

Scala 3 Reference

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1 Overview

Scala 3 implements many language changes and improvements over Scala 2. In this reference, we discuss design decisions and present important differences compared to Scala 2.

1.1 Goals

The language redesign was guided by three main goals:

- Strengthen Scala’s foundations. Make the full programming language compatible with the foundational work on the [DOT calculus](#) and apply the lessons learned from that work.
- Make Scala easier and safer to use. Tame powerful constructs such as implicits to provide a gentler learning curve. Remove warts and puzzlers.
- Further improve the consistency and expressiveness of Scala’s language constructs.

Corresponding to these goals, the language changes fall into seven categories: (1) Core constructs to strengthen foundations, (2) simplifications and (3) **restrictions**, to make the language easier and safer to use, (4) **dropped constructs** to make the language smaller and more regular, (5) **changed constructs** to remove warts, and increase consistency and usability, (6) **new constructs** to fill gaps and increase expressiveness, (7) a new, principled approach to metaprogramming that replaces [Scala 2 experimental macros](#).

1.2 Essential Foundations

These new constructs directly model core features of DOT, higher-kinded types, and the [SI calculus for implicit resolution](#).

- **Intersection types**, replacing compound types,
- **Union types**,
- **Type lambdas**, replacing encodings using structural types and type projection.
- **Context functions**, offering abstraction over given parameters.

1.3 Simplifications

These constructs replace existing constructs with the aim of making the language safer and simpler to use, and to promote uniformity in code style.

- **Trait parameters** replace **early initializers** with a more generally useful construct.
- **Given instances** replace implicit objects and defs, focussing on intent over mechanism.
- **Using clauses** replace implicit parameters, avoiding their ambiguities.
- **Extension methods** replace implicit classes with a clearer and simpler mechanism.
- **Opaque type aliases** replace most uses of value classes while guaranteeing absence of boxing.
- **Top-level definitions** replace package objects, dropping syntactic boilerplate.
- **Export clauses** provide a simple and general way to express aggregation, which can replace the previous facade pattern of package objects inheriting from classes.

- **Vararg splices** now use the form `xs*` in function arguments and patterns instead of `xs: _*` and `xs @ _*`,
- **Universal apply methods** allow using simple function call syntax instead of new expressions. new expressions stay around as a fallback for the cases where creator applications cannot be used.

With the exception of **early initializers** and old-style vararg patterns, all superseded constructs continue to be available in Scala 3.0. The plan is to deprecate and phase them out later.

Value classes (superseded by opaque type aliases) are a special case. There are currently no deprecation plans for value classes, since we might bring them back in a more general form if they are supported natively by the JVM as is planned by [project Valhalla](#).

1.4 Restrictions

These constructs are restricted to make the language safer.

- **Implicit Conversions**: there is only one way to define implicit conversions instead of many, and potentially surprising implicit conversions require a language import.
- **Given Imports**: implicits now require a special form of import, to make the import clearly visible.
- **Type Projection**: only classes can be used as prefix `C` of a type projection `C#A`. Type projection on abstract types is no longer supported since it is unsound.
- **Multiversal Equality**: implement an “opt-in” scheme to rule out nonsensical comparisons with `==` and `!=`.
- **infix**: make method application syntax uniform across code bases.

Unrestricted implicit conversions continue to be available in Scala 3.0, but will be deprecated and removed later. Unrestricted versions of the other constructs in the list above are available only under `-source 3.0-migration`.

1.5 Dropped Constructs

These constructs are proposed to be dropped without a new construct replacing them. The motivation for dropping these constructs is to simplify the language and its implementation.

- **DelayedInit**,
- **Existential types**,
- **Procedure syntax**,
- **Class shadowing**,
- **XML literals**,
- **Symbol literals**,
- **Auto application**,
- **Weak conformance**,
- Compound types (replaced by **Intersection types**),
- **Auto tupling** (implemented, but not merged).

The date when these constructs are dropped varies. The current status is:

- Not implemented at all:

- DelayedInit, existential types, weak conformance.
- Supported under `-source 3.0-migration`:
 - procedure syntax, class shadowing, symbol literals, auto application, auto tupling in a restricted form.
- Supported in 3.0, to be deprecated and phased out later:
 - **XML literals**, compound types.

1.6 Changes

These constructs have undergone changes to make them more regular and useful.

