Lecture 26 – Type Inference (2)

COSE212: Programming Languages

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2023 Fall

Recall



- Type inference is the process of automatically inferring the types of expressions.
- We have seen three examples to learn how the type inference works.

```
/* RFAE */ def sum(x) = if (x < 1) 0 else x + sum(x - 1); sum
```

```
/* RFAE */ val app = n => f => f(n); app(42)(x => x)
```

```
/* RFAE */ val id = x => x; val n = id(42); val b = id(true); b
```

- In this lecture, let's learn the details of the type inference algorithm.
- TIFAE TRFAE with type inference.
 - Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference
 - Interpreter and Natural Semantics

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Type Checker and Typing Rules



Let's **1** design **typing rules** of TIFAE to define when an expression is well-typed in the form of:

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$$

and 2 implement a type checker in Scala according to typing rules:

```
def typeCheck(expr: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv): Type = ???
```

The type checker returns the **type** of e if it is well-typed, or rejects it and throws a **type error** otherwise.

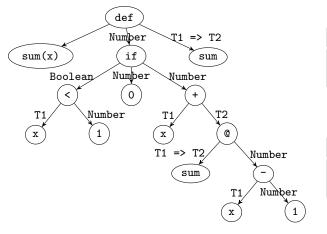
We will keep track of the **variable types** using a **type environment** Γ as a mapping from variable names to their types.

Type Environments
$$\Gamma \in \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\mathsf{fin}} \mathbb{T}$$
 (TypeEnv)

Recall: Example 1 - sum



In addition, we need to keep track of the **solution** for **type constraints** over **type variables** to infer the types of expressions.



Type Environment

Type Livitoilinent	
\mathbb{X}	\mathbb{T}
х	T1
sum	T1 => T2

Solution

\mathbb{X}_{α}	\mathbb{T}
T1	Number
T2	Number

Solutions for Type Constraints



A solution is a mapping from type variables to types.

Solutions
$$\psi \in \Psi = \mathbb{X}_{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} (\mathbb{T} \uplus \{\bullet\}) \quad \text{(Solution)}$$

Type Variables $\alpha \in \mathbb{X}_{\alpha}$ (Int)

```
type Solution = Map[Int, Option[Type]]
```

Note that ● (None) represents a **not yet solved** (free) type variable.

Now, we have new forms of type checker and typing rules.

```
def typeCheck(expr: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = ???
```

$$\lceil \mathsf{\Gamma}, \psi \vdash e : au, \psi
vert$$

Similar to the memory passing in MFAE for mutation, we will pass the solution ψ and update it during type checking.

Numbers



```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
    ...
    case Num(n) => (NumT, sol)
```

$$\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi$$

$$\tau-\mathtt{Num}\ \overline{\Gamma,\psi \vdash \mathit{n}:\mathtt{num},\psi}$$

Additions



```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
    ...
    case Add(1, r) =>
        val (lty, sol1) = typeCheck(1, tenv, sol)
        val (rty, sol2) = typeCheck(r, tenv, sol1)
        val sol3 = unify(lty, NumT, sol2)
        val sol4 = unify(rty, NumT, sol3)
        (ty, sol4)
```

$$\lceil \mathsf{\Gamma}, \psi \vdash \mathsf{e} : \tau, \psi \rceil$$

The unify function that takes two types must be the same and updates the solution. We will see how it works later.

Conditionals



```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
...
case If(c, t, e) =>
    val (cty, sol1) = typeCheck(c, tenv, sol)
    val (tty, sol2) = typeCheck(t, tenv, sol1)
    val (ety, sol3) = typeCheck(e, tenv, sol2)
    val sol4 = unify(cty, BoolT, sol3)
    val sol5 = unify(tty, ety, sol4)
    (tty, sol5)
```

$$|\Gamma,\psi \vdash e : au,\psi|$$

$$\tau - \text{If} \ \frac{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e_c : \text{bool}, \psi_c \quad \Gamma, \psi_c \vdash e_t : \tau_t, \psi_t \quad \Gamma, \psi_t \vdash e_e : \tau_e, \psi_e}{\text{unify}(\tau_c, \text{bool}, \psi_e) = \psi' \quad \text{unify}(\tau_t, \tau_e, \psi') = \psi''}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash \text{if} \ (e_c) \ e_t \ \text{else} \ e_e : \tau_t, \psi''}$$





```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
    ...

case Val(x, e, b) =>
    val (ety, sol1) = typeCheck(e, tenv, sol)
    typeCheck(b, tenv + (x -> ety), sol1)

case Id(x) => tenv.getOrElse(x, error(s"free identifier: $x"))
```

$$\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi$$

$$\tau - \mathtt{Val} \ \frac{\Gamma, \psi_0 \vdash e_1 : \tau_1, \psi_1 \qquad \Gamma[x : \tau_1] \vdash e_2 : \tau_2, \psi_2}{\Gamma, \psi_0 \vdash \mathtt{val} \ x = e_1; \ e_2 : \tau_2, \psi_2}$$

$$\tau$$
-Id $\frac{x \in \mathsf{Domain}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash x : \Gamma(x), \psi}$

