

Inference Rules

Concepts of Programming Languages
Lecture 5

Practice Problem

Determine an expression with the following type

$$('a \rightarrow 'a \rightarrow 'b) \rightarrow ('c \rightarrow 'a) \rightarrow 'c \rightarrow 'b$$

Outline

- » Discuss Formal Typing/Semantic Rules
- » Look at example rules for the constructs we've seen so far
- » Learn to read inference rules, i.e., translate mathematical notation to English and English to mathematical notation

Recap

Recall: Local Variables (Informal)

```
let x = 2 in x + x
```

body

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Syntax: let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY

Recall: Local Variables (Informal)

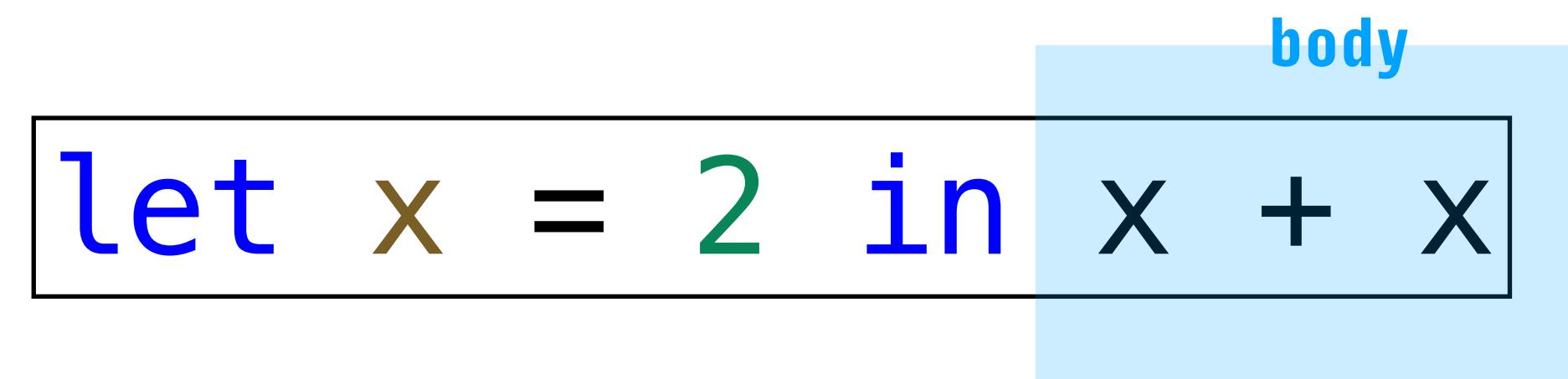
```
let x = 2 in x + x
```

body

Syntax: `let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY`

Typing: the type is the same as that of BODY *given BODY is well-typed after substituting the VARIABLE in BODY*

Recall: Local Variables (Informal)



Syntax: `let VARIABLE = EXPRESSION in BODY`

Typing: the type is the same as that of BODY *given BODY is well-typed after substituting the VARIABLE in BODY*

Semantics: the is the same as the value of BODY *after substituting the VARIABLE in BODY*

