

# Lecture 26 – Type Inference (2)

## COSE212: Programming Languages

Jihyeok Park



2025 Fall

- **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
```

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

```
/* FAE */ 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

# Contents

## 1. Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference

Solutions for Type Constraints

Numbers

Additions

Conditionals

Immutable Variable Definitions and Identifier Lookup

Function Definitions

Recursive Function Definitions

Function Applications

## 2. Type Unification

Type Resolving

Occurrence Checking

Type Unification

## 3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

# Contents

## 1. Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference

Solutions for Type Constraints

Numbers

Additions

Conditionals

Immutable Variable Definitions and Identifier Lookup

Function Definitions

Recursive Function Definitions

Function Applications

## 2. Type Unification

Type Resolving

Occurrence Checking

Type Unification

## 3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

# 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:

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau}$$

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**  $\Gamma$  as a mapping from variable names to their types.

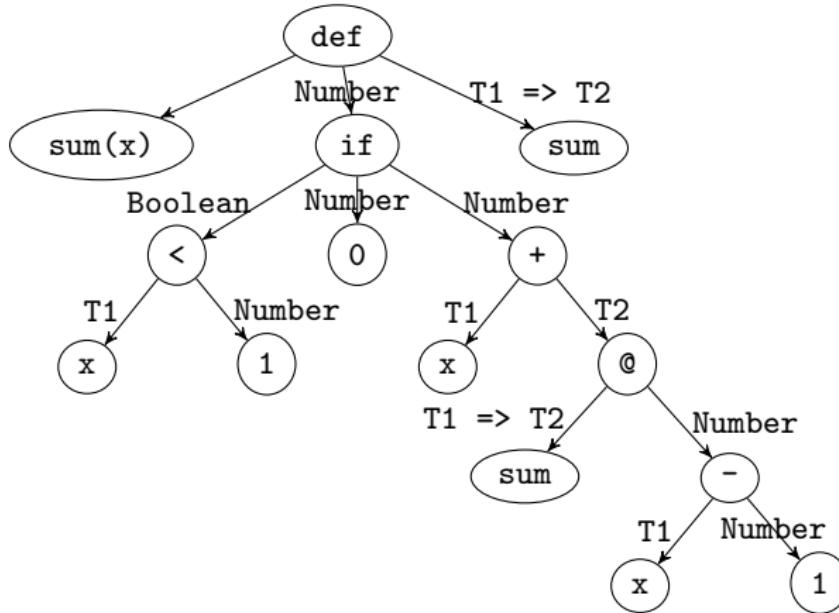
Type Environments      $\Gamma \in \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \mathbb{T}$  (TypeEnv)

```
type TypeEnv = Map[String, Type]
```

# 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.

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



Type Environment

X	T
x	T1
sum	T1 => T2

Solution

$X_\alpha$	T
T1	Number
T2	Number

# Solutions for Type Constraints

A **solution** is a mapping from **type variables** to **types** or  $\bullet$ .

Types                    $\mathbb{T} \ni \tau ::= \text{num} \mid \text{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \alpha$  (Type)

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

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

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

Note that  $\bullet$  (`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) = ???
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

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

# Numbers

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

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

$$\frac{}{\tau-\text{Num} \quad \Gamma, \psi \vdash n : \text{num}, \psi}$$

# Additions

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

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma, \psi_0 \vdash e_1 : \tau_1, \psi_1 & \Gamma, \psi_1 \vdash e_2 : \tau_2, \psi_2 \\ \text{unify}(\tau_1, \text{num}, \psi_2) = \psi_3 & \text{unify}(\tau_2, \text{num}, \psi_3) = \psi_4 \end{array}}{\Gamma, \psi_0 \vdash e_1 + e_2 : \text{num}, \psi_4}$$