Function Definitions



```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
...
    case Fun(p, b) =>
        val (pty, sol1) = newTypeVar(sol)
        val (rty, sol2) = typeCheck(b, tenv + (p -> pty), sol1)
        (ArrowT(pty, rty), sol2)
```

$$\lceil \mathsf{\Gamma}, \psi \vdash \mathsf{e} : \tau, \psi \rceil$$

$$\tau-\text{Fun }\frac{\alpha_{\textit{p}}\notin\psi\quad \quad \Gamma[\textit{x}:\alpha_{\textit{p}}],\psi[\alpha_{\textit{p}}\mapsto\bullet]\vdash\textit{e}:\tau,\psi'}{\Gamma,\psi\vdash\lambda\textit{x}.\textit{e}:\alpha_{\textit{p}}\to\tau,\psi'}$$





```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
...
case Rec(f, p, b, s) =>
  val (pty, sol1) = newTypeVar(sol)
  val (rty, sol2) = newTypeVar(sol1)
  val fty = ArrowT(pty, rty)
  val tenv1 = tenv + (f -> fty)
  val tenv2 = tenv1 + (p -> pty)
  val (bty, sol3) = typeCheck(b, tenv2, sol2)
  val sol4 = unify(bty, rty, sol3)
  typeCheck(s, tenv1, sol4)
```

$$\lceil \mathsf{\Gamma}, \psi \vdash \mathsf{e} : \tau, \psi \rceil$$

$$\tau-\text{Rec} \frac{\alpha_{p}, \alpha_{r} \notin \psi \quad \alpha_{p} \neq \alpha_{r} \quad \Gamma_{1} = \Gamma[x_{f} \mapsto (\alpha_{p} \to \alpha_{r})]}{\Gamma_{2} = \Gamma_{1}[x_{p} \mapsto \alpha_{p}] \quad \Gamma_{2}, \psi[\alpha \mapsto \bullet, \alpha' \mapsto \bullet] \vdash e_{b} : \tau_{b}, \psi_{b}} \frac{\text{unify}(\tau_{b}, \alpha_{r}, \psi_{b}) = \psi_{r} \quad \Gamma_{1}, \psi_{r} \vdash e_{s} : \tau_{s}, \psi_{s}}{\Gamma_{1}, \psi \vdash \text{def } x_{f}(x_{p}) = e_{b}; \ e_{s} : \tau_{s}, \psi_{s}}$$

Function Applications



```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
...
    case App(f, a) =>
    val (fty, sol1) = typeCheck(f, tenv, sol)
    val (aty, sol2) = typeCheck(a, tenv, sol1)
    val (rty, sol3) = newTypeVar(sol2)
    val sol4 = unify(ArrowT(aty, rty), fty, sol3)
    (rty, sol4)
```

$$\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi$$

$$\tau-\text{App} \ \frac{\alpha_r \notin \psi_a \quad \text{unify}(\tau_a \to \alpha_r, \tau_f, \psi_a [\alpha_r \mapsto \bullet]) = \psi'}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e_1(e_2) : \alpha_r, \psi'}$$

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Type Unification



Definition (Type Unification)

Type unification is the process of updating a solution to make two types equal. If the types are not unifiable, then this process fails and throws an exception.

$$\mathtt{unify}: (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightharpoonup \Psi$$

For example, if we unify a type variable α and the number type num, the empty solution \varnothing is updated to $[\alpha \mapsto \text{num}]$.

$$\mathtt{unify}(\alpha,\mathtt{num},\varnothing) = [\alpha \mapsto \mathtt{num}]$$

Before, we define the type unification, we need to define the **type resolving** and **occurrence checking** functions.

- **1** Type resolving is the process of recursively resolving a type variable to its representative type to deal with the **type aliasing**.
- Occurrence checking is the process of checking whether a type variable occurs in a type to detect cyclic types.