Recall: If-Expressions (Informal)

```
let abs x = if x > 0 then x else -x
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Recall: If-Expressions (Informal)

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Syntax: if CONDITION then TRUE-CASE else FALSE-CASE

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Typing: CONDITION must be a Boolean and TRUE-CASE and FALSE-CASE must be the same type. The type is then the same as that of TRUE-CASE and FALSE-CASE

Recall: If-Expressions (Informal)

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Syntax: if CONDITION then TRUE-CASE else FALSE-CASE

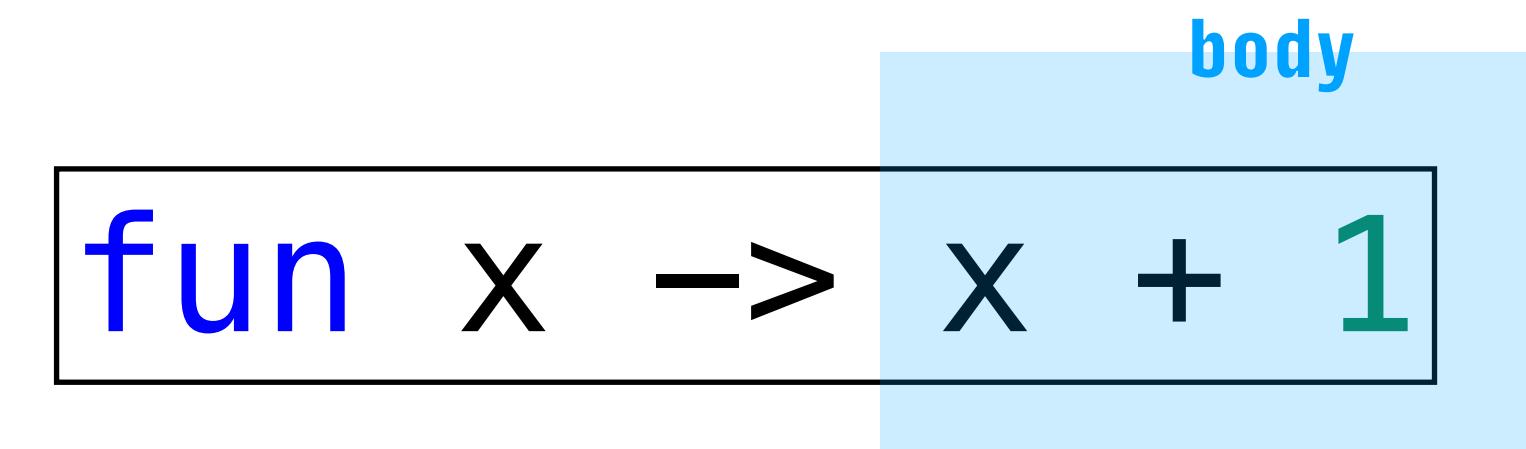
Typing: CONDITION must be a Boolean and TRUE-CASE and FALSE-CASE must be the same type. The type is then the same as that of TRUE-CASE and FALSE-CASE

