# Type Inference for Pharo

Pablo Tesone

September 30, 2015

### Outline

- Objectives
- 2 Definitions
- 3 Types in Pharo
- Proposed Solution
- Demo
- 6 Next Steps

• Not type checking.

3 / 14

- Not type checking.
- Provide information to the user / refactoring tools.

- Not type checking.
- Provide information to the user / refactoring tools.
- Simplify the understanding of the program / Code navigation

- Not type checking.
- Provide information to the user / refactoring tools.
- Simplify the understanding of the program / Code navigation
- Realtime tool.

- Not type checking.
- Provide information to the user / refactoring tools.
- Simplify the understanding of the program / Code navigation
- Realtime tool.
- Memory / Processor efficiency

• What is a type?

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages
- Typed and Untyped languages.

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages
- Typed and Untyped languages.
- Type aware / Type unaware languages.

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages
- Typed and Untyped languages.
- Type aware / Type unaware languages.
- Open world assumption

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages
- Typed and Untyped languages.
- Type aware / Type unaware languages.
- Open world assumption
- Flow sensitivity / insensitivity.

- What is a type?
- Concrete types. Bunch of classes
- Abstract types. Bunch of messages
- Typed and Untyped languages.
- Type aware / Type unaware languages.
- Open world assumption
- Flow sensitivity / insensitivity.
- Language conventions or idiomatic usages.

 We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types
  - I know that if this variable or expression receives this bunch of messages, it should be these implementors.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types
  - I know that if this variable or expression receives this bunch of messages, it should be these implementors. Converting abstract types to Concrete types

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types
  - I know that if this variable or expression receives this bunch of messages, it should be these implementors. Converting abstract types to Concrete types
- The information is built in the programmers head.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types
  - I know that if this variable or expression receives this bunch of messages, it should be these implementors. Converting abstract types to Concrete types
- The information is built in the programmers head.
- The programmer usually starts navigating all or part of the code.

- We use them a lot, but without (or with limitated) support of the tools.
- Normally:
  - I know a bunch of concrete classes, like this message to this object I know it will return SmallInteger or Float. Concrete types
  - I know that to this variable or expression I can send this bunch of messages. Abstract types
  - I know that if this variable or expression receives this bunch of messages, it should be these implementors. Converting abstract types to Concrete types
- The information is built in the programmers head.
- The programmer usually starts navigating all or part of the code.
- The programmer uses a lot of past experiences and conventions.
  Example: if you have a variable receiving do:, add: and size. It's somethins collection-like!

• So... we don't need you. We can do it by us!

- So... we don't need you. We can do it by us!
- Maybe... but the idea is to improve productivity, help the new comers and ease the learning curve.

• Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm.

7 / 14

• Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption.

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption. It works in a program-to-be, library or framework

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption. It works in a program-to-be, library or framework
- Mixing Concrete and Abstract types

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption. It works in a program-to-be, library or framework
- Mixing Concrete and Abstract types Giving all the information, you can use whatever you want.

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption. It works in a program-to-be, library or framework
- Mixing Concrete and Abstract types Giving all the information, you can use whatever you want.
- Using Human like heuristics.

- Real time / Iterative / Incremental algorithm. It updates the information as the programmer is writing.
- Open world assumption. It works in a program-to-be, library or framework
- Mixing Concrete and Abstract types Giving all the information, you can use whatever you want.
- Using Human like heuristics. I want to add heuristics for idiomatics and normal usages of the environment
- Mixing static analysis and abstract program execution.

### How does it works?

- It builds subtyping dependency graph in an static analysis, including sent messages to each expression.
- Then transverse the graph to get the information.
- Applying the subtype information, filtering by messages and using the heuristics.

## How does it works? (II)

- This is performed in stages:
  - First the graph is created. This is performed by static analysis.

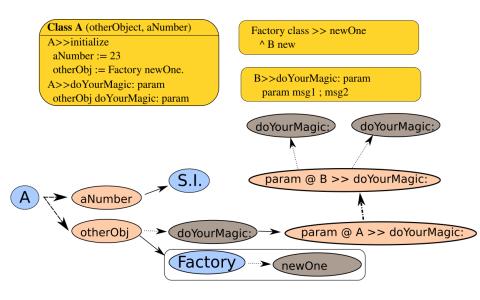
# How does it works? (II)

- This is performed in stages:
  - First the graph is created. This is performed by static analysis. .
  - Once the graph is created. It can be transversed using contextual information, like the class in which I am asking the expression.

# How does it works? (II)

- This is performed in stages:
  - First the graph is created. This is performed by static analysis. .
  - Once the graph is created. It can be transversed using contextual information, like the class in which I am asking the expression.
  - If the code is changed, the graph has to be updated, only the changed parts (If not, it will not be incremental!)

# How does it works? (III)



#### Demo

• General implementation improvements.

12 / 14

Type Inference for Pharo Pablo Tesone

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code
- Implementing more heuristics, even *unsound* ones.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code
- Implementing more heuristics, even *unsound* ones.
- Adding confidence factor.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code
- Implementing more heuristics, even *unsound* ones.
- Adding confidence factor.
- Comparing with other solutions.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code
- Implementing more heuristics, even unsound ones.
- Adding confidence factor.
- Comparing with other solutions.
- Testing with applications.

- General implementation improvements.
- Include more handling of collections and generics.
- Improving blocks handling.
- Detecting all the updated needed after a change in the code
- Implementing more heuristics, even unsound ones.
- Adding confidence factor.
- Comparing with other solutions.
- Testing with applications.

#### Comments!

- Continuation of a previous work with Nicolás Passerini.
- Same objectives and restrictions.
- A clean implementation.
- Includes different ideas, not constraint based, but the static analysis is nearly the same.
- The result of learning a lot side by side.

• Questions???

- Questions???
- Thanks a lot!