

λ -bound variables in ML cannot be used polymorphically within a function abstraction

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Syntactically, because in rule

$$(\text{fn}) \frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash M : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x (M) : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2}$$

the abstracted variable has to be assigned a *trivial* type scheme (recall $x : \tau_1$ stands for $x : \forall \{ \} (\tau_1)$).

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\{f : \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash f : \tau_4} (\text{var}) \quad \frac{}{\{f : \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash f : \tau_5} (\text{var}) \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\{f : \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash ff : \tau_3} (\text{lam}) \\
 \hline
 \{\} \vdash \lambda f (ff) : \tau_1
 \end{array}$$

(app)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \textcircled{1} \frac{}{\{f: \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash f: \tau_4} (\text{var}) \quad \textcircled{2} \frac{}{\{f: \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash f: \tau_5} (\text{var}) \\
 \textcircled{3} \frac{}{} (\text{app}) \\
 \textcircled{4} \frac{\{f: \forall \{\} \tau_2\} \vdash ff: \tau_3}{\{\} \vdash \lambda f(ff): \tau_1} (\text{lam})
 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \forall \{\} \tau_2 > \tau_4$$

$$\textcircled{2} \forall \{\} \tau_2 > \tau_5$$

$$\textcircled{3} \tau_4 = \tau_5 \rightarrow \tau_3$$

$$\textcircled{4} \tau_1 = \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3$$

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$$\textcircled{1} \forall \{\} \tau_2 > \tau_4 \quad \text{so} \quad \tau_2 = \tau_4$$

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$$\textcircled{4} \tau_1 = \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3$$

$$\tau_2 = \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3 \quad \text{X}$$

No such τ_2 & τ_3 can exist
(by counting \rightarrow symbols on
LHS & RHS of the equation).

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Semantically, because $\forall A (\tau_1) \rightarrow \tau_2$ is not semantically equivalent to an ML type when $A \neq \{ \}$.

Monomorphic types . . .

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \textit{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \tau \textit{ list}$$

. . . and *type schemes*

$$\sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall \alpha (\sigma)$$

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Polymorphic types

$$\pi ::= \alpha \mid \textit{bool} \mid \pi \rightarrow \pi \mid \pi \textit{ list} \mid \forall \alpha (\pi)$$

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Polymorphic types

$$\pi ::= \alpha \mid \text{bool} \mid \pi \rightarrow \pi \mid \pi \text{ list} \mid \forall \alpha (\pi)$$

E.g. $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha'$ is a type, $\forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha')$ is a type scheme and a polymorphic type (but not a monomorphic type), $\forall \alpha (\alpha) \rightarrow \alpha'$ is a polymorphic type, but not a type scheme.

Identity, Generalisation and Specialisation

$$\text{(gen)} \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \pi}{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha (\pi)} \text{ if } \alpha \notin fto(\Gamma)$$

$$\text{(spec)} \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha (\pi)}{\Gamma \vdash M : \pi[\pi'/\alpha]}$$

Identity, Generalisation and Specialisation

$$\text{(id)} \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash x : \pi} \text{ if } (x : \pi) \in \Gamma$$

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[Example 7, p35]

$$\frac{(id)}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \forall \alpha (\alpha)}$$

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[Example 7, p35]

$$\text{(id)} \frac{}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \forall \alpha (\alpha)}$$

$$\text{(Spec)} \frac{}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(id)} \\ \hline f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(Spec)} \\ \hline f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(app)} \\ \hline f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash ff : \alpha \end{array}$$

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$$\text{(app)} \frac{}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash ff : \alpha}$$

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$$\text{(fn)} \frac{}{\{ \} \vdash \lambda f (ff) : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \rightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha)}$$

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$$\text{(Spec)} \frac{}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : \alpha}$$

ML + full polymorphic types has undecidable type-checking

Fact (Wells, 1994). For the modified Mini-ML type system with

- ▶ full polymorphic types replacing types and type schemes
- ▶ **(id)** + **(gen)** + **(spec)** replacing **(var \succ)**

the type checking and typeability problems are undecidable.

Explicitly versus implicitly typed languages

Implicit: little or no type information is included in program phrases and typings have to be inferred, ideally, entirely at compile-time. (E.g. Standard ML.)

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E.g. self application function of type $\forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$

(cf. Example 7)

Implicitly typed version: $\lambda f (f f)$

Explicitly type version: $\lambda f : \forall \alpha_1 (\alpha_1) (\Lambda \alpha_2 (f(\alpha_2 \rightarrow \alpha_2)(f \alpha_2)))$ in PLC...

PLC syntax

Polymorphic
Lambda
Calculus

Types

τ	$::=$	α	type variable
		$\tau \rightarrow \tau$	function type
		$\forall \alpha (\tau)$	\forall -type

PLC syntax

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τ	$::=$	α	type variable
		$\tau \rightarrow \tau$	function type
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Expressions

M	$::=$	x	variable
		$\lambda x : \tau (M)$	function abstraction
		$M M$	function application
		$\Lambda \alpha (M)$	type generalisation
		$M \tau$	type specialisation

PLC syntax

Types

τ	$::=$	α	type variable
		$\tau \rightarrow \tau$	function type
		$\forall \alpha (\tau)$	\forall -type

Expressions

M	$::=$	x	variable
		$\lambda x : \tau (M)$	function abstraction
		$M M$	function application
		$\Lambda \alpha (M)$	type generalisation
		$M \tau$	type specialisation

(α and x range over fixed, countably infinite sets **TyVar** and **Var** respectively.)

PLC typing judgement

takes the form $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$ where

- ▶ the *typing environment* Γ is a finite function from variables to PLC types.
(We write $\Gamma = \{x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n\}$ to indicate that Γ has domain of definition $dom(\Gamma) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and maps each x_i to the PLC type τ_i for $i = 1 \dots n$.)
- ▶ M is a PLC expression
- ▶ τ is a PLC type.

PLC type system

$$(\mathbf{var}) \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau} \text{ if } (x : \tau) \in \Gamma$$

PLC type system

$$(\text{var}) \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau} \text{ if } (x : \tau) \in \Gamma$$

$$(\text{fn}) \frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash M : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 (M) : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} \text{ if } x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma)$$

$$(\text{app}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash M' : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash M M' : \tau_2}$$

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$$(\text{gen}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \Lambda \alpha (M) : \forall \alpha (\tau)} \text{ if } \alpha \notin \text{ftv}(\Gamma)$$

$$(\text{spec}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha (\tau_1)}{\Gamma \vdash M \tau_2 : \tau_1[\tau_2/\alpha]}$$

 Capture-avoiding substitution
of τ_2 for all free occurrences of
 α in τ_1

PLC binding forms

$\forall \alpha (-)$ $\lambda x:\tau (-)$ $\wedge \alpha (-)$

Eg.

$\lambda x : \forall \alpha (\beta) (\wedge \alpha (x(\alpha \rightarrow \beta)))$

PLC binding forms

$\forall \alpha (-)$ $\lambda x:\tau (-)$ $\wedge \alpha ()$

Eg.

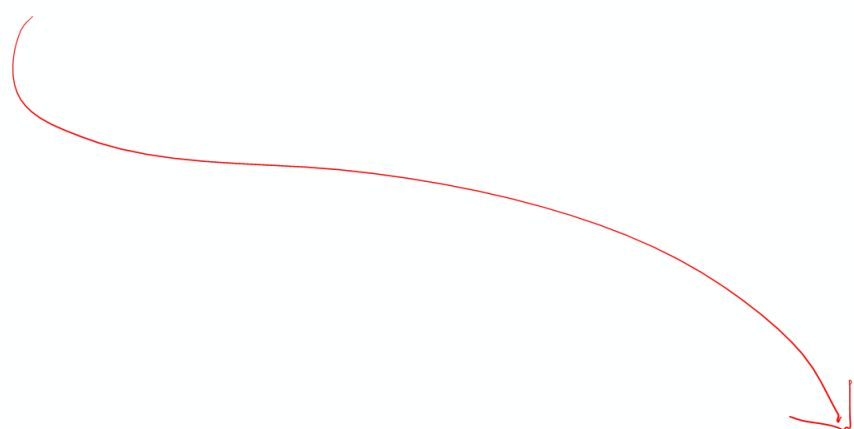
$\lambda x : \forall \beta (\alpha) (\wedge \alpha (x (\alpha \rightarrow \beta)))$

The diagram illustrates the binding of variables in the expression $\lambda x : \forall \beta (\alpha) (\wedge \alpha (x (\alpha \rightarrow \beta)))$. A red line connects the x in the lambda abstraction to the x in the inner application. A red bracket under the α in the inner conjunction indicates its scope. Green arrows point to the α and β in the inner conjunction, both labeled "free", indicating they are not bound by any quantifier or lambda abstraction within that sub-expression.

PLC type system

if $\Gamma = \{x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n\}$

then $ftv(\Gamma) = ftv(\tau_1) \cup \dots \cup ftv(\tau_n)$


$$\text{(gen)} \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \Lambda \alpha (M) : \forall \alpha (\tau)} \text{ if } \alpha \notin ftv(\Gamma)$$

An incorrect proof

cos'

(wrong!)

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{(var)} \frac{}{x_1 : \alpha, x_2 : \alpha \vdash x_2 : \alpha} \\ \text{(fn)} \frac{}{x_1 : \alpha \vdash \lambda x_2 : \alpha (x_2) : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha} \end{array}}{x_1 : \alpha \vdash \Lambda \alpha (\lambda x_2 : \alpha (x_2)) : \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}$$

$\alpha \in \text{ftv}\{x_1 : \alpha\}$

~~Wrong~~ incorrect proof

~~(wrong!)~~ ^{gen}

$$\frac{\text{(fn)} \frac{\text{(var)} \frac{}{x_1 : \alpha, x_2 : \alpha' \vdash x_2 : \alpha'}}{x_1 : \alpha \vdash \lambda x_2 : \alpha' (x_2) : \alpha' \rightarrow \alpha'}}{x_1 : \alpha \vdash \underbrace{\Lambda \alpha' (\lambda x_2 : \alpha' (x_2))}_{\parallel \Lambda \alpha (\lambda x_2 : \alpha (x_2))} : \underbrace{\forall \alpha' (\alpha' \rightarrow \alpha')}_{\parallel \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}}$$

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$$(\text{spec}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha (\tau_1)}{\Gamma \vdash M \tau_2 : \tau_1[\tau_2/\alpha]}$$

[Example 12, p 41]

$\{\} \vdash \lambda f : \forall \alpha (\rightarrow) (\wedge \alpha (f(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)(f \alpha))) :$?

[Example 12, p 41]

$$\text{(var)} \frac{}{f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f : ?}$$

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$$f : \forall \alpha (\alpha) \vdash f(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)(f\alpha) : ?$$

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Decidability of the PLC typeability and type-checking problems

Theorem.

For each PLC typing problem, $\Gamma \vdash M : ?$, there is at most one PLC type τ for which $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$ is provable. Moreover there is an algorithm, *typ*, which when given any $\Gamma \vdash M : ?$ as input, returns such a τ if it exists and *FAILs* otherwise.

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Corollary.

The PLC type checking problem is decidable: we can decide whether or not $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$ is provable by checking whether $\text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M : ?) = \tau$.

(N.B. equality of PLC types up to alpha-conversion is decidable.)

PLC type-checking algorithm, I

Variables

$$\textit{typ}(\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash x : ?) \triangleq \tau$$

PLC type-checking algorithm, I

Variables

$$\text{typ}(\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash x : ?) \triangleq \tau$$

Function abstractions

$$\begin{aligned} \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 (M) : ?) &\triangleq \\ \text{let } \tau_2 = \text{typ}(\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash M : ?) &\text{ in } \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \end{aligned}$$

PLC type-checking algorithm, I

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Function abstractions

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Function applications

$$\begin{aligned} \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M_1 M_2 : ?) &\triangleq \\ \text{let } \tau_1 = \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M_1 : ?) &\text{ in} \\ \text{let } \tau_2 = \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M_2 : ?) &\text{ in} \\ \text{case } \tau_1 \text{ of } \tau \rightarrow \tau' &\mapsto \text{ if } \tau = \tau_2 \text{ then } \tau' \text{ else } \text{FAIL} \\ | \quad _ &\mapsto \text{FAIL} \end{aligned}$$

PLC type-checking algorithm, II

Type generalisations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash \Lambda\alpha (M) : ?) &\triangleq \\ \text{let } \tau &= \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M : ?) \text{ in } \forall\alpha (\tau) \end{aligned}$$

PLC type-checking algorithm, II

Type generalisations

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Type specialisations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M \tau_2 : ?) &\triangleq \\ \text{let } \tau &= \text{typ}(\Gamma \vdash M : ?) \text{ in} \\ \text{case } \tau \text{ of } \quad \forall\alpha (\tau_1) &\mapsto \tau_1[\tau_2/\alpha] \\ \quad \quad \quad | \quad \quad \quad &\mapsto \text{FAIL} \end{aligned}$$