Semantics: If CONDITION holds, then we get the TRUE-CASE, otherwise we get the FALSE-CASE

Recall: Functions (Informal)

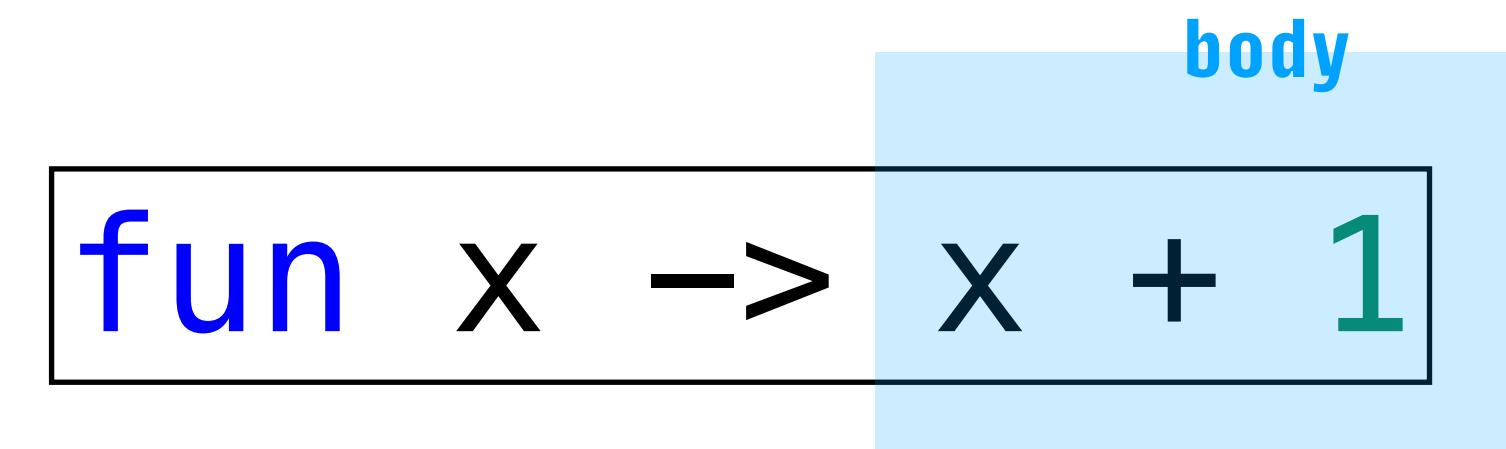
```
fun x -> body  
      x + 1
```

Recall: Functions (Informal)



Syntax: fun VAR-NAME -> EXPR

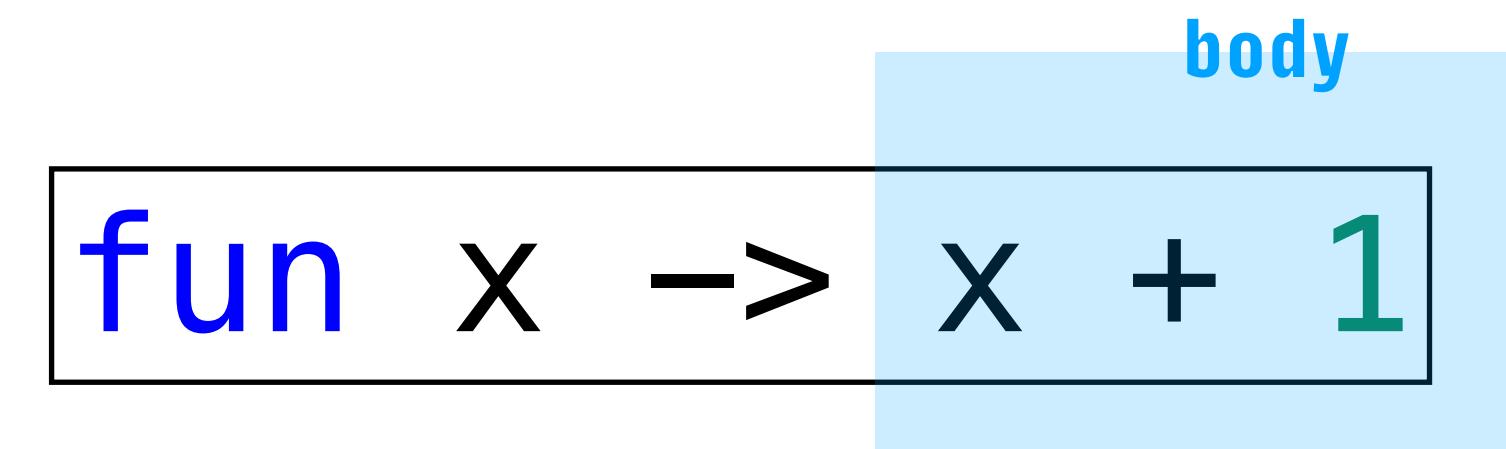
Recall: Functions (Informal)



Syntax: fun VAR-NAME -> EXPR

Typing: the type of a function is $T_1 \rightarrow T_2$ where T_1 is the type of the input and T_2 is the type of the output

Recall: Functions (Informal)



Syntax: `fun VAR-NAME -> EXPR`

Typing: the type of a function is $T_1 \rightarrow T_2$ where T_1 is the type of the input and T_2 is the type of the output

Semantics: A function will evaluate to special *function value* (printed as `<fun>` by utop)

Recall: Application (Informally)