The `unify` function that takes two types must be the same and updates the given 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)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma, \psi \vdash e_c : \tau_c, \psi_c & \Gamma, \psi_c \vdash e_t : \tau_t, \psi_t & \Gamma, \psi_t \vdash e_e : \tau_e, \psi_e \\ \text{unify}(\tau_c, \text{bool}, \psi_e) = \psi' & \text{unify}(\tau_t, \tau_e, \psi') = \psi'' \end{array}}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash \text{if } (e_c) e_t \text{ else } e_e : \tau_t, \psi''}$$

```

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

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

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

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

# 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)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

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

We need to introduce a **new type variable**  $\alpha_p$  for the parameter  $x$ .

# Recursive Function Definitions

```
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)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \alpha_p, \alpha_r \notin \psi \quad \alpha_p \neq \alpha_r \quad \Gamma_1 = \Gamma[x_f : (\alpha_p \rightarrow \alpha_r)] \\ \Gamma_2 = \Gamma_1[x_p : \alpha_p] \quad \Gamma_2, \psi[\alpha_p \mapsto \bullet, \alpha_r \mapsto \bullet] \vdash e_b : \tau_b, \psi_b \\ \text{unify}(\tau_b, \alpha_r, \psi_b) = \psi_r \quad \Gamma_1, \psi_r \vdash e_s : \tau_s, \psi_s \end{array}}{\tau-\text{Rec} \quad \Gamma, \psi \vdash \text{def } x_f(x_p) = e_b; \ e_s : \tau_s, \psi_s}$$

# 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)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

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

# Contents

## 1. Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference

Solutions for Type Constraints

Numbers

Additions

Conditionals

Immutable Variable Definitions and Identifier Lookup

Function Definitions

Recursive Function Definitions

Function Applications

## 2. Type Unification

Type Resolving

Occurrence Checking

Type Unification

## 3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

## 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.

$$\text{unify} : (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \Psi$$

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

$$\text{unify}(\alpha, \text{num}, [\alpha \mapsto \bullet]) = [\alpha \mapsto \text{num}]$$

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**.
- ② **Occurrence checking** is the process of checking whether a type variable occurs in a type to detect **recursive types**.

# Type Resolving

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

$$\text{unify}(\alpha_1, \text{num}, \psi_1) = \psi_2$$

Solution	
$\mathbb{X}_\alpha$	T
$\alpha_1$	$\alpha_2$
$\alpha_2$	$\alpha_3$
$\alpha_3$	•

$\psi_1 =$

Solution	
$\mathbb{X}_\alpha$	T
$\alpha_1$	num
$\alpha_2$	$\alpha_3$
$\alpha_3$	•

$\psi_2 =$

If we directly update  $\alpha_1$  to num in the solution  $\psi_2$ , it misses the information that  $\alpha_2$  and  $\alpha_3$  are also num.

# Type Resolving

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

$$\text{unify}(\alpha_1, \text{num}, \psi_1) = \psi_2$$

Solution	
$\mathbb{X}_\alpha$	$\mathbb{T}$
$\alpha_1$	$\alpha_2$
$\alpha_2$	$\alpha_3$
$\alpha_3$	•

$\psi_1 =$

Solution	
$\mathbb{X}_\alpha$	$\mathbb{T}$
$\alpha_1$	$\alpha_2$
$\alpha_2$	$\alpha_3$
$\alpha_3$	num

$\psi_2 =$

If we directly update  $\alpha_1$  to num in the solution  $\psi_2$ , it misses the information that  $\alpha_2$  and  $\alpha_3$  are also num.

Instead, we need to **resolve** the type variable  $\alpha_1$  to find its **representative type** (i.e.,  $\alpha_3$ ) and unify it with num to deal with the **type aliasing**.

