Implementing Baker's SUBTYPEP decision procedure

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♀ European Lisp Symposium



Introduction

Common Lisp type system, subtypep & Baker's decision procedure

The Common Lisp type system

- lacktriangleright Types ightarrow sets, subtypes ightarrow subsets
- lacktriangle S-expression based, inductive Domain-Specific Language o type specifiers
- Examples
 - > Atomic → string, integer, my-class, ...
 - > Compound form

 - \bigcirc (unsigned-byte 10) $\equiv \{0, 1, \dots, 2^{10} 1\}$
 - $_{ extstyle eta}$ (array real (3 3)) $\equiv \mathcal{M}_{3,3}(\mathbb{R})$
 - Many more!

Use case

$$\forall M \in \mathcal{M}_{3,3}(\mathbb{R}), tr(M) = \sum_{i=1}^{3} M_{i,j}$$

```
λ Common Lisp

(defun tr (M)
(declare (type (array real (3 3)) M))
(+ (aref M 0 0)
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- Type checking
- Value checking
- Compiler optimization
- Documentation

- (subtypep $\langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle$) $\equiv A \subseteq B$?
- ▶ Predicate function

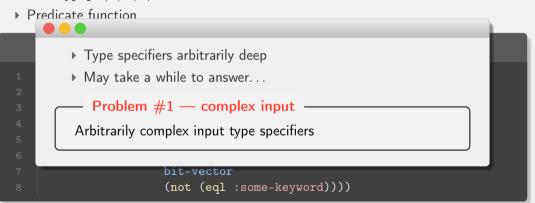
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```
λ "Oh dear, we are in trouble" 😥
  (subtypep '(or string
                  my-class
                  (and integer
                        (not (unsigned-byte 10)))
                  (member 3.14 2.71))
             '(and (array * (* * 8 *))
                   (not (eql :some-keyword))))
```

```
• (subtypep \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle) \equiv A \subseteq B?
```



- (satisfies $\langle predicate \rangle$) $\equiv \{x \mid predicate(x)\}$
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Problem #2 — undecidability

Subtypep cannot answer for some type specifiers

subtypep

$$(\text{subtypep } \langle A \rangle \ \langle B \rangle) = \begin{cases} (\texttt{T T}) & \to A \subseteq B \\ (\texttt{NIL T}) & \to A \not\subseteq B \\ (\texttt{NIL NIL}) & \to \text{`'I can't answer''} \end{cases}$$

▶ (NIL NIL) encodes undecidability

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- ▶ (NIL NIL) encodes undecidability "input too complex"
- Lack of reliability
- Painful limit for some applications
 - > Newton's regular type expressions
 - > Newton's optimized typecase implementation

- + focus on result accuracy
- + never returns (NIL NIL) uselessly
- paper difficult to read
- not exhaustive
- very few solutions about satisfies

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- not open source

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Application

Use case of subtypep

The problem

- ▶ Serialize CLOS instances → JSON
- ▶ Automatic JSON object construction

```
Common Lisp
(defclass point ()
  ((x :type number
      :initarg :x)
   (v:type number
   (name : type string
         :initarg :name))
  (:metaclass json-serializable))
(json-serialize (make-instance
\rightarrow 'point :x -10 :y 3.2 :name
   "A1"))
```

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CLOS setup

```
Common Lisp
(defclass json-serializable (standard-class)
  ())
(defmethod validate-superclass
    ((class json-serializable) (superclass standard-class))
 t)
(defmethod validate-superclass
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(defgeneric json-serialize (instance))
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(defgeneric json-serialize (instance))
```

- ▶ No restriction on subclassing
- ▶ But restrictions on existence!

json-serializable existence condition

- ▶ Slots
 - ightharpoonup names ightharpoonup symbols
 - ∇ values \rightarrow virtually any type

json-serializable existence condition

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 - ightharpoonup names ightarrow symbols
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```
Common Lisp
(deftype json ()
  '(or number
       string
       (member :true
                :null)
       (and symbol
            (not keyword))
       list
       hash-table))
```

json-serializable existence condition

- ▶ Slots
 - \land names \rightarrow symbols
 - ∇ values \rightarrow virtually any type
- ▶ Types of slots $\rightarrow u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$
 - $> u_i \subseteq json$
 - \Rightarrow (subtypep u_i 'json)
- ▶ Trigger compile-time error

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Common Lisp
(deftype json ()
  '(or number
       string
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json-serializable existence check