```
(fun x -> fun y -> x + y + 1) 3 2
```

Recall: Application (Informally)

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Syntax: FUNCTION-EXPR ARG-EXPR

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Typing: If FUNCTION-EXPR is of type $T_1 \rightarrow T_2$,
and ARG-EXPR is of type T_1 , then the type is T_2

Recall: Application (Informally)

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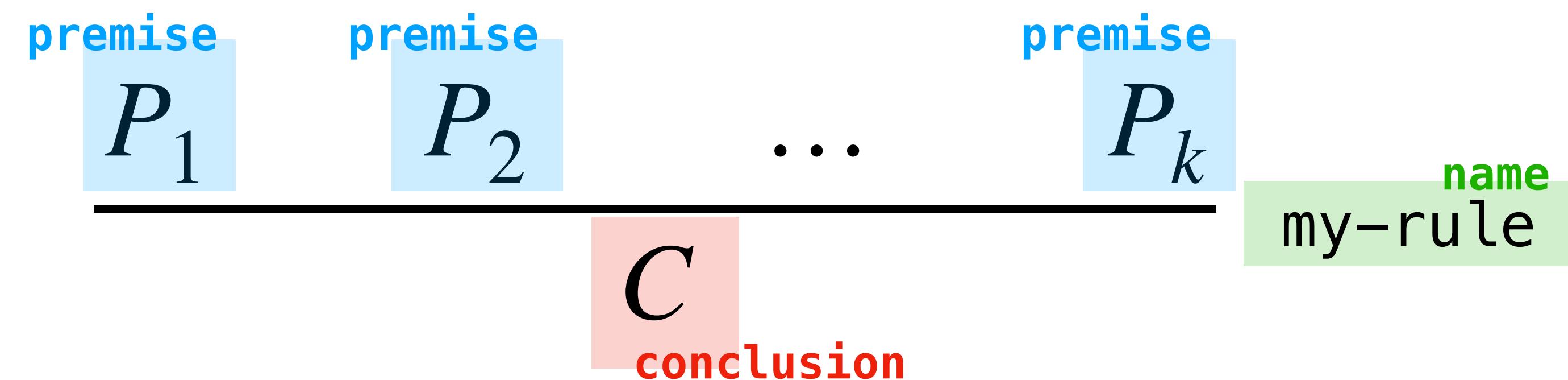
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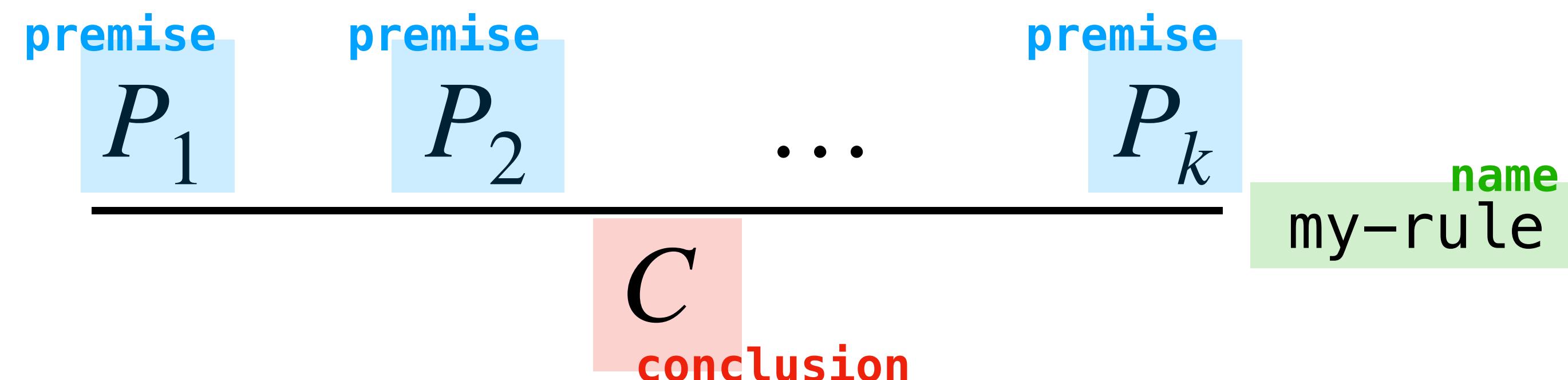
Semantics: Substitute the value of ARG-EXPR into
the body of FUNCTION-EXPR and evaluate that

Inference Rules

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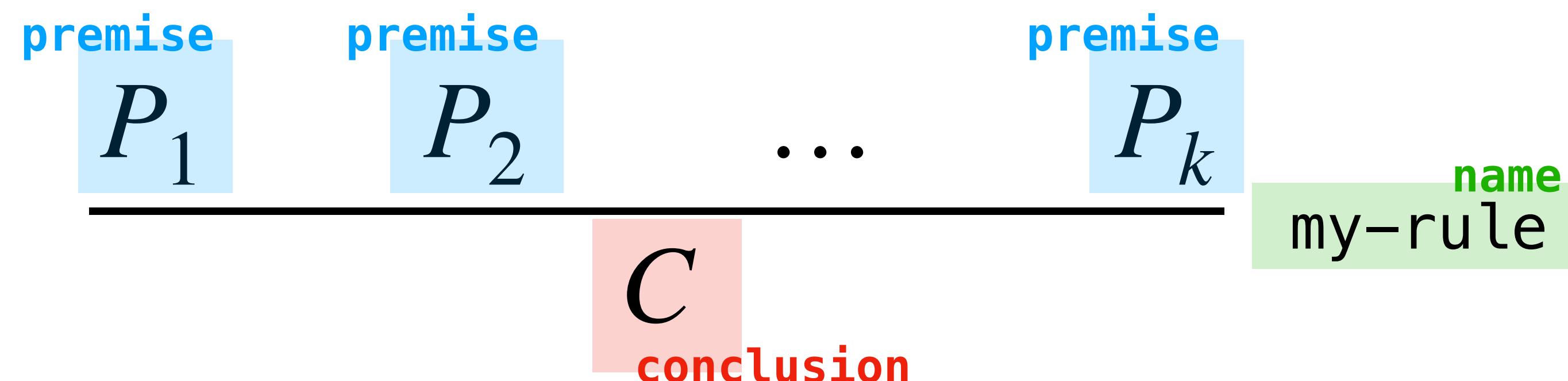


Inference Rules



The general form of an inference rule has a collection of **premises** and a **conclusion**

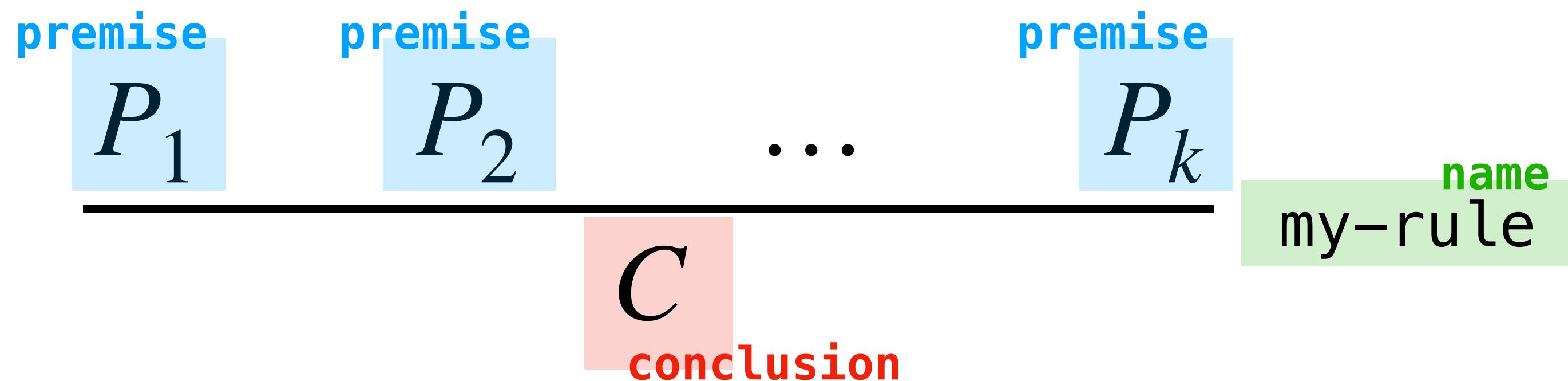
Inference Rules



The general form of an inference rule has a collection of **premises** and a **conclusion**

There may be no premises, this is called an **axiom**

Inference Rules



We can read this as:

If P_1 through P_k hold, then C holds (by my-rule)

Judgements

- » Syntax judgments
- » Typing judgments
- » Semantic judgments

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Syntax Judgements

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IMPORTANT: We will never use this kind of judgments explicitly!

Production Rules

`<expr> ::= <expr> + <expr>`

Instead it's standard to use **production rules**

(We'll spend more time on this when we cover formal grammar)

Judgements

- » Syntax judgments
- » Typing judgments
- » Semantic judgments

Typing Judgments