- **Structural Types**: They now allow pluggable implementations, which greatly increases their usefulness. Some usage patterns are restricted compared to the status quo.
- **Name-based pattern matching**: The existing undocumented Scala 2 implementation has been codified in a slightly simplified form.
- **Automatic Eta expansion**: Eta expansion is now performed universally also in the absence of an expected type. The postfix `_` operator is thus made redundant. It will be deprecated and dropped after Scala 3.0.
- **Implicit Resolution**: The implicit resolution rules have been cleaned up to make them more useful and less surprising. Implicit scope is restricted to no longer include package prefixes.

Most aspects of old-style implicit resolution are still available under `-source 3.0-migration`. The other changes in this list are applied unconditionally.

1.7 New Constructs

These are additions to the language that make it more powerful or pleasant to use.

- **Enums** provide concise syntax for enumerations and **algebraic data types**.
- **Parameter untupling** avoids having to use `case` for tupled parameter destructuring.
- **Dependent function types** generalize dependent methods to dependent function values and types.
- **Polymorphic function types** generalize polymorphic methods to polymorphic function values and types. Current status: There is a proposal and a merged prototype implementation, but the implementation has not been finalized (it is notably missing type inference support).
- **Kind polymorphism** allows the definition of operators working equally on types and type constructors.
- **@targetName annotations** make it easier to interoperate with code written in other languages and give more flexibility for avoiding name clashes.

1.8 Metaprogramming

The following constructs together aim to put metaprogramming in Scala on a new basis. So far, metaprogramming was achieved by a combination of macros and libraries such as [Shapeless](#) that were in turn based on some key macros. Current Scala 2 macro mechanisms

are a thin veneer on top the current Scala 2 compiler, which makes them fragile and in many cases impossible to port to Scala 3.

It's worth noting that macros were never included in the [Scala 2 language specification](#) and were so far made available only under an `-experimental` flag. This has not prevented their widespread usage.

To enable porting most uses of macros, we are experimenting with the advanced language constructs listed below. These designs are more provisional than the rest of the proposed language constructs for Scala 3.0. There might still be some changes until the final release. Stabilizing the feature set needed for metaprogramming is our first priority.

- **Match Types** allow computation on types.
- **Inline** provides by itself a straightforward implementation of some simple macros and is at the same time an essential building block for the implementation of complex macros.
- **Quotes and Splices** provide a principled way to express macros and staging with a unified set of abstractions.
- **Type class derivation** provides an in-language implementation of the Gen macro in Shapeless and other foundational libraries. The new implementation is more robust, efficient and easier to use than the macro.
- **By-name context parameters** provide a more robust in-language implementation of the Lazy macro in Shapeless.

1.9 See Also

A **classification of proposed language features** is an expanded version of this page that adds the status (i.e. relative importance to be a part of Scala 3, and relative urgency when to decide this) and expected migration cost of each language construct.

1.10 Soft Keywords

A soft modifier is one of the identifiers `opaque`, `inline`, `open`, `transparent`, and `infix`.

A soft keyword is a soft modifier, or one of `derives`, `end`, `extension`, `using`, `|`, `+`, `-`, `*`

A soft modifier is treated as potential modifier of a definition if it is followed by a hard modifier or a keyword combination starting a definition (`def`, `val`, `var`, `type`, `given`, `class`, `trait`, `object`, `enum`, `case class`, `case object`). Between the two words there may be a sequence of newline tokens and soft modifiers.

Otherwise, soft keywords are treated specially in the following situations:

- `inline`, if it is followed by any token that can start an expression.
- `derives`, if it appears after an extension clause or after the name and possibly parameters of a class, trait, object, or enum definition.
- `end`, if it appears at the start of a line following a statement (i.e. definition or toplevel expression)
- `extension`, if it appears at the start of a statement and is followed by `(` or `[`.
- `using`, if it appears at the start of a parameter or argument list.

- `as`, in a renaming import clause
- `|`, if it separates two patterns in an alternative.
- `+`, `-`, if they appear in front of a type parameter.
- `*`, in a wildcard import, or it follows the type of a parameter, or if it appears in a vararg splice `x*`.

Everywhere else a soft keyword is treated as a normal identifier.

2 New Types [↗](#)

2.1 Intersection types [↗](#)

Used on types, the & operator creates an intersection type.