```
Common Lisp
(defun json-compatible-class-p (class)
  (let* ((slots (class-slots class))
         (types (mapcar #'slot-definition-type slots)))
    (every (lambda (slot-type)
             (subtypep slot-type 'ison))
           types)))
(defmethod initialize-instance ((class json-serializable)
                                &rest args)
  (let ((class (call-next-method)))
    (closer-mop:ensure-finalized class nil)
    (unless (json-compatible-class-p class)
      (error "class ~a is not JSON-compatible" class))
    cls))
```

employee class

```
Common Lisp
(defclass employee ()
 ((name :type (or string
                    (and symbol
                         (not keyword))
                   unsigned-byte))
   (half-time-p (or boolean
                     (member : true
                             :false))))
  (:metaclass json-serializable))
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employee **class**

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(defclass employee ()
  ((name :type (or string
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```

 \blacktriangleright 2 subtypep calls \rightarrow one per slot

Pre-processing

Simplifying the problem

Pre-processing steps

```
\lambda name's type verification
  (subtypep '(or string
                   (and symbol
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- ▶ alias expansion
 - > implementation dependant feature
 - > sb-ext:typexpand

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 - > syntactic sugar elimination
 - > numeric types specific actions

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- splitting
 - > "litteral" types
 - > "numeric" types

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- ▶ alias expansion
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- more preprocessing!
 - > syntactic sugar elimination
 - > numeric types specific actions
- splitting
 - > "litteral" types
 - > "numeric" types
- subtyping equivalence

```
Litteral types splitting
(subtypep '(or string
               (and symbol
                    (not keyword))
               unsigned-byte)
          '(or number
               string
               (member :true
                       :false
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                    (not keyword))
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               hash-table))
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Numeric types splitting
  (subtypep '(or string
                  (and symbol
                       (not keyword))
                  unsigned-byte)
             '(or number
                  string
                  (member :true
                          :false
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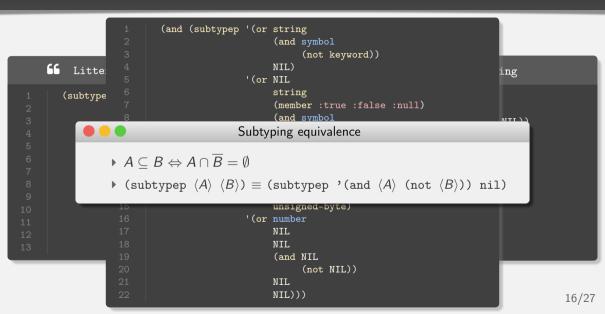
```
Litteral types splitting
(subtypep '(or string
               (and symbol
                    (not keyword))
               NIL)
          '(or NIL
               string
               (member :true
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Numeric types splitting
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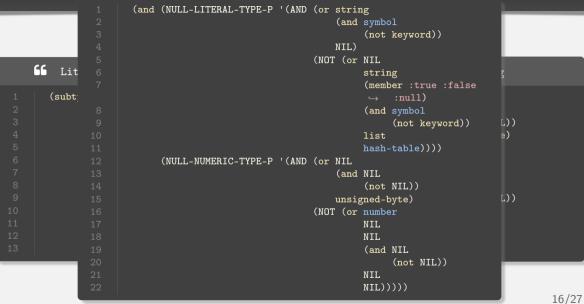
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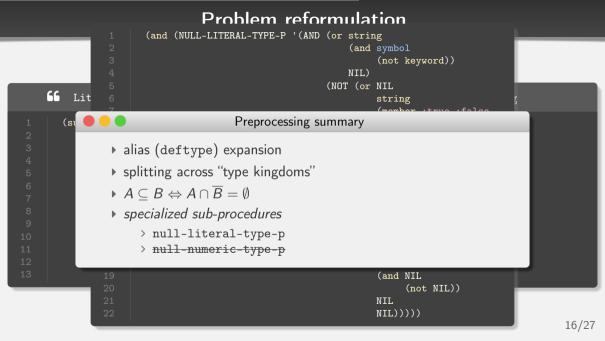
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Literal types specialized sub-procedure

Primitive types, member type specifiers, CLOS classes

The MatrixTM

Some assumptions -

lacktriangle We can enumerate all Common Lisp values $ightarrow e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_\omega$

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```
\emptyset = \{\} (a.k.a. nil)

u_1 = \{e_1, e_3, e_4\}

u_2 = \{e_1\}

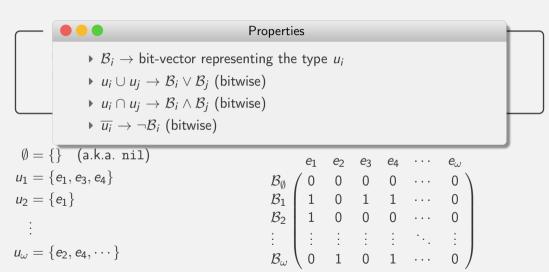
\vdots

u_{\omega} = \{e_2, e_4, \cdots\}
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- We can enumerate all combinations of these $o u_1, u_2, \dots, u_\omega$
 - > all Common Lisp types!

$$e_i \in u_j \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{j,i} = 1$$
 $\emptyset = \{\} \ (a.k.a. \ nil)$
 $e_1 \in e_2 \quad e_3 \quad e_4 \quad \cdots \quad e_\omega$
 $u_1 = \{e_1, e_3, e_4\}$
 $u_2 = \{e_1\}$
 \vdots
 $u_\omega = \{e_2, e_4, \cdots\}$
 \mathcal{B}_0
 \mathcal



null-literal-type-p

$$\begin{array}{l} (\mathtt{subtypep} \ \langle u_i \rangle \ \langle u_j \rangle) \equiv u_i \subseteq u_j \\ \Leftrightarrow u_i \cap \overline{u_j} = \emptyset \\ \equiv (\mathtt{null-literal-type-p} \ \texttt{'(and} \ \langle u_i \rangle \ (\mathtt{not} \ \langle u_j \rangle))) \\ \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{B}_i \wedge \neg \mathcal{B}_j = \mathcal{B}_\emptyset \end{array}$$

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- lacktriangle All about matrix lookups & bitwise operations on bit-vectors
- ▶ Very fast, but...

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- ▶ All about matrix lookups & bitwise operations on bit-vectors
- ▶ Very fast, but...
- ... still an infinite matrix!

$$\begin{array}{c} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 & e_4 & \cdots & e_N & \cdots \\ \mathcal{B}_{\emptyset} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots \\ \mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{M}} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

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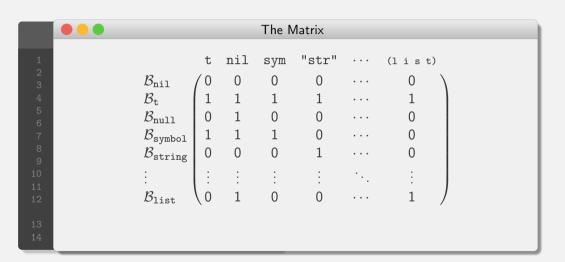
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 - > only *sufficiently many*
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- $lackbox{Not just "values"}
 ightarrow representative$ elements