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{context} \\ \Gamma \vdash \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{expression} \\ e \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{type} \\ : \tau \end{array}$$

A typing judgment a compact way of representing the statement:

e is of type τ in the context Γ

A **typing rule** is an inference rule whose premises and conclusion are typing judgments

Recall: Integer Addition Typing Rule

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

If e_1 is an **int** (in any context Γ) and e_2 is an **int** then (in any context Γ) $e_1 + e_2$ is an **int** (in any context Γ)

Contexts

$$\Gamma = \{ \ x : \text{int}, \ y : \text{string}, \ z : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{string} \ }$$

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A variable declaration $(x : \tau)$ says: "*I declare that the variable x is of type τ* "

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A **context** is a set of **variable declarations**

A variable declaration $(x : \tau)$ says: "*I declare that the variable x is of type τ* "

A context keeps track of all the types of variables in the *static* environment

Example: Reading Typing Judgements

$\{b : \text{bool}\} \vdash \text{if } b \text{ then } 2 \text{ else } 3 : \text{int}$

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In English: *Given that b is a bool , the expression $\text{if } b \text{ then } 2 \text{ else } 3$ is an int*

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In English: *Given that b is a bool , the expression $\text{if } b \text{ then } 2 \text{ else } 3$ is an int*

The context allows us to determine the type of an expression *relative to the types of variables*

Judgements are claims, not truths

