

A Word Sampler for Well-Typed Functions

Breandan Considine

Syntactic Terms

Consider a simply-typed, first-order functional programming language with function calls, conditionals, and binary operators:

$\text{FUN} ::= \text{fun } f_0 \text{ (PRM)} : \mathbb{T} = \text{EXP}$ $\text{INV} ::= \text{FID (ARG)}$
 $\text{PRM} ::= \text{PID} : \mathbb{T} \mid \text{PRM}, \text{PID} : \mathbb{T}$ $\text{ARG} ::= \text{EXP} \mid \text{ARG}, \text{EXP}$
 $\text{EXP} ::= \ulcorner \mathbb{T} \urcorner \mid \text{PID} \mid \text{INV} \mid \text{IFE} \mid \text{OPX}$ $\text{OPR} ::= + \mid * \mid < \mid ==$
 $\text{OPX} ::= (\text{EXP OPR EXP})$ $\text{PID} ::= \text{p1} \mid \dots \mid \text{pk}$
 $\text{IFE} ::= \text{if EXP \{ EXP \} else \{ EXP \}}$ $\text{FID} ::= f_0 \mid \dots \mid f_n$

Type universe. We assume a finite set \mathbb{T} (size d) with at least \mathbb{B}, \mathbb{N} , and an ambient global context Γ of named functions $f_- : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m) \rightarrow \tau$.

Static Semantics

Typing judgements are standard; we highlight just a few of them below:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_c : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_\top : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_\perp : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } e_c \{ e_\top \} \text{ else } \{ e_\perp \} : \tau} \text{IFE}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f_- : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m) \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_i : \tau_i \forall i \in [1, m]}{\Gamma \vdash f_- (e_1, \dots, e_m) : \tau} \text{INV}$$
$$\frac{\delta_{\text{OPR}}(\odot, \tau, \tau') = \hat{\tau} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash (e_1 \odot e_2) : \hat{\tau}} \text{OPX}$$

where the operator typing function δ_{OPR} is:

$$\delta_{\text{OPR}}(\odot, \tau, \tau') = \begin{cases} \mathbb{B} & \odot = <, \tau = \tau' = \mathbb{B} \\ \mathbb{N} & \odot \in \{+, *\}, \tau = \tau' = \mathbb{N} \\ \mathbb{B} & \odot = ==, \tau = \tau' \end{cases}$$

Embedding the Type Checker

Typing derivations are compiled by decorating nonterminals with a pair, $\text{EXP}[\cdot, \cdot]$, carrying the type annotation, $e : \tau$, and type signature $f_0 : \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}$.

$$\frac{\langle \vec{\tau}, \dot{\tau} \rangle \in \mathbb{T}^{0..k} \times \mathbb{T} \quad \vec{\tau}_{0..|\vec{\tau}|} \in \vec{\tau}}{\left(S_\Gamma \rightarrow \text{fun } f_0 \text{ (} \underset{i=1}{\overset{|\vec{\tau}|}{\text{p}_i}} (p_i : \vec{\tau}_i) \text{)} : \dot{\tau} = \text{EXP}[\dot{\tau}, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{FUN}_\varphi$$
$$\frac{\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \in V_\Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash f_- : (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m) \rightarrow \tau}{\left(\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \rightarrow f_- \text{ (} \underset{i=1}{\overset{m}{\text{p}_i}} \text{EXP}[\tau_i, \pi] \text{)} \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{INV}_\varphi$$
$$\frac{\text{EXP}[\tau, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \in V_\Gamma \quad \tau = \dot{\tau} \quad \vec{\tau}_{0..|\vec{\tau}|} \in \vec{\tau}}{\left(\text{EXP}[\tau, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \rightarrow f_0 \text{ (} \underset{i=1}{\overset{|\vec{\tau}|}{\text{p}_i}} \text{EXP}[\vec{\tau}_i, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \text{)} \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{REC}_\varphi$$
$$\frac{\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \in V_\Gamma \quad \tau = \tau' \quad \tau, \tau' \in \mathbb{T}}{\left(\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \rightarrow \text{if EXP}[\mathbb{B}, \pi] \{ \text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \} \text{ else } \{ \text{EXP}[\tau', \pi] \} \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{IFE}_\varphi$$
$$\frac{\text{EXP}[\hat{\tau}, \pi] \in V_\Gamma \quad \delta_{\text{OPR}}(\odot, \tau, \tau') = \hat{\tau} \quad \odot \in \{==, <, +, *\}}{\left(\text{EXP}[\hat{\tau}, \pi] \rightarrow (\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \odot \text{EXP}[\tau', \pi]) \right) \in P_\Gamma} \text{OPX}_\varphi$$
$$\frac{\text{EXP}[\tau, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \in V_\Gamma \quad \exists \vec{\tau}_i = \tau \text{PID}_\varphi \quad \text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \in V_\Gamma \quad _ : \tau \in \{\mathbb{B}, \mathbb{N}\}}{\left(\text{EXP}[\tau, \vec{\tau} \rightarrow \dot{\tau}] \rightarrow \text{pi} \right) \in P_\Gamma \quad \left(\text{EXP}[\tau, \pi] \rightarrow _ \right) \in P_\Gamma} \ulcorner \mathbb{T} \urcorner_\varphi$$