```
Common Lisp
(null-literal-type-p
'(and (or string
          (and symbol
                (not keyword))
          nil)
      (not (or nil
                string
                (member : true
                (and symbol
                     (not
                          keyword))
                list
                hash-table))))
```

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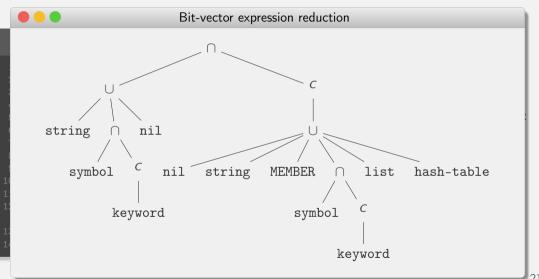
Matrix setup

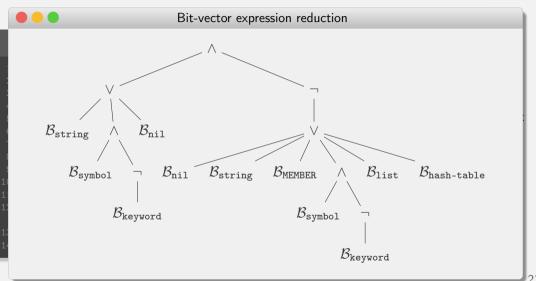
- > primitive types known at compile-time
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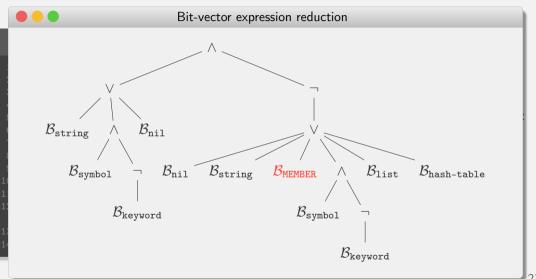


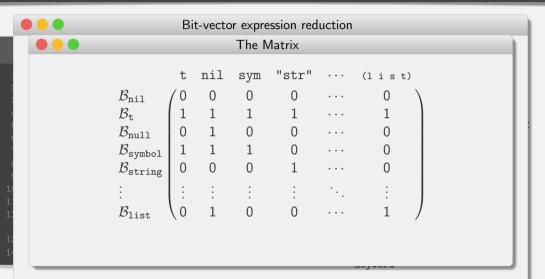
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- Lookup bit-vectors & translate logic operators

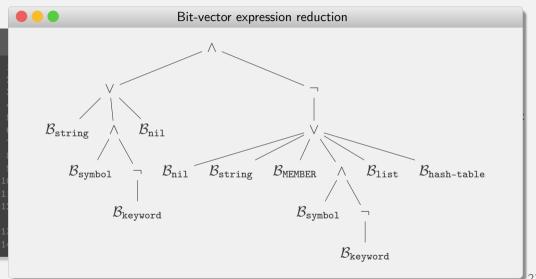








• • •			Bit-	vector ex	pressio	on reduction			
● ● ● The Matrix									
	t	nil	sym	"str"		(l i s t)	:true	:false	:null
$\mathcal{B}_{ exttt{nil}}$	/0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0 \
$\mathcal{B}_{ t t}$	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
$\mathcal{B}_{ exttt{null}}$	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0
$\mathcal{B}_{ t symbol}$	1	1	1	0		0	1	1	1
$\mathcal{B}_{ exttt{string}}$		0	0	1		0	0	0	0
:	:	:	:	:	٠.	:	:	:	:
$\mathcal{B}_{ t list}$	0	1	0	0		1	0	0	0
$\mathcal{B}_{ exttt{MEMBER}}$	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	1 /
							110, 1101 4		

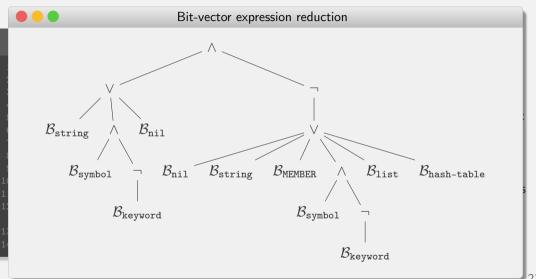


Back to our problem

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Common Lisp
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- Matrix setup
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- (member $\langle a \rangle$ $\langle b \rangle$) type specifier bit-vector
 - 1. register a and b as representatives
 - 2. $\mathcal{B}_{(\text{member }\langle a\rangle\ \langle b\rangle)}=\mathcal{B}_{\{a\}}\vee\mathcal{B}_{\{b\}}$

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 - 1. register a and b as representatives
 - 2. $\mathcal{B}_{(\text{member }\langle a\rangle\ \langle b\rangle)}=\mathcal{B}_{\{a\}}\vee\mathcal{B}_{\{b\}}$
- Eventually reduces to $\mathcal{B}_{\mathtt{nil}}$
- ▶ null-literal-type-p returns true