2.1.1 Type Checking

The type `S & T` represents values that are of the type `S` and `T` at the same time.

```
trait Resettable:
  def reset(): Unit

trait Growable[T]:
  def add(t: T): Unit

def f(x: Resettable & Growable[String]) =
  x.reset()
  x.add("first")
```

The parameter `x` is required to be both a `Resettable` and a `Growable[String]`.

The members of an intersection type `A & B` are all the members of `A` and all the members of `B`. For instance `Resettable & Growable[String]` has member methods `reset` and `add`.

& is commutative: `A & B` is the same type as `B & A`.

If a member appears in both `A` and `B`, its type in `A & B` is the intersection of its type in `A` and its type in `B`. For instance, assume the definitions:

```
trait A:
  def children: List[A]

trait B:
  def children: List[B]

val x: A & B = new C
val ys: List[A & B] = x.children
```

The type of `children` in `A & B` is the intersection of `children`'s type in `A` and its type in `B`, which is `List[A] & List[B]`. This can be further simplified to `List[A & B]` because `List` is covariant.

One might wonder how the compiler could come up with a definition for `children` of type `List[A & B]` since what is given are `children` definitions of type `List[A]` and `List[B]`. The answer is the compiler does not need to. `A & B` is just a type that represents a set of requirements for values of the type. At the point where a value is constructed, one must make sure that all inherited members are correctly defined. So if one defines a class `C` that inherits `A` and `B`, one needs to give at that point a definition of a `children` method with the required type.

```
class C extends A, B:
  def children: List[A & B] = ???
```

[More details](#)

2.2 Union types [↗](#)

A union type $A \mid B$ has as values all values of type A and also all values of type B .

```
case class UserName(name: String)
case class Password(hash: Hash)

def help(id: UserName | Password) =
  val user = id match
    case UserName(name) => lookupName(name)
    case Password(hash) => lookupPassword(hash)
  ...
```

Union types are duals of intersection types. \mid is commutative: $A \mid B$ is the same type as $B \mid A$.

The compiler will assign a union type to an expression only if such a type is explicitly given. This can be seen in the following [REPL](#) transcript:

```
scala> val password = Password(123)
val password: Password = Password(123)

scala> val name = UserName("Eve")
val name: UserName = UserName(Eve)

scala> if true then name else password
val res2: Object & Product = UserName(Eve)

scala> val either: Password | UserName = if true then name else password
val either: Password | UserName = UserName(Eve)
```

The type of `res2` is `Object & Product`, which is a supertype of `UserName` and `Password`, but not the least supertype `Password | UserName`. If we want the least supertype, we have to give it explicitly, as is done for the type of `either`.

[More details](#)

2.3 Type lambdas [↗](#)

A type lambda lets one express a higher-kinded type directly, without a type definition.

```
[X, Y] =>> Map[Y, X]
```

For instance, the type above defines a binary type constructor, which maps arguments X and Y to `Map[Y, X]`. Type parameters of type lambdas can have bounds, but they cannot carry $+$ or $-$ variance annotations.

More details

2.4 Match Types [↗](#)

A match type reduces to one of its right-hand sides, depending on the type of its scrutinee. For example:

```
type Elem[X] = X match
  case String => Char
  case Array[t] => t
  case Iterable[t] => t
```

This defines a type that reduces as follows:

```
Elem[String]      ::= Char
Elem[Array[Int]]   ::= Int
Elem[List[Float]]  ::= Float
Elem[Nil.type]     ::= Nothing
```

Here `::=` is understood to mean that left and right-hand sides are mutually subtypes of each other.

In general, a match type is of the form

```
S match { P1 => T1 ... Pn => Tn }
```

where `S`, `T1`, ..., `Tn` are types and `P1`, ..., `Pn` are type patterns. Type variables in patterns start with a lower case letter, as usual.

Match types can form part of recursive type definitions. Example:

```
type LeafElem[X] = X match
  case String => Char
  case Array[t] => LeafElem[t]
  case Iterable[t] => LeafElem[t]
  case AnyVal => X
```

Recursive match type definitions can also be given an upper bound, like this:

```
type Concat[Xs <: Tuple, +Ys <: Tuple] <: Tuple = Xs match
  case EmptyTuple => Ys
  case x *: xs => x *: Concat[xs, Ys]
```

In this definition, every instance of `Concat[A, B]`, whether reducible or not, is known to be a subtype of `Tuple`. This is necessary to make the recursive invocation `x *: Concat[xs, Ys]` type check, since `*` demands a `Tuple` as its right operand.