```
{b : bool} ⊢ if b then 2 else 3 : string
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A judgement is a *claim* in the same way that "there are infinitely many twin primes" or "pigs fly" is a claim

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We haven't **proved** anything by writing down a typing judgment

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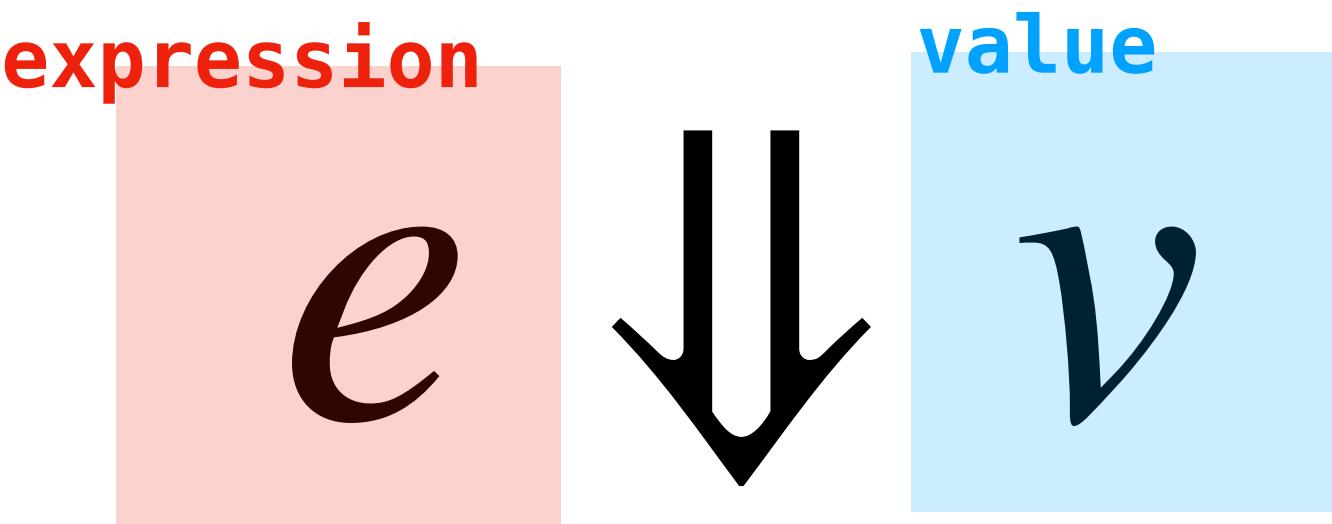
We haven't **proved** anything by writing down a typing judgment

