / \alpha_k] \tau \dashv \emptyset} \quad (\text{var})$$

If x is declared in Γ , then x can be given the type τ *with all free variables replaced by **fresh variables***

This is where the polymorphism magic happens

Fresh variables can be unified with anything

An Alternative Formulation

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$$

It's possible to give a type system for HM-
without constraints

It's very similar to our 320Caml system, but
with some rules for dealing with **quantification**
and **specialization**

HM⁻ (Alternative Typing)

$$\frac{n \text{ is an integer}}{\Gamma \vdash n : \text{int}} \quad (\text{int})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{if})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 = e_2 : \text{bool}} \quad (\text{eq})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{int}} \quad (\text{add})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2 \quad \cancel{\vdash \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \quad \cancel{\vdash \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2}} \quad (\text{fun})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau} \quad (\text{app})$$

$$\frac{\tau_1 \text{ is a monotype} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2 \quad \vdash \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \quad (\text{let})$$

HM⁻ (Alternative Typing)

familiar rules

$$\frac{n \text{ is an integer}}{\Gamma \vdash n : \text{int}} \quad (\text{int}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{if})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 = e_2 : \text{bool}} \quad (\text{eq}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{int}} \quad (\text{add})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}} \quad (\text{fun}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau} \quad (\text{app})$$

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Generalization and Specialization

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \quad \alpha \text{ not free in } \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall \alpha . \tau} \quad (\text{gen}) \quad \frac{(x : \tau) \in \Gamma \quad \tau \sqsubseteq \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau'} \quad (\text{var})$$

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The generalization rule is like the one from System F

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" \sqsubseteq " defined a *partial order* on type schemes

Specialization (Informal)

$$\forall \alpha_1 \dots \forall \alpha_m. \tau \sqsubseteq \forall \beta_1 \dots \forall \beta_n. \tau'$$

A type scheme T_2 **specializes** T_1 , written $T_1 \sqsubseteq T_2$ if T_2 the result of instantiating the bound variables of T_1 and generalizing over some of the variables introduced by the instantiation

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \alpha. \forall \beta. \alpha \rightarrow \beta &\sqsubseteq \forall \beta. \text{int} \rightarrow \beta \\ &\sqsubseteq \forall \gamma. \forall \beta. (\gamma \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \beta \end{aligned}$$

Specialization (Formal)

τ_1, \dots, τ_m are monotypes

$$\tau' = [\tau_m/\alpha_m] \dots [\tau_1/\alpha_1] \tau$$

$$\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n \notin \text{FV}(\tau) \setminus \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\}$$

$$\forall \alpha_1 \dots \forall \alpha_m. \tau \sqsubseteq \forall \beta_1 \dots \forall \beta_n. \tau'$$

A *specialization* of a type scheme is an instantiation of its bound variable, together with some generalizations over remaining free variables

Examples

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \alpha &\sqsubseteq \forall \eta . \eta \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \eta \\ &\sqsubseteq \text{int} \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \end{aligned}$$

Examples

$$\forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \alpha \sqsubseteq \forall \eta . \eta \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \eta$$

$$\sqsubseteq \text{int} \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int}$$

$$\forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \xrightarrow{\sqsubseteq} \alpha \sqsubseteq \forall \gamma . \text{bool} \xrightarrow{\sqsubseteq} (\gamma \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

$$\sqsubseteq \text{bool} \rightarrow (\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}) \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

Examples

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \alpha &\sqsubseteq \forall \eta . \eta \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \eta \\ &\sqsubseteq \text{int} \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \alpha &\sqsubseteq \forall \gamma . \text{bool} \rightarrow (\gamma \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \text{bool} \\ &\sqsubseteq \text{bool} \rightarrow (\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}) \rightarrow \text{bool}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \alpha . \forall \beta . \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \alpha &\sqsubseteq \text{bool} \rightarrow (\gamma \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \text{bool} \\ &\not\sqsubseteq \text{bool} \rightarrow (\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}) \rightarrow \text{bool}\end{aligned}$$

$$\forall \alpha . \alpha \sqsubseteq \top$$

Specialization and Principle Types

Specialization and Principle Types

Theorem. If $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau'$ then there is a type τ and constraints \mathcal{C} such that $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$ and $\text{principle}(\tau, \mathcal{C}) \sqsubseteq \tau'$

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Theorem. If $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$ and $\text{principle}(\tau, \mathcal{C}) \sqsubseteq \tau'$ then $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau'$

Specialization and Principle Types

Theorem. If $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau'$ then there is a type τ and constraints \mathcal{C} such that $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$ and $\text{principle}(\tau, \mathcal{C}) \sqsubseteq \tau'$
at least as general as τ'

Theorem. If $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}$ and $\text{principle}(\tau, \mathcal{C}) \sqsubseteq \tau'$ then $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau'$

The principle type is the most general "lowest" type with respect to specialization

Example

$$\{f : \forall \alpha . \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\} \vdash f (f \ 2 = 2) : \text{bool}$$

Why use constraints at all?

$$\frac{(x : \tau) \in \Gamma \quad \tau \sqsubseteq \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau'} \quad (\text{var}) \quad \frac{(x : \forall \alpha_1 . \forall \alpha_2 \dots \forall \alpha_k . \tau) \in \Gamma \quad \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k \text{ are fresh}}{\Gamma \vdash x : [\beta_1 / \alpha_1] \dots [\beta_k / \alpha_k] \tau \dashv \emptyset} \quad (\text{var})$$

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The alternative type rules are theoretically nice but not *algorithmic*

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The alternative type rules are theoretically nice but not *algorithmic*

How do I choose which specialization to use in a derivation?

Why use constraints at all?

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The alternative type rules are theoretically nice but not *algorithmic*

How do I choose which specialization to use in a derivation?

Constraints allow us to determine *which* specializations we should use *after the fact*

demo

(constraint-based inference)

HM⁻ (Typing Integers)

$$\frac{n \text{ is an integer}}{\Gamma \vdash n : \text{int} \dashv \emptyset} \quad (\text{int})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Addition)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{int} \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \text{int}, \tau_2 \doteq \text{int}, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \quad (\text{add})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Equality)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 = e_2 : \text{bool} \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \tau_2, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \quad (\text{eq})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing If-Expressions)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \tau_3 \dashv \mathcal{C}_3}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau_3 \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \text{bool}, \tau_2 \doteq \tau_3, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2, \mathcal{C}_3} \quad (\text{if})$$

HM⁻ (Typing Let-Expressions)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \quad (\text{let})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Functions)

$$\frac{\alpha \text{ is fresh} \quad \Gamma, x : \alpha \vdash e : \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e : \alpha \rightarrow \tau \dashv \mathcal{C}} \quad (\text{fun})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Applications)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \dashv \mathcal{C}_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \dashv \mathcal{C}_2 \quad \alpha \text{ is fresh}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \alpha \dashv \tau_1 \doteq \tau_2 \rightarrow \alpha, \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2} \quad (\text{app})$$

Recall: HM⁻ (Typing Variables)

$$\frac{(x : \forall \alpha_1 . \forall \alpha_2 \dots \forall \alpha_k . \tau) \in \Gamma \quad \beta_1, \dots, \beta_k \text{ are fresh}}{\Gamma \vdash x : [\beta_1 / \alpha_1] \dots [\beta_k / \alpha_k] \tau \dashv \emptyset} \quad (\text{var})$$

Summary

The **principle type** of an expression is the most general type we could give it

Specialization defines a partial ordering on type schemes from most to least general

Our unification algorithm gives us a most general unifier, which will always give us the principle type of an expression