2.4.1 Dependent Typing

Match types can be used to define dependently typed methods. For instance, here is the value level counterpart to the `LeafElem` type defined above (note the use of the match type as the return type):

```
def leafElem[X](x: X): LeafElem[X] = x match
  case x: String      => x.charAt(0)
  case x: Array[t]    => leafElem(x(9))
  case x: Iterable[t] => leafElem(x.head)
  case x: AnyVal      => x
```

This special mode of typing for match expressions is only used when the following conditions are met:

1. The match expression patterns do not have guards
2. The match expression scrutinee's type is a subtype of the match type scrutinee's type
3. The match expression and the match type have the same number of cases
4. The match expression patterns are all [Typed Patterns](#), and these types are `==` to their corresponding type patterns in the match type

2.4.2 Representation of Match Types

The internal representation of a match type

`S match { P1 => T1 ... Pn => Tn }`

is `Match(S, C1, ..., Cn) <: B` where each case `Ci` is of the form

`[Xs] ==> P => T`

Here, `[Xs]` is a type parameter clause of the variables bound in pattern `Pi`. If there are no bound type variables in a case, the type parameter clause is omitted and only the function type `P => T` is kept. So each case is either a unary function type or a type lambda over a unary function type.

`B` is the declared upper bound of the match type, or `Any` if no such bound is given. We will leave it out in places where it does not matter for the discussion. The scrutinee, bound, and pattern types must all be first-order types.

2.4.3 Match Type Reduction

Match type reduction follows the semantics of match expressions, that is, a match type of the form `S match { P1 => T1 ... Pn => Tn }` reduces to `Ti` if and only if `s: S match { _: P1 => T1 ... _: Pn => Tn }` evaluates to a value of type `Ti` for all `s: S`.

The compiler implements the following reduction algorithm:

- If the scrutinee type `S` is an empty set of values (such as `Nothing` or `String & Int`), do not reduce.
- Sequentially consider each pattern `Pi`
 - If `S <: Pi` reduce to `Ti`.
 - Otherwise, try constructing a proof that `S` and `Pi` are disjoint, or, in other words, that no value `s` of type `S` is also of type `Pi`.
 - If such proof is found, proceed to the next case (`Pi+1`), otherwise, do not reduce.

Disjointness proofs rely on the following properties of Scala types:

1. Single inheritance of classes
2. Final classes cannot be extended
3. Constant types with distinct values are nonintersecting
4. Singleton paths to distinct values are nonintersecting, such as object definitions or singleton enum cases.

Type parameters in patterns are minimally instantiated when computing $S <: P_i$. An instantiation I_s is minimal for X_s if all type variables in X_s that appear covariantly and nonvariantly in I_s are as small as possible and all type variables in X_s that appear contravariantly in I_s are as large as possible. Here, “small” and “large” are understood with respect to $<:$.

For simplicity, we have omitted constraint handling so far. The full formulation of subtyping tests describes them as a function from a constraint and a pair of types to either success and a new constraint or failure. In the context of reduction, the subtyping test $S <: [X_s := I_s] P$ is understood to leave the bounds of all variables in the input constraint unchanged, i.e. existing variables in the constraint cannot be instantiated by matching the scrutinee against the patterns.

2.4.4 Subtyping Rules for Match Types

The following rules apply to match types. For simplicity, we omit environments and constraints.

1. The first rule is a structural comparison between two match types:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 S \text{ match } \{ P_1 \Rightarrow T_1 \dots P_m \Rightarrow T_m \} <: T \text{ match } \{ Q_1 \Rightarrow U_1 \dots Q_n \Rightarrow U_n \} \\
 \text{if} \\
 S ::= T, \quad m \geq n, \quad P_i ::= Q_i \text{ and } T_i <: U_i \text{ for } i \text{ in } 1..n
 \end{array}$$

I.e. scrutinees and patterns must be equal and the corresponding bodies must be subtypes. No case re-ordering is allowed, but the subtype can have more cases than the supertype.