Type Resolving



To understand why we need the **type resolving** function, let's consider the following example:

$$\psi_1 = \begin{array}{c|c} \text{unify}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \psi_1) = \psi_2 & \text{unify}(\alpha_1, \text{num}, \psi_2) = \psi_3 \\ \hline \text{Solution} & \text{Solution} & \text{Solution} \\ \hline \psi_2 = \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbb{X}_{\alpha} & \mathbb{T} \\ \hline \alpha_1 & \bullet \\ \hline \alpha_2 & \bullet \end{array} & \psi_2 = \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbb{X}_{\alpha} & \mathbb{T} \\ \hline \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 \\ \hline \alpha_2 & \bullet \end{array} & \psi_3 = \begin{array}{c|c} \mathbb{X}_{\alpha} & \mathbb{T} \\ \hline \alpha_1 & \text{num} \\ \hline \alpha_2 & \bullet \end{array}$$

Unfortunately, we cannot know that α_2 are num with the solution ψ_3 .

We need to **resolve** the type variable α_1 to find its **representative type** and update its solution to num to deal with the **type aliasing**.

$$\texttt{unify(resolve}(\alpha_1, \psi_2), \texttt{num}, \psi_2) = \psi_3' = \begin{bmatrix} & & & \\ \mathbb{X}_{\alpha} & \mathbb{T} \\ & & \\ \hline \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 \\ & \alpha_2 & \texttt{num} \end{bmatrix}$$

Type Resolving



We can define the **type resolving** function as follows:

$$\mathtt{resolve}: (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \to \mathbb{T}$$

$$\mathtt{resolve}(\tau,\psi) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathtt{resolve}(\tau',\psi) & \mathsf{if} \ \tau = \alpha \wedge \psi(\alpha) = \tau' \\ \tau & \mathsf{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

and implement it in Scala as follows:

```
def resolve(ty: Type, sol: Solution): Type = ty match
  case VarT(k) => sol(k) match
   case Some(ty) => resolve(ty, sol)
   case None => ty
  case _ => ty
```

Occurrence Checking



Let's understand why we need the **occurrence checking** function:

$$\mathtt{unify}(\alpha_1,\mathtt{num} \to \alpha_1,\psi) = \psi'$$

It actually fails because the type variable α_1 occurs in the type num $\to \alpha_1$, which means it requires **cyclic types** not supported in our type system.

Let's define the **occurrence checking** function as follows:

$$\mathtt{occur}: (\mathbb{X}_{\alpha} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \to \mathtt{bool}$$

$$\mathtt{occur}(\alpha, \tau, \psi) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathtt{true} & \mathsf{if} \ \tau = \alpha \\ \mathtt{occur}(\alpha, \tau_p, \psi) \vee \mathtt{occur}(\alpha, \tau_r, \psi) & \mathsf{if} \ \tau = (\tau_p \to \tau_r) \\ \mathtt{false} & \mathsf{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

and implement it in Scala as follows:

```
def occurs(k: Int, ty: Type, sol: Solution): Boolean = resolve(ty, sol) match
  case VarT(l) => k == 1
  case ArrowT(pty, rty) => occurs(k, pty, sol) || occurs(k, rty, sol)
  case _ => false
```

Type Unification



Using the **type resolving** and **occurrence checking** functions, we could define the **type unification** as a partial function:

$$\boxed{\mathtt{unify}: (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightharpoonup \Psi}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{unify}(\tau_1,\tau_2,\psi) = \\ & \begin{cases} \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \text{num} \wedge \tau_2' = \text{num} \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \text{bool} \wedge \tau_2' = \text{bool} \\ \text{unify}(\tau_{1,r},\tau_{2,r},\text{unify}(\tau_{1,p},\tau_{2,p},\psi)) & \text{if } \tau_1' = (\tau_{1,p} \to \tau_{1,r}) \wedge \tau_2' = (\tau_{2,p} \to \tau_{2,r}) \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \alpha = \tau_2' \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau_1'] & \text{if } \tau_1' = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha,\tau_2') \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau_1'] & \text{if } \tau_2' = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha,\tau_1') \end{cases}$$

where $\tau_1' = \text{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$ and $\tau_2' = \text{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$.

- First, it resolves the types τ_1 and τ_2 with the current solution ψ into τ'_1 and τ'_2 using the **type resolving** function resolve.
- 2 If only one of them $(\tau_1' \text{ or } \tau_2')$ is a type variable, it checks cyclic types using the **occurrence checking** function occur.
- **3** Then, it unifies types τ'_1 and τ'_2 and updates the solution ψ .