Finally, normalize to CNF (G'_Γ), pruning unreachable/unproductive nonterminals. In this case, the blow-up is close to linear in $|G_\Gamma|$.

Finite Language Intersection

Context-free languages are closed under intersection with regular languages. Constructively, given CNF productions $W \rightarrow XZ$ and $\alpha = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_\alpha, F \rangle$, we build synthetic nonterminals pWr (for all $p, r \in Q$) and then add:

- $pWr \rightarrow pXq \ qZr$ for each $W \rightarrow XZ$ and $p, q, r \in Q$,
- $pWq \rightarrow a$ for each $W \rightarrow a$ with $\delta(p, a) = q$,
- start rules $S \rightarrow q_\alpha S q_\omega$ for each $q_\omega \in F$.
- start rules $S \rightarrow q_\alpha S q_\omega$ for each $q_\omega \in F$.

If α is acyclic, the $\mathcal{L}(\alpha_\cap)$ admits efficient enumeration and exact sampling.

Generalized Regular Expressions

Finite slices of a CFL are finite and therefore regular. We use GREs (union, intersection, concatenation, star, complement) as a compact algebra for propagating regular constraints during parsing and decoding.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\emptyset) &= \emptyset & \mathcal{L}(R^*) &= \{\varepsilon\} \cup \mathcal{L}(R \cdot R^*) \\ \mathcal{L}(\varepsilon) &= \{\varepsilon\} & \mathcal{L}(R \vee S) &= \mathcal{L}(R) \cup \mathcal{L}(S) \\ \mathcal{L}(a) &= \{a\} & \mathcal{L}(R \wedge S) &= \mathcal{L}(R) \cap \mathcal{L}(S) \\ \mathcal{L}(R \cdot S) &= \mathcal{L}(R) \times \mathcal{L}(S) & \mathcal{L}(\neg R) &= \Sigma^* \setminus \mathcal{L}(R) \end{aligned}$$

When computing the closure of a parse chart, each chart cell carries a vector of GREs, one per nonterminal, representing exactly which terminal strings can fill that span while respecting the constraints.

Brzowski Differentiation

Brzowski derivatives provide a rewrite-based procedure for incremental LTR decoding:

$$\partial_a L = \{b \in \Sigma^* \mid ab \in L\}.$$

Enables sampling from intersections without materializing product automata.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_a(\emptyset) &= \emptyset & \delta(\emptyset) &= \emptyset \\ \partial_a(\varepsilon) &= \emptyset & \delta(\varepsilon) &= \varepsilon \\ \partial_a(a) &= \varepsilon & \delta(a) &= \emptyset \\ \partial_a(b) &= \emptyset \text{ for each } a \neq b & \delta(R^*) &= \varepsilon \\ \partial_a(R^*) &= (\partial_x R) \cdot R^* & \delta(\neg R) &= \varepsilon \text{ if } \delta(R) = \emptyset \\ \partial_a(\neg R) &= \neg \partial_a R & \delta(\neg R) &= \emptyset \text{ if } \delta(R) = \varepsilon \\ \partial_a(R \cdot S) &= (\partial_a R) \cdot S \vee \delta(R) \cdot \partial_a S & \delta(R \cdot S) &= \delta(R) \wedge \delta(S) \\ \partial_a(R \vee S) &= \partial_a R \vee \partial_a S & \delta(R \vee S) &= \delta(R) \vee \delta(S) \\ \partial_a(R \wedge S) &= \partial_a R \wedge \partial_a S & \delta(R \wedge S) &= \delta(R) \wedge \delta(S) \end{aligned}$$

Takeaways & Next Steps

- A fixed-parameter tractable reduction from syntax-directed type system to a CFG with soundness and completeness guarantees
- Intersection with an acyclic regular grammar yields a regular expression
- Brzowski derivatives enable incremental autoregressive decoding
- TODO
- TODO
- Future: lazy CNF materialization, quotienting by syntactic symmetries (e.g., α -equivalence / invariants), richer typing (subtyping, polymorphism, substructural constraints).