2. The second rule states that a match type and its redux are mutual subtypes.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 S \text{ match } \{ P_1 \Rightarrow T_1 \dots P_n \Rightarrow T_n \} <: U \\
 U <: S \text{ match } \{ P_1 \Rightarrow T_1 \dots P_n \Rightarrow T_n \} \\
 \text{if}
 \end{array}$$

$$S \text{ match } \{ P_1 \Rightarrow T_1 \dots P_n \Rightarrow T_n \} \text{ reduces to } U$$

3. The third rule states that a match type conforms to its upper bound:

$$(S \text{ match } \{ P_1 \Rightarrow T_1 \dots P_n \Rightarrow T_n \} <: B) <: B$$

2.4.5 Termination

Match type definitions can be recursive, which means that it’s possible to run into an infinite loop while reducing match types.

Since reduction is linked to subtyping, we already have a cycle detection mechanism in place. As a result, the following will already give a reasonable error message:

```
type L[X] = X match
  case Int => L[X]

def g[X]: L[X] = ???

|   val x: Int = g[Int]
|               ^
| Recursion limit exceeded.
| Maybe there is an illegal cyclic reference?
| If that's not the case, you could also try to
| increase the stacksize using the -Xss JVM option.
| A recurring operation is (inner to outer):
|
|   subtype LazyRef(Test.L[Int]) <:< Int
```

Internally, the Scala compiler detects these cycles by turning selected stack overflows into type errors. If there is a stack overflow during subtyping, the exception will be caught and turned into a compile-time error that indicates a trace of the subtype tests that caused the overflow without showing a full stack trace.

2.4.6 Variance Laws for Match Types

Note: This section does not reflect the current implementation.

Within a match type `Match(S, Cs) <: B`, all occurrences of type variables count as co-variant. By the nature of the cases `Ci` this means that occurrences in pattern position are contravariant (since patterns are represented as function type arguments).

2.4.7 Related Work

Match types have similarities with [closed type families](#) in Haskell. Some differences are:

- Subtyping instead of type equalities.
- Match type reduction does not tighten the underlying constraint, whereas type family reduction does unify. This difference in approach mirrors the difference between local type inference in Scala and global type inference in Haskell.

Match types are also similar to Typescript's [conditional types](#). The main differences here are:

- Conditional types only reduce if both the scrutinee and pattern are ground, whereas match types also work for type parameters and abstract types.
- Match types support direct recursion.
- Conditional types distribute through union types.

2.5 Dependent Function Types

A dependent function type is a function type whose result depends on the function's parameters. For example:

```
trait Entry { type Key; val key: Key }

def extractKey(e: Entry): e.Key = e.key           // a dependent method

val extractor: (e: Entry) => e.Key = extractKey    // a dependent function value
//                                     ~~~~~
//                                     a dependent function type
```

Scala already has dependent methods, i.e. methods where the result type refers to some of the parameters of the method. Method `extractKey` is an example. Its result type, `e.Key` refers to its parameter `e` (we also say, `e.Key` depends on `e`). But so far it was not possible to turn such methods into function values, so that they can be passed as parameters to other functions, or returned as results. Dependent methods could not be turned into functions simply because there was no type that could describe them.

In Scala 3 this is now possible. The type of the `extractor` value above is

```
(e: Entry) => e.Key
```

This type describes function values that take any argument `e` of type `Entry` and return a result of type `e.Key`.

Recall that a normal function type `A => B` is represented as an instance of the `Function1` trait (i.e. `Function1[A, B]`) and analogously for functions with more parameters. Dependent functions are also represented as instances of these traits, but they get an additional refinement. In fact, the dependent function type above is just syntactic sugar for

```
Function1[Entry, Entry#Key]:
  def apply(e: Entry): e.Key
```

More details

2.6 Polymorphic Function Types

A polymorphic function type is a function type which accepts type parameters. For example:

```
// A polymorphic method:
def foo[A](xs: List[A]): List[A] = xs.reverse

// A polymorphic function value:
val bar: [A] => List[A] => List[A]
//       ~~~~~
//       a polymorphic function type
      = [A] => (xs: List[A]) => foo[A](xs)
```

Scala already has polymorphic methods, i.e. methods which accepts type parameters. Method

foo above is an example, accepting a type parameter A. So far, it was not possible to turn such methods into polymorphic function values like bar above, which can be passed as parameters to other functions, or returned as results.

In Scala 3 this is now possible. The type of the bar value above is

```
[A] => List[A] => List[A]
```

This type describes function values which take a type A as a parameter, then take a list of type List[A], and return a list of the same type List[A].