And, we can implement the **type unification** function in Scala as follows:

```
def unify(lty: Type, rty: Type, sol: Solution): Solution =
  (resolve(lty, sol), resolve(rty, sol)) match
   case (NumT, NumT) => sol
   case (BoolT, BoolT) => sol
   case (ArrowT(lpty, lrty), ArrowT(rpty, rrty)) =>
     unify(lrty, rrty, unify(lpty, rpty, sol))
   case (VarT(k), VarT(l)) if k == l => sol
   case (VarT(k), rty) if !occurs(k, rty, sol) => sol + (k -> Some(rty))
   case (lty, VarT(k)) if !occurs(k, lty, sol) => sol + (k -> Some(lty))
   case _ => error(s"Cannot unify ${lty.str} and ${rty.str}")
```

```
 \begin{aligned} & \text{unify}(\tau_1,\tau_2,\psi) = \\ & \begin{cases} \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \text{num} \wedge \tau_2' = \text{num} \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \text{bool} \wedge \tau_2' = \text{bool} \\ \text{unify}(\tau_{1,r},\tau_{2,r},\text{unify}(\tau_{1,p},\tau_{2,p},\psi)) & \text{if } \tau_1' = (\tau_{1,p} \to \tau_{1,r}) \wedge \tau_2' = (\tau_{2,p} \to \tau_{2,r}) \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau_1' = \alpha = \tau_2' \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau_1'] & \text{if } \tau_1' = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha,\tau_2') \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau_1'] & \text{if } \tau_2' = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha,\tau_1') \end{cases}
```

where $\tau_1' = \mathtt{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$ and $\tau_2' = \mathtt{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$.

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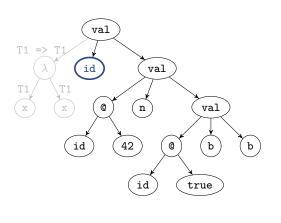
3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

Recall: Example 3 - id





	Type Environment
X	\mathbb{T}
id	[T1] { T1 => T1 }

Solution		
\mathbb{X}_{α}	T	
T1	-	

C = 1......

Let's **generalize** the type T1 => T1 into a **polymorphic type** for id with **type variable** T1 as a **type parameter**.

We call this **let-polymorphism** because it only introduces polymorphism for the let-binding (e.g., val).

Type Environment with Polymorphic Types



We need to extend the **type environment** to support **polymorphic types**.

```
Type Environments \Gamma \ \in \ \mathbb{\Gamma} = \mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\mathsf{fin}} \mathbb{T}^\forall \quad \mathsf{(TypeEnv)}
```

Polymorphic Types $au^{orall} = orall lpha^*. au \ \in \ \mathbb{T}^{orall} = \mathbb{X}_lpha^* imes \mathbb{T}$ (PolyType)

```
// type environments
type TypeEnv = Map[String, PolyType]

// polymorphic types
case class PolyType(ks: List[Int], ty: Type)
```

Type Generalization



We can define the **type generalization** function gen as follows:

$$\boxed{ \begin{split} & \text{gen}: (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{\Gamma} \times \Psi) \to \mathbb{T}^{\forall} \\ & \text{gen}(\tau, \Gamma, \psi) = \forall \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m.\tau \end{split} \quad \text{where} \quad \text{free}_{\tau}(\tau, \psi) \setminus \text{free}_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, \psi) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\} }$$

and the free type variables in each component as follows:

$$\mathsf{free}_{\tau}: (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \to \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}_{\alpha}) \bigg]$$

$$\mathsf{free}_{\tau}: (\tau, \psi) = \begin{cases} \mathsf{free}_{\tau'}(\tau', \psi) & \text{if } \tau = \alpha \wedge \psi(\alpha) = \tau' \\ \{\alpha\} & \text{if } \tau = \alpha \wedge \psi(\alpha) = \bullet \\ \mathsf{free}_{\tau_p}(\tau_p, \psi) \cup \mathsf{free}_{\tau_r}(\tau_r, \psi) & \text{if } \tau = (\tau_p \to \tau_r) \\ \varnothing & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{split} & \boxed{\texttt{free}_{\tau^{\forall}}: (\mathbb{T}^{\forall} \times \Psi) \to \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}_{\alpha})} \\ \texttt{free}_{\tau^{\forall}}(\forall \alpha_{1}, \dots, \alpha_{\textit{m}}.\tau, \psi) = \texttt{free}_{\tau}(\tau, \psi) \setminus \{\alpha_{1}, \dots, \alpha_{\textit{m}}\} \end{split}}$$