# Type Resolving

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

$$\text{resolve} : (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$$

$$\text{resolve}(\tau, \psi) = \begin{cases} \text{resolve}(\tau', \psi) & \text{if } \tau = \alpha \wedge \psi(\alpha) = \tau' \\ \text{resolve}(\tau_p, \psi) \rightarrow \text{resolve}(\tau_r, \psi) & \text{if } \tau = (\tau_p \rightarrow \tau_r) \\ \tau & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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 ArrowT(pty, rty) =>
    ArrowT(resolve(pty, sol), resolve(rty, sol))
  case _ => ty
```

# Occurrence Checking

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

$$\text{unify}(\alpha_1, \text{num} \rightarrow \alpha_1, \psi) = \psi'$$

Can we unify  $\alpha_1$  and  $\text{num} \rightarrow \alpha_1$ ? **No!** because it requires **recursive types** not supported in our type system.

Let's define the **occurrence checking** function to detect type constraints that require recursive types

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

$$\text{occur}(\alpha, \tau) = \begin{cases} \text{true} & \text{if } \tau = \alpha \\ \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau_p) \vee \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau_r) & \text{if } \tau = (\tau_p \rightarrow \tau_r) \\ \text{false} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and implement it in Scala as follows:

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

# Type Unification

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

$$\text{unify} : (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \Psi$$

$\text{unify}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \psi) =$

{

①

②

③

# Type Unification

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

$$\text{unify} : (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \Psi$$

$\text{unify}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \psi) =$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \right.$

where  $\tau'_1 = \text{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$  and  $\tau'_2 = \text{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$ .

- ① First, it resolves the types  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  with the current solution  $\psi$  into  $\tau'_1$  and  $\tau'_2$  using the **type resolving** function `resolve`.
- ②
- ③

## Type Unification

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

$$\text{unify} : (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \multimap \Psi$$

$$\text{unify}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \psi) = \begin{cases} & \\ & \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_2] & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \alpha \wedge \neg\text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_2) \\ & \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_1] & \text{if } \tau'_2 = \alpha \wedge \neg\text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_1) \end{cases}$$

where  $\tau'_1 = \text{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$  and  $\tau'_2 = \text{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$ .

- ① First, it resolves the types  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  with the current solution  $\psi$  into  $\tau'_1$  and  $\tau'_2$  using the **type resolving** function `resolve`.
  - ② If one of  $\tau'_1$  or  $\tau'_2$  is a type variable and does **not occur** in the other type, it updates the solution of the type variable.
  - ③

# Type Unification

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

$$\text{unify} : (\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \Psi$$

$\text{unify}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \psi) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \text{num} \wedge \tau'_2 = \text{num} \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \text{bool} \wedge \tau'_2 = \text{bool} \\ \text{unify}(\tau_{1,r}, \tau_{2,r}, \text{unify}(\tau_{1,p}, \tau_{2,p}, \psi)) & \text{if } \tau'_1 = (\tau_{1,p} \rightarrow \tau_{1,r}) \wedge \tau'_2 = (\tau_{2,p} \rightarrow \tau_{2,r}) \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \alpha = \tau'_2 \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_2] & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_2) \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_1] & \text{if } \tau'_2 = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_1) \end{array} \right.$$

where  $\tau'_1 = \text{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$  and  $\tau'_2 = \text{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$ .

- ① First, it resolves the types  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  with the current solution  $\psi$  into  $\tau'_1$  and  $\tau'_2$  using the **type resolving** function `resolve`.
- ② If one of  $\tau'_1$  or  $\tau'_2$  is a type variable and does **not occur** in the other type, it updates the solution of the type variable.
- ③ Otherwise, it checks  $\tau'_1$  and  $\tau'_2$  are equal or recursively unifies them.

# Type Unification

$\text{unify}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \psi) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \text{num} \wedge \tau'_2 = \text{num} \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \text{bool} \wedge \tau'_2 = \text{bool} \\ \text{unify}(\tau_{1,r}, \tau_{2,r}, \text{unify}(\tau_{1,p}, \tau_{2,p}, \psi)) & \text{if } \tau'_1 = (\tau_{1,p} \rightarrow \tau_{1,r}) \wedge \tau'_2 = (\tau_{2,p} \rightarrow \tau_{2,r}) \\ \psi & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \alpha = \tau'_2 \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_2] & \text{if } \tau'_1 = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_2) \\ \psi[\alpha \mapsto \tau'_1] & \text{if } \tau'_2 = \alpha \wedge \neg \text{occur}(\alpha, \tau'_1) \end{array} \right.$$

where  $\tau'_1 = \text{resolve}(\tau_1, \psi)$  and  $\tau'_2 = \text{resolve}(\tau_2, \psi)$ .

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 + (k -> Some(rty))
    case (lty, VarT(k)) if !occurs(k, lty) => sol + (k -> Some(lty))
    case _ => error(s"Cannot unify ${lty.str} and ${rty.str}")
```

