

# First-Class Patterns as Types

- We already have seen that patterns behave like data types, consider,
  - let x:%integer = v.
- Here the pattern %integer that matches all integer values limits what kind of values can be assigned to the variable x.
- That is precisely what type declarations do!



#### Subtypes

- First-class patterns can be used to define subtypes of existing types
- Consider for example,

```
let Pos_Int = pattern %[k if (k is %integer) and (k>0)]%.
let x:*Pos_Int = v.
```

- Here we can treat the pattern Pos\_Int as a subtype of the integers, in effect we have
  - Pos\_Int < integer</li>



### Supertypes

 We can use first class patterns to also define supertypes, consider

```
let Scalar = pattern %[x if (x is %integer) or (x is %real)]%.
let i:*Scalar = v.
```

- Here the second let statement is only successful if it fulfills the requirements of the pattern Scalar.
- In effect, Scalar acts like a supertype of real and integer
- or more precisely it acts like an abstract base class since you since you cannot instantiate a value of type Scalar.



## Sub- and Supertypes

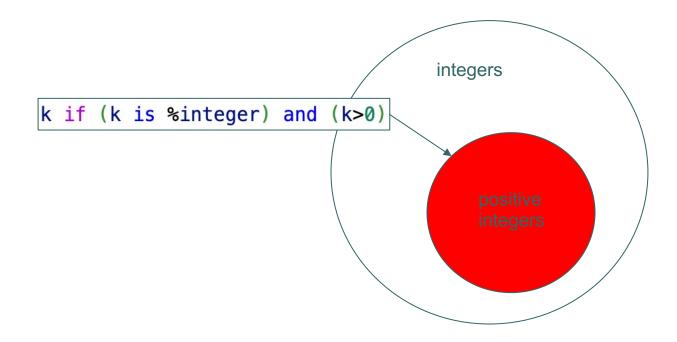
 We use first-class patterns to instantiate both subtypes and supertypes – how do they differ?



### Sub- and Supertypes

 Subtypes: the pattern definition adds conditions that contract a given data type

```
let Pos_Int = pattern %[k if (k is %integer) and (k>0)]%.
```





#### Sub- and Supertypes

 Supertypes: the pattern definition expands given data types so that the supertype pattern covers more objects than any given data type within the pattern definition.

```
let Scalar = pattern %[x if (x is %integer) or (x is %real)]%.
```

```
x if (x is %integer) or (x is %real)

scalar

integers
```



## Programming with Patterns as Data Types

- We an impose a certain amount of type safety with patterns as data types
  - Specification of function domains
  - Type safety for objects using patterns as types in constructors
  - Subtype polymorphism



#### **Function Domains**

```
let Pos_Int = pattern %[(x:%integer) if x>0]%.

function fact
    with 0 do
        1
    with n:*Pos_Int do
        n*fact(n-1)
end

assert (fact 3 == 6).
```

In016/fact.ast



#### Objects

```
structure Address with
   data street.
   data city.
   data zip.
   function __init__ with (street:%string,city:%string,zip:%string) do
      let this@street = street.
      let this@city = city.
      let this@zip = zip.
   end
end
structure Person with
   data name.
   data profession.
   data address.
   function __init__ with (name:%string,profession:%string,address:%Address) do
      let this@name = name.
      let this@profession = profession.
      let this@address = address.
   end
end
let joe = Person("Joe", "Carpenter", Address("532 Main Street", "Newport", "02840")).
```