```
(subtypep '(or string)
(and symbol)
(not keyword))
unsigned-byte)
'json)
```

```
(and (NULL-LITERAL-TYPE-P '(AND (or string
                                     (and symbol
                                           (not keyword))
                                     NIL)
                                 (NOT (or NIL
                                          string
                                           (member :true :false
                                           (and symbol
                                                (not keyword))
                                          list
                                          hash-table))))
     (NULL-NUMERIC-TYPE-P '(AND (or NIL
                                     (and NIL
                                           (not NIL))
                                     unsigned-byte)
                                 (NOT (or number
                                          NIL
                                          NIL
                                           (and NIL
                                                (not NIL))
                                          NIL
                                          NIL)))))
```

```
✓ employee.name
```

```
(subtypep '(or string)
(and symbol)
(not keyword))
unsigned-byte)
'json'
```

```
(subtypep '(or string)
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```

```
 employee.name
 employee.half-time-p
```

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```
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```
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```
(subtypep '(or string)
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```

- ✓ employee.name
- ✓ employee.half-time-p

Conclusion

```
employee is JSON-
compatible! >
```

Going further

CLOS classes & null-numeric-type-p

CLOS classes

- ightharpoonup Issue ightarrow find a representative instance
- lacktriangle Cannot use make-instance ightarrow possible side-effects
- ▶ Baker's solution
 - > hook into defclass/defstruct implementation
 - not portable
 - maybe not trivial
- ➤ Our solution → the Meta Object Protoco
 - > register class prototypes → "fake" instances
 - portable
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null-numeric-type-p

- Many representations of numerical data types
- ▶ Range representation available \rightarrow (integer (12) *)
- lacktriangle Subtyping problem \Rightarrow interval combination canonicalization
- Exponential theoretical complexity
 - > acceptable in practice

Conclusion

- ▶ Baker's decision procedure
- ▶ Implementation
 - > Pre-processing
 - > Primitive types, CLOS classes, member type specifiers
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- ▶ Still a work in progress
- ▶ Intuitively more accurate
- ▶ More efficient

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Thanks for listening! 🤐

Any question?