# Contents

## 1. Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference

Solutions for Type Constraints

Numbers

Additions

Conditionals

Immutable Variable Definitions and Identifier Lookup

Function Definitions

Recursive Function Definitions

Function Applications

## 2. Type Unification

Type Resolving

Occurrence Checking

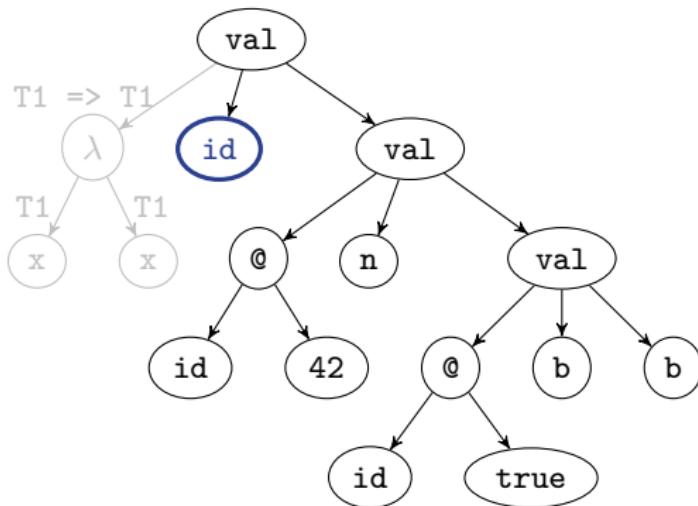
Type Unification

## 3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

## Recall: Example 3 – id



Type Environment

X	T
id	[T1] { T1 => T1 }

Solution

X <sub>α</sub>	T

Let's **generalize** the type  $T1 \Rightarrow T1$  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 Type Schemes

We need to extend the **type environment** with **type schemes**, restricted forms of polymorphic types.

Type Environments

$$\Gamma \in \Gamma = \mathbb{X} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \mathbb{T}^\forall$$

Type Schemes

$$\forall(\alpha^*). \tau = \tau^\forall \in \mathbb{T}^\forall = \mathbb{X}_\alpha^* \times \mathbb{T}$$

Types

$$\mathbb{T} \ni \tau ::= \text{num} \mid \text{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \alpha$$

Note that polymorphic types are not types in TIFAE, and **type schemes** are restricted forms of polymorphic types used in type environments.

We can define the **type environment** and **type schemes** in Scala:

```
// type environments
type TypeEnv = Map[String, TypeScheme]
// type schemes
case class TypeScheme(ks: List[Int], ty: Type)
```