Immutable Variable Defs. with Type Generalization APLRG

```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
...

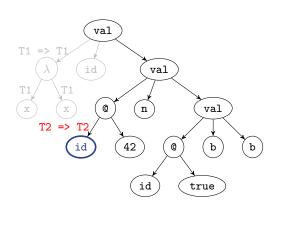
case Val(x, e, b) =>
  val (ety, sol1) = typeCheck(e, tenv, sol)
  val polyty = gen(ety, tenv, sol1)
  typeCheck(b, tenv + (x -> polyty), sol1)
```

$$\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi$$

$$\tau-\mathrm{Val}\ \frac{\Gamma,\psi_0\vdash e_1:\tau_1,\psi_1\ \ \mathsf{gen}(\tau_1,\Gamma,\psi_1)=\tau_1^\forall\ \ \Gamma[x:\tau_1^\forall]\vdash e_2:\tau_2,\psi_2}{\Gamma,\psi_0\vdash \mathrm{val}\ x=e_1;\ e_2:\tau_2,\psi_2}$$

Recall: Example 3 - id





	Type Environment
\mathbb{X}	T
id	[T1] { T1 => T1 }

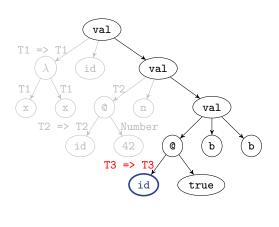
Solution		
\mathbb{X}_{α}	\mathbb{T}	
T1	-	
T2	ı	

Calution

Let's define a new **type variable T2** to **instantiate** the **type variable T1**. And, **substitute T1** with **T2**.

Recall: Example 3 - id





	Type Environment
\mathbb{X}	T
id	[T1] { T1 => T1 }
n	T2

Solution	
\mathbb{X}_{α}	T
T1	_
T2	Number
ТЗ	_

Let's define a new **type variable T3** to **instantiate** the **type variable T1**. And, **substitute T1** with **T3**.

Type Instantiation



We can define the **type instantiation** function inst as follows:

$$\begin{split} & [\texttt{inst}: (\mathbb{T}^\forall \times \Psi) \to (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi)] \\ & \texttt{inst}(\forall \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m.\tau, \psi) = (\\ & \texttt{subst}(\tau, \psi[\alpha_1 \mapsto \alpha_1', \dots, \alpha_m \mapsto \alpha_m']), \\ & \psi[\alpha_1' \mapsto \bullet, \dots, \alpha_m' \mapsto \bullet] \\) \\ & \texttt{where} \qquad \alpha_1', \dots, \alpha_m' \notin \psi \land \forall 1 \leq i < j \leq m. \ \alpha_i' \neq \alpha_j' \end{split}$$

and the type substitution function subst as follows:

$$\texttt{subst}: (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \to \mathbb{T}$$

$$\mathtt{subst}(\tau,\psi) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathtt{subst}(\tau',\psi) & \text{if } \tau = \alpha \wedge \psi(\alpha) = \tau' \\ \mathtt{subst}(\tau_{\mathit{p}},\psi) \to \mathtt{subst}(\tau_{\mathit{r}},\psi) & \text{if } \tau = (\tau_{\mathit{p}} \to \tau_{\mathit{r}}) \\ \tau & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$





```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
    ...

case Id(x) =>
    val ty = tenv.getOrElse(x, error(s"free identifier: $x"))
    inst(ty, sol)
```

$$|\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi|$$

$$au- ext{Id} \ rac{\Gamma(x) = au^orall \ ext{inst}(au^orall, \psi) = (au, \psi')}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash x : au, \psi'}$$

Summary



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Exercise #15



- Please see this document¹ on GitHub.
 - Implement typeCheck function.
 - Implement interp function.
- It is just an exercise, and you don't need to submit anything.
- However, some exam questions might be related to this exercise.

Final Exam



- The final exam will be given in class.
- **Date:** 13:30-14:45 (1 hour 15 minutes), December 20 (Wed.).
- Location: 535, Asan Science Building (아산이학관)
- Coverage: Lectures 14 24
- Format: 7–9 questions with closed book and closed notes
 - Fill in the blank in a Scala code snippet.
 - Define the syntax or semantics of extended language features.
 - Write the evaluation results of given expressions.
 - Yes/No questions about concepts in programming languages.
 - etc.
- Note that there is no class on December 18 (Mon.).

Next Lecture



Course Review

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