[More details](#)

2.6.1 Example Usage

Polymorphic function type are particularly useful when callers of a method are required to provide a function which has to be polymorphic, meaning that it should accept arbitrary types as part of its inputs.

For instance, consider the situation where we have a data type to represent the expressions of a simple language (consisting only of variables and function applications) in a strongly-typed way:

```
enum Expr[A]:
  case Var(name: String)
  case Apply[A, B](fun: Expr[B => A], arg: Expr[B]) extends Expr[A]
```

We would like to provide a way for users to map a function over all immediate subexpressions of a given Expr. This requires the given function to be polymorphic, since each subexpression may have a different type. Here is how to implement this using polymorphic function types:

```
def mapSubexpressions[A](e: Expr[A])(f: [B] => Expr[B] => Expr[B]): Expr[A] =
  e match
    case Apply(fun, arg) => Apply(f(fun), f(arg))
    case Var(n) => Var(n)
```

And here is how to use this function to wrap each subexpression in a given expression with a call to some wrap function, defined as a variable:

```
val e0 = Apply(Var("f"), Var("a"))
val e1 = mapSubexpressions(e0)(
  [B] => (se: Expr[B]) => Apply(Var[B => B]("wrap"), se))
println(e1) // Apply(Apply(Var(wrap),Var(f)),Apply(Var(wrap),Var(a)))
```

2.6.2 Relationship With Type Lambdas

Polymorphic function types are not to be confused with **type lambdas**. While the former describes the type of a polymorphic value, the latter is an actual function value at the type level.

A good way of understanding the difference is to notice that type lambdas are applied in types, whereas polymorphic functions are applied in terms: One would call the function bar

above by passing it a type argument `bar[Int]` within a method body. On the other hand, given a type lambda such as `type F = [A] => List[A]`, one would call `F` within a type expression, as in `type Bar = F[Int]`.

3 Enums [↗](#)

3.1 Enumerations [↗](#)

An enumeration is used to define a type consisting of a set of named values.

```
enum Color:
  case Red, Green, Blue
```

This defines a new sealed class, `Color`, with three values, `Color.Red`, `Color.Green`, `Color.Blue`. The color values are members of `Colors` companion object.

3.1.0.1 Parameterized enums Enums can be parameterized.

```
enum Color(val rgb: Int):
  case Red extends Color(0xFF0000)
  case Green extends Color(0x00FF00)
  case Blue extends Color(0x0000FF)
```

As the example shows, you can define the parameter value by using an explicit `extends` clause.

3.1.0.2 Methods defined for enums The values of an enum correspond to unique integers. The integer associated with an enum value is returned by its `ordinal` method:

```
scala> val red = Color.Red
val red: Color = Red
scala> red.ordinal
val res0: Int = 0
```

The companion object of an enum also defines three utility methods. The `valueOf` method obtains an enum value by its name. The `values` method returns all enum values defined in an enumeration in an `Array`. The `fromOrdinal` method obtains an enum value from its ordinal (`Int`) value.

```
scala> Color.valueOf("Blue")
val res0: Color = Blue
scala> Color.values
val res1: Array[Color] = Array(Red, Green, Blue)
scala> Color.fromOrdinal(0)
val res2: Color = Red
```

3.1.0.3 User-defined members of enums It is possible to add your own definitions to an enum. Example:

```
enum Planet(mass: Double, radius: Double):
  private final val G = 6.67300E-11
  def surfaceGravity = G * mass / (radius * radius)
  def surfaceWeight(otherMass: Double) = otherMass * surfaceGravity

  case Mercury extends Planet(3.303e+23, 2.4397e6)
```

```

case Venus extends Planet(4.869e+24, 6.0518e6)
case Earth extends Planet(5.976e+24, 6.37814e6)
case Mars extends Planet(6.421e+23, 3.3972e6)
case Jupiter extends Planet(1.9e+27, 7.1492e7)
case Saturn extends Planet(5.688e+26, 6.0268e7)
case Uranus extends Planet(8.686e+25, 2.5559e7)
case Neptune extends Planet(1.024e+26, 2.4746e7)
end Planet

```

It is also possible to define an explicit companion object for an enum:

```

object Planet:
  def main(args: Array[String]) =
    val earthWeight = args(0).toDouble
    val mass = earthWeight / Earth.surfaceGravity
    for p <- values do
      println(s"Your weight on $p is ${p.surfaceWeight(mass)}")
end Planet

```

3.1.0.4 Deprecation of Enum Cases As a library author, you may want to signal that an enum case is no longer intended for use. However you could still want to gracefully handle the removal of a case from your public API, such as special casing deprecated cases.