# Immutable Variable Defs. with Type Generalization



```
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)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

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

We need to **generalize** the type  $\tau_1$  of the expression  $e_1$  into a **type scheme**  $\tau_1^\forall$  using the **type generalization** function  $\text{gen}$ . For example,

$$\text{gen}(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha, \emptyset, [\alpha \mapsto \bullet]) = \forall \alpha. (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$$

# Type Generalization

We can define the **type generalization** function  $\text{gen}$  as follows:

$$\boxed{\text{gen} : (\mathbb{T} \times \Gamma \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{\forall}}$$

$$\text{gen}(\tau, \Gamma, \psi) = \forall(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m).\tau \quad \text{where} \quad \text{free}_\tau(\tau, \psi) \setminus \text{free}_\Gamma(\Gamma, \psi) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\}$$

with the following definitions of **free type variables** in each component:

$$\boxed{\text{free}_\tau : (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}_\alpha)}$$

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

$$\boxed{\text{free}_{\tau^\forall} : (\mathbb{T}^\forall \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}_\alpha)}$$

$$\text{free}_{\tau^\forall}(\forall(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m).\tau, \psi) = \text{free}_\tau(\tau, \psi) \setminus \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\}$$

$$\boxed{\text{free}_\Gamma : (\Gamma \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}_\alpha)}$$

$$\text{free}_\Gamma([x_1 : \tau_1^\forall, \dots, x_n : \tau_n^\forall], \psi) = \text{free}_{\tau^\forall}(\tau_1^\forall, \psi) \cup \dots \cup \text{free}_{\tau^\forall}(\tau_n^\forall, \psi)$$

# Type Generalization

We can define the **type generalization** function  $\text{gen}$  as follows:

$$\text{gen} : (\mathbb{T} \times \Gamma \times \Psi) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{\forall}$$

$$\text{gen}(\tau, \Gamma, \psi) = \forall(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m).\tau \quad \text{where} \quad \text{free}_{\tau}(\tau, \psi) \setminus \text{free}_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, \psi) = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\}$$

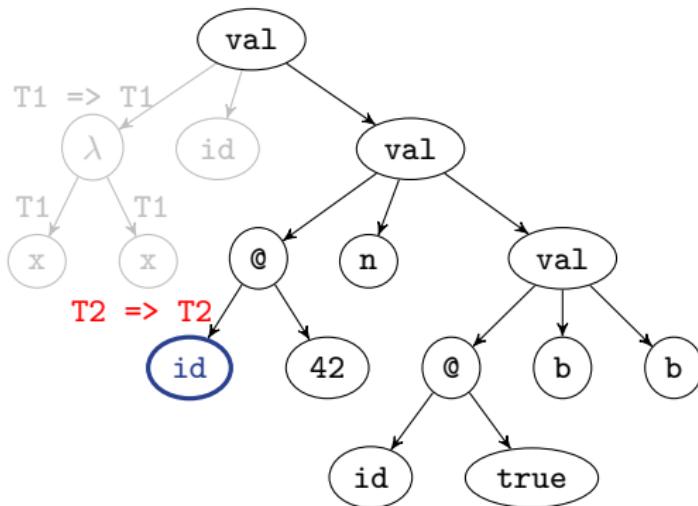
Why do we need to subtract the free type variables  $\text{free}_{\Gamma}(\Gamma, \psi)$  in the type environment  $\Gamma$  when generalizing the type  $\tau$ ?

Consider the following example:

```
/* TIFAE */
x => {
  // tyenv = [x: T1] and solution = [T1 -> _]      (T1 is free in tyenv)
  val z = x;           // z: T1 (0)    not    z: [T1] { T1 } (X)
  z                   // z: T1 (0)    not    z: T2          (X)
}
```

If we generalize the type  $T1$  to  $[T1] \{ T1 \Rightarrow T1 \}$  for  $z$ , the types of  $x$  and  $z$  will be different even though they have exactly the same value.

## Recall: Example 3 – id



Type Environment

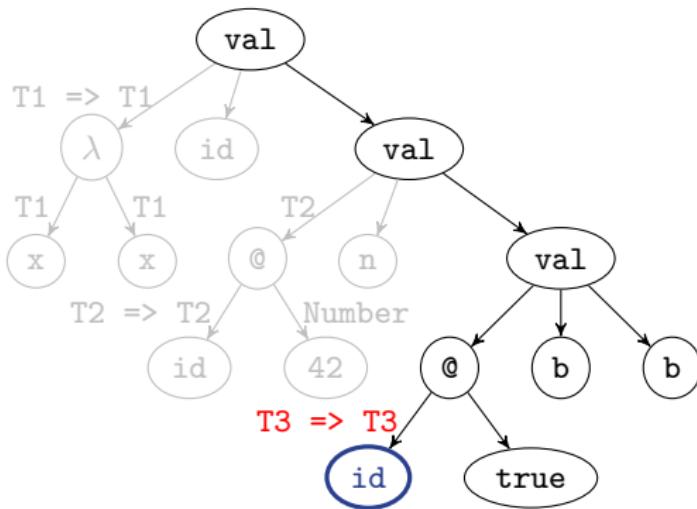
X	T
id	[T1] { $T_1 \Rightarrow T_1$ }

Solution

X $_{\alpha}$	T
T2	-

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

X	T
id	[T1] { T1 => T1 }
n	T2

Solution

$X_\alpha$	T
T2	Number
T3	-

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

```
def typeCheck(e: Expr, tenv: TypeEnv, sol: Solution): (Type, Solution) = e match
  ...
  case Id(x) =>
    val ty = tenv.getOrDefault(x, error(s"free identifier: $x"))
    inst(ty, sol)
```

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \psi \vdash e : \tau, \psi}$$

$$\tau\text{-Id} \frac{\Gamma(x) = \tau^\forall \quad \text{inst}(\tau^\forall, \psi) = (\tau, \psi')}{\Gamma, \psi \vdash x : \tau, \psi'}$$

We need to **instantiate** the type scheme  $\tau^\forall$  with new type variables using the **type instantiation** function `inst`. For example,

$$\text{inst}(\forall\alpha.(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha), \emptyset) = (\beta \rightarrow \beta, [\beta \mapsto \bullet])$$

# Type Instantiation

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

$$\boxed{\text{inst} : (\mathbb{T}^\forall \times \Psi) \rightarrow (\mathbb{T} \times \Psi)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{inst}(\forall(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m).\tau, \psi) = & ( \\ & \text{resolve}(\tau, \psi[\alpha_1 \mapsto \alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha_m \mapsto \alpha'_m]), \\ & \psi[\alpha'_1 \mapsto \bullet, \dots, \alpha'_m \mapsto \bullet] \\ )\end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha'_1, \dots, \alpha'_m \notin \psi \wedge \forall 1 \leq i < j \leq m. \alpha'_i \neq \alpha'_j$

# Summary

## 1. Type Checker and Typing Rules with Type Inference

Solutions for Type Constraints

Numbers

Additions

Conditionals

Immutable Variable Definitions and Identifier Lookup

Function Definitions

Recursive Function Definitions

Function Applications

## 2. Type Unification

Type Resolving

Occurrence Checking

Type Unification

## 3. Type Inference with Let-Polymorphism

Type Generalization

Type Instantiation

## Exercise #16

<https://github.com/ku-plrg-classroom/docs/tree/main/cose212/tifae>

- Please see above document 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.

- **Date:** 18:30 – 21:00 (150 min.), December 17 (Wed.).
- **Location:** B102, IT & General Education Center (정운오IT교양관)
- **Coverage:** Lectures 14 – 26
- **Format:** closed book and closed notes
  - Fill-in-the-blank questions about the PL concepts.
  - Write the evaluation results of given expressions.
  - Draw derivation trees of given expressions.
  - Define the syntax or semantics of extended language features.
  - Define typing rules for the given language features.
  - etc.
- Note that there is **no class** on **December 15 (Mon.)**.

# Next Lecture

- Course Review

Jihyeok Park  
[jihyeok\\_park@korea.ac.kr](mailto:jihyeok_park@korea.ac.kr)  
<https://plrg.korea.ac.kr>