Next time: we'll talk about **typing derivations**, which are used to demonstrate that expressions *actually* have their desired types in our PL

Judgements

- » Syntax judgments
- » Typing judgments
- » **Semantic judgments**

Semantic Judgements



A semantic judgment is a compact way of representing the statement:

The expression e evaluates to the value v

A **semantic rule** is an inference rule with semantic judgments

Recall: Integer Addition Semantic Rule

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 + e_2 \Downarrow v_1 + v_2} \text{ (evalInt)}$$

If e_1 evaluates to the (integer) v_1 and e_2 evaluates to the (integer) v_2 , then $e_1 + e_2$ evaluates to the (integer) $v_1 + v_2$

Example: Reading Semantic Judgments

```
if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3 ↓ 3
```

In English: The expression

```
if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3
```

evaluates to the value 3

Values are not (Necessarily) Expressions

```
if 2 > 3 then 2 + 2 else 3 ↓ 3
```

In this course, we will draw a distinction between values and expressions (note the font)

Example. We'll use regular numbers to represent integer values, and we'll use \top and \perp for the true and false Boolean values

320Caml Inference Rules

Reminder: for every expression in our language, we given inference rules for syntax, typing, and semantics

Expressions

- » Let-expressions
- » If-Expressions
- » Functions
- » Application

Expressions

» **Let-expressions**

» If-Expressions

» Functions

» Application

Let-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

If x is a valid variable name, and e_1 is a well-formed expression and e_2 is a well-formed expression then

`let $x = e_1$ in e_2`

is a well-formed expression

Let-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

`<expr> ::= let <var> = <expr> in <expr>`

If x is a valid variable name, and e_1 is a well-formed expression and e_2 is a well-formed expression then

`let x = e_1 in e_2`

is a well-formed expression

Let-Expressions (Typing Rule)

If e_1 is of type τ_1 in the context Γ , and e_2 is of type τ in the context Γ *with the variable declaration $(x : \tau_1)$ added to it*, then

let $x = e_1$ **in** e_2

is of type τ in the context Γ

Let-Expressions (Typing Rule)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau} \text{ (let)}$$

If e_1 is of type τ_1 in the context Γ , and e_2 is of type τ in the context Γ with the variable declaration $(x : \tau_1)$ added to it, then

$\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2$

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Note: Look at how much more compact the rule is!

If e_1 is of type τ_1 in the context Γ , and e_2 is of type τ in the context Γ with the variable declaration $(x : \tau_1)$ added to it, then

$\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2$

is of type τ in the context Γ

Let-Expressions (Semantic Rule)

If e_1 evaluates to v_1 and e_2 with v_2 substituted for x evaluates to v , then

`let x = e1 in e2`

evaluates to v

Let-Expressions (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{e_1 \downarrow v_1 \quad [v_1/x]e_2 \downarrow \nu}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \downarrow \nu} \text{ (letEval)}$$

If e_1 evaluates to v_1 and e_2 with v_2 substituted for x evaluates to ν , then

$\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2$

evaluates to ν

Expressions

» Let-expressions

» **If-Expressions**

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If-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

If-Expressions (Syntax Rule)

`<expr> ::= if <expr> then <expr> else <expr>`

If e_1 is a well-formed expression and e_2 is a well-formed expression and e_3 is a well-formed expression, then

`if e_1 then e_2 else e_3`

is a well-formed expression

If-Expressions (Typing Rule)

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

If e_1 is of type `bool` in the context Γ and e_2 and e_3 are of type τ in the context Γ , then

`if` e_1 `then` e_2 `else` e_3

is of type τ in the context Γ

If-Expressions (Semantics)

If-Expressions (Semantic Rule 1)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \top \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \Downarrow v_2} \text{ (ifEvalTrue)}$$

If e_1 evaluates to \top and e_2 evaluates to v_2 , then

if e_1 then e_2 else e_3

evaluates to v_2

If-Expressions (Semantic Rule 2)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \perp \quad e_3 \Downarrow v_3}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \Downarrow v_3} \text{ (ifEvalFalse)}$$

If e_1 evaluates to \perp and e_2 evaluates to v_2 , then

if e_1 then e_2 else e_3

evaluates to v_3

If-Expressions (Semantic Rule 2)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \perp \quad e_3 \Downarrow v_3}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 \Downarrow v_3} \text{ (ifEvalFalse)}$$

Note: we never evaluate both branches

If e_1 evaluates to \perp and e_2 evaluates to v_2 , then

$\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3$

evaluates to v_3

Expressions

» Let-expressions

» If-Expressions

» **Functions**

» Application

Functions (Syntax Rule)

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`<expr> ::= fun <var> -> <expr>`

If x is a valid variable name and e is a well-formed expression, then

`fun x -> e`

is a well-formed expression

Functions (Typing Rule)

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$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x \rightarrow e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} \text{ (fun)}$$

If e has type τ_2 in the context Γ with the variable declaration $(x : \tau_1)$ added, then

$\text{fun } x \rightarrow e$

is of type $\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$ in the context Γ

Functions (Semantic Rule)

Functions (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{}{\mathbf{fun} \ x \ \textcolor{red}{\rightarrow} \ e \Downarrow \lambda x . e} \ (\text{funEval})$$

Under no premises, the expression

$$\mathbf{fun} \ x \ \textcolor{red}{\rightarrow} \ e$$

evaluates to the *function value* $\lambda x. e$ (we'll talk more about function values later)

Expressions

» Let-expressions

» If-Expressions

» Functions

» Application

Application (Syntax Rule)

Application (Syntax Rule)

`<expr> ::= <expr> <expr>`

If e_1 is a well-formed expression and e_2 is a well-formed expression, then $e_1 e_2$ is a well-formed expression

Application (Typing Rule)

If e_1 has type $\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau$ under the context Γ and e_2 is of type τ_2 under the context Γ , then $e_1 e_2$ is of type τ under the context Γ

Application (Typing Rule)

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

If e_1 has type $\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau$ under the context Γ and e_2 is of type τ_2 under the context Γ , then $e_1 e_2$ is of type τ under the context Γ

Application (Semantic Rule)

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \lambda x . e \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2 \quad [v_2/x]e \Downarrow v}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow v} \text{(appEval)}$$

1. e_1 evaluates to a function value $\lambda x . e$
2. e_2 evaluates to v_2
3. e with v_2 substituted for x evaluates to v

It follows that $e_1 e_2$ evaluates to v

Example (Informal)

```
(let x = 2 in fun y -> x + y) (2 + 3)
```

We'll see more typing
rules and semantic rules

We'll also give a written reference for the rules we talk about in class

Summary

Inference rules formally describe how the typing and semantics of a programming language work