To illustrate, say that the Planet enum originally had an additional case:

```

enum Planet(mass: Double, radius: Double):
  ...
  case Neptune extends Planet(1.024e+26, 2.4746e7)
+ case Pluto extends Planet(1.309e+22, 1.1883e3)
end Planet

```

We now want to deprecate the Pluto case. First we add the `scala.deprecated` annotation to Pluto:

```

enum Planet(mass: Double, radius: Double):
  ...
  case Neptune extends Planet(1.024e+26, 2.4746e7)
- case Pluto extends Planet(1.309e+22, 1.1883e3)
+
+ @deprecated("refer to IAU definition of planet")
+ case Pluto extends Planet(1.309e+22, 1.1883e3)
end Planet

```

Outside the lexical scopes of `enum Planet` or `object Planet`, references to `Planet.Pluto` will produce a deprecation warning, but within those scopes we can still reference it to implement introspection over the deprecated cases:

```

trait Deprecations[T <: reflect.Enum] {
  extension (t: T) def isDeprecatedCase: Boolean
}

```

```
object Planet {
  given Deprecations[Planet] with {
    extension (p: Planet)
      def isDeprecatedCase = p == Pluto
  }
}
```

We could imagine that a library may use **type class derivation** to automatically provide an instance for Deprecations.

3.1.0.5 Compatibility with Java Enums If you want to use the Scala-defined enums as [Java enums](#), you can do so by extending the class `java.lang.Enum`, which is imported by default, as follows:

```
enum Color extends Enum[Color] { case Red, Green, Blue }
```

The type parameter comes from the Java enum [definition](#) and should be the same as the type of the enum. There is no need to provide constructor arguments (as defined in the Java API docs) to `java.lang.Enum` when extending it – the compiler will generate them automatically.

After defining `Color` like that, you can use it like you would a Java enum:

```
scala> Color.Red.compareTo(Color.Green)
val res15: Int = -1
```

For a more in-depth example of using Scala 3 enums from Java, see [this test](#). In the test, the enums are defined in the `MainScala.scala` file and used from a Java source, `Test.java`.

3.1.0.6 Implementation Enums are represented as sealed classes that extend the `scala.reflect.Enum` trait. This trait defines a single public method, `ordinal`:

```
package scala.reflect

/** A base trait of all Scala enum definitions */
transparent trait Enum extends Any, Product, Serializable:

  /** A number uniquely identifying a case of an enum */
  def ordinal: Int
```

Enum values with `extends` clauses get expanded to anonymous class instances. For instance, the `Venus` value above would be defined like this:

```
val Venus: Planet = new Planet(4.869E24, 6051800.0):
  def ordinal: Int = 1
  override def productPrefix: String = "Venus"
  override def toString: String = "Venus"
```

Enum values without `extends` clauses all share a single implementation that can be instantiated using a private method that takes a tag and a name as arguments. For instance, the first

definition of value `Color.Red` above would expand to:

```
val Red: Color = $new(0, "Red")
```

3.1.0.7 Reference For more information, see [Issue #1970](#) and [PR #4003](#).

3.2 Algebraic Data Types

The **enum concept** is general enough to also support algebraic data types (ADTs) and their generalized version (GADTs). Here is an example how an `Option` type can be represented as an ADT:

```
enum Option[+T]:
  case Some(x: T)
  case None
```

This example introduces an `Option` enum with a covariant type parameter `T` consisting of two cases, `Some` and `None`. `Some` is parameterized with a value parameter `x`. It is a shorthand for writing a case class that extends `Option`. Since `None` is not parameterized, it is treated as a normal enum value.

The extends clauses that were omitted in the example above can also be given explicitly:

```
enum Option[+T]:
  case Some(x: T) extends Option[T]
  case None extends Option[Nothing]
```

Note that the parent type of the `None` value is inferred as `Option[Nothing]`. Generally, all covariant type parameters of the enum class are minimized in a compiler-generated extends clause whereas all contravariant type parameters are maximized. If `Option` was non-variