

# The Implementation of Idris 2

## Part 3: Type Checking and Elaboration

Edwin Brady ([ecb10@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ecb10@st-andrews.ac.uk))  
University of St Andrews, Scotland  
[@edwinbrady](https://twitter.com/edwinbrady)

SPLV, 19th August 2020

- Typing rules for *TT*
- *TTImp* syntax and representation
- Representing *values* (head normal forms)
- Elaboration
  - Processing *TTImp* declarations
  - Translating *TTImp* terms to a *Term*

## Reminder: TT term syntax

$t ::=$	$x$	(Variables)	$b ::=$	$\lambda$	(Lambda)
	$b\ x : t . t$	(Binders)		$\Pi$	(Function)
	$t_1\ t_2$	(Application)		$\text{pat}$	(Pattern variable)
	Type	(Type of types)		$\text{pty}$	(Pattern type)
	-	(Erased term)			

# TT typing rules (environments)

Typechecking a term is relative to an *environment*, which consists of a list of binders:

$$\frac{}{\vdash \underline{\text{valid}}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma; \lambda x : S \vdash \underline{\text{valid}}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma; \Pi x : S \vdash \underline{\text{valid}}}$$

# TT typing rules (environments)

Typechecking a term is relative to an *environment*, which consists of a list of binders:

$$\frac{}{\vdash \underline{\text{valid}}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma; \lambda x : S \vdash \underline{\text{valid}}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma; \Pi x : S \vdash \underline{\text{valid}}}$$

In code (Core.Env)

```
data Env : (tm : List Name -> Type) ->
           List Name -> Type where
  Nil : Env tm []
  (::) : Binder (tm vars) ->
        Env tm vars -> Env tm (x :: vars)
```

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x : S \quad \Gamma \vdash T : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash S \simeq T}{\Gamma \vdash x : T}$$

# TT typing rules (conversion)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x : S \quad \Gamma \vdash T : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash S \simeq T}{\Gamma \vdash x : T}$$

That is, if ...

- $x$  has type  $S$
- $S$  and  $T$  are *convertible*
  - informally: have the same normal form

... then  $x$  also has type  $T$

# TT typing rules (variables and application)

$$\frac{(\lambda x : S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S} \quad \frac{(\Pi x : S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S}$$



# TT typing rules (variables and application)

$$\frac{(\lambda x : S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S} \quad \frac{(\Pi x:S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \Pi x:S \rightarrow T \quad \Gamma \vdash s : S}{\Gamma \vdash f s : T[s/x]}$$

# TT typing rules (variables and application)

$$\frac{(\lambda x : S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S} \quad \frac{(\Pi x:S) \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : S}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \Pi x:S \rightarrow T \quad \Gamma \vdash s : S}{\Gamma \vdash f s : T[s/x]}$$

That is, if ...

- $f$  has a function type,  $\Pi x:S \rightarrow T$
- $s$  has the argument type  $S$

... then  $f s$  has the result type  $T$ , with  $s$  substituted for  $x$

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Pi x:S \vdash T : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash \Pi x:S \rightarrow T : \text{Type}}$$

# TT typing rules (function types)

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Pi x:S \vdash T : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash S : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash \Pi x:S \rightarrow T : \text{Type}}$$

That is, if ...

- The type of  $T$ , in an environment extended with  $x:S$ , is  $\text{Type}$
- $S$  also has type  $\text{Type}$

... then  $\Pi x:S \rightarrow T$  also has type  $\text{Type}$

$$\frac{\Gamma; \lambda x : S \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma \vdash \Pi x:S \rightarrow T : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : S. e : \Pi x:S \rightarrow T}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma; \lambda x : S \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma \vdash \Pi x:S \rightarrow T : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : S. e : \Pi x:S \rightarrow T}$$

That is, if ...

- The type of  $e$ , in an environment extended with  $x:S$ , is  $T$
- The function type is indeed a Type

... then the lambda binding has type  $\Pi x:S \rightarrow T$

- The input language *TTImp* is a higher level syntax which *elaborates* to *TT*
- Essentially a *desugared* Idris
  - Desugaring (in `Idris.Desugar` in full Idris 2) is a purely syntactic transformation of the input program
  - Other front ends are possible!

- The input language *TTImp* is a higher level syntax which *elaborates* to *TT*
- Essentially a *desugared* Idris
  - Desugaring (in `Idris.Desugar` in full Idris 2) is a purely syntactic transformation of the input program
  - Other front ends are possible!
  - Aside: I want to try:
    - an imperative(ish) front end
    - high level syntax for declaring effects
    - better syntactic support for linearity
    - ... but probably not in Idris 2 itself



Checking *TTImp* happens relative to:

- an *environment* of local variables, *Env*
  - We've already seen this

Checking *TTImp* happens relative to:

- an *environment* of local variables, *Env*
  - We've already seen this
- a global *context*, *Defs*, containing:
  - Type constructors (e.g. *Nat*)
  - Data constructors (e.g. *Z*, *S*)
  - Function declarations and definitions (e.g. *plus*)

## Definitions (Core.Context)

```
data Def : Type where
  None : Def
  PMDef : (args : List Name) ->
           (treeCT : CaseTree args) ->
           Def
  DCon : (tag : Int) -> (arity : Nat) -> Def
  TCon : (tag : Int) -> (arity : Nat) -> Def
  Hole : Def
  Guess : (guess : Term []) ->
           (constraints : List Int) -> Def
```

## Definitions (Core.Context)

```
record GlobalDef where
  constructor MkGlobalDef
  type : Term []
  definition : Def
```

## Contexts (Core.Context)

```
Defs : Type
Defs = SortedMap Name GlobalDef
```

*Note:* Full Idris 2 carries a lot more information about definitions, e.g. call graph, size changes, search hints...

TTImp, in code (TTImp.TTImp)

```
data RawImp : Type where
  IVar : Name -> RawImp
  IPi : PiInfo -> Maybe Name ->
      (argTy : RawImp) -> (retTy : RawImp) ->
      RawImp
  ILam : PiInfo -> Maybe Name ->
      (argTy : RawImp) -> (scope : RawImp) ->
      RawImp
  IPatvar : Name -> (ty : RawImp) -> (scope : RawImp) ->
      RawImp
  IApp : RawImp -> RawImp -> RawImp
  Implicit : RawImp
  IType : RawImp
```

## Checking a RawImp (TTImp.Elab.Term)

```
checkTerm : {vars : _} ->
  {auto c : Ref Ctxt Defs} ->
  Env Term vars ->          -- the environment
  RawImp ->                 -- term to check
  Maybe (Glued vars) ->    -- expected type
  Core (Term vars, Glued vars)
```

- We will implement this by following the *TT* typing rules
- But:
  - What about the *conversion* rule?
  - And what is *Glued* anyway?
- Each of these concern *Values*: normal forms

- Elaborating `TTImp` regularly involves looking at how terms *reduce*, e.g.
  - are `Vect (2 + n) Int` and `Vect (S (S n)) Int` convertible?
  - is `NatOp` a function type, if `NatOp = Nat -> Nat`?
- We check this by comparing *values*
  - Separate representation
  - Guaranteed to be a head normal form *by construction*

# What is a Value?

Informally:

- A *constructor* applied to some arguments
  - Arguments not yet reduced
  - “Cons should not evaluate its arguments”
- A *binder*
  - Scope not yet reduced
- A “stuck” *application*
  - e.g. `plus x (S (S Z))`
- A primitive
  - In Tinyldris, just `Type` or `_`

We only need to look at the *head*



## Values (Core.Value)

```
data NF : List Name -> Type where
  NDCon  : Name -> (tag : Int) -> (arity : Nat) ->
             List (Closure vars) -> NF vars
  NTCon  : Name -> (tag : Int) -> (arity : Nat) ->
             List (Closure vars) -> NF vars
  NBind  : (x : Name) -> Binder (NF vars) ->
             (Defs -> Closure vars -> Core (NF vars)) ->
             NF vars
  NApp   : NHead vars -> List (Closure vars) -> NF vars
  NType  : NF vars
  NErased : NF vars
```

## “Stuck” applications (Core.Value)

```
data NHead : List Name -> Type where
  NLocal  : (idx : Nat) -> (0 <= p : IsVar name idx vars) ->
    NHead vars
  NRef    : NameType -> Name -> NHead vars
  NMeta   : Name -> List (Closure vars) -> NHead vars
```

## Unevaluated arguments (Core.Value)

```
data Closure : List Name -> Type where
  MkClosure : LocalEnv free vars ->
    Env Term free ->
    Term (vars ++ free) ->
    Closure free
```

## Evaluating and quoting (Core.Normalise)

```
nf      : Defs -> Env Term vars -> Term vars ->  
        Core (NF vars)  
quote   : Defs -> Env Term vars -> tm vars ->  
        Core (Term vars)
```

- for details look up *normalisation by evaluation*
- Aside: why in Core?

## Checking conversion (Core.Normalise)

```
interface Convert (tm : List Name -> Type) where
  convert : {vars : _} ->
    Defs -> Env Term vars ->
    tm vars -> tm vars -> Core Bool
```

```
Convert NF where
```

```
...
```

```
Convert Term where
```

```
...
```

```
Convert Closure where
```

```
...
```

Details (with the related `unify`) tomorrow

- Elaboration, in an environment `Env` `Term vars`, turns a `RawImp` into:
  - a well-typed term, `Term vars`,
  - ... with its type
- How should we represent the type?
  - As a `Term vars`?
    - e.g. if we've looked up a name, stored as a `Term` in the environment or global context
    - Might never need to reduce
  - As a `NF vars`?
    - e.g. if we've had to normalise anyway for the conversion check?
    - save converting back and forth between `Term` and `NF`
  - Answer: why not *both*?

- A *Glued* term is constructed from either *Term* or *NF*, whichever we have available
- Converted to *NF* or *Term* lazily, if necessary
- Advantages:
  - Build what is convenient
  - Don't evaluate to *NF* unless we really have to

## Glued terms (Core.Normalise)

```
data Glued : List Name -> Type where
  MkGlue : Core (Term vars) ->
    (Ref Ctxt Defs -> Core (NF vars)) ->
      Glued vars

getTerm : Glued vars -> Core (Term vars)
getNF   : {auto c : Ref Ctxt Defs} ->
  Glued vars -> Core (NF vars)

gnf : Env Term vars -> Term vars -> Glued vars
glueBack : Defs -> Env Term vars ->
  NF vars -> Glued vars
```

## Checking a RawImp (TTElab.Term)

```
checkTerm : {vars : _} ->
  {auto c : Ref Ctxt Defs} ->
  Env Term vars ->          -- the environment
  RawImp ->                  -- term to check
  Maybe (Glued vars) ->     -- expected type
  Core (Term vars, Glued vars)
```

- Implemented by following the typing rules for each of `RawImp`'s constructors



Applying the conversion rule (TTImp.Elab.Term)

```
checkExp : {auto c : Ref Ctxt Defs} ->  
  Env Term vars ->  
    (term : Term vars) ->  
      (got : Glued vars) ->  
        (expected : Maybe (Glued vars)) ->  
          Core (Term vars, Glued vars)
```

An **IVar** in **RawImp** could be either a local or a global (if valid)

Elaborating local variables (TTImp.Elab.Term)

```
checkTerm env (IVar n) exp
  = case defined n env of
      Just (MkIsDefined p) =>
        let binder = getBinder p env in
          checkExp env (Local _ p)
            (gnf env (binderType binder))
            exp
      ...
```

## Elaborating global variables (TTImp.Elab.Term)

```
checkTerm env (IVar n) exp
  = case defined n env of
    ...
    Nothing =>
      do defs <- get Ctxt
         Just gdef <- lookupDef n defs
         | Nothing => throw (UndefinedName n)
      let nt = case definition gdef of
                  DCon t a => DataCon t a
                  TCon t a => TyCon t a
                  _      => Func
      checkExp env (Ref nt n)
                (gnf env (embed (type gdef)))
                exp
```

## Elaborating applications (TTImp.Elab.Term)

```
checkTerm env (IApp f a) exp
= do (ftm, gfty) <- checkTerm env f Nothing
    fty <- getNF gfty
    case fty of
      NBind x (Pi _ ty) sc =>
        do defs <- get Ctxt
           (atm, gaty) <-
             checkTerm env a
             (Just (glueBack defs env ty))
           sc' <- sc defs (toClosure env atm)
           checkExp env (App ftm atm)
             (glueBack defs env sc')
           exp
      _ => throw (GenericMsg "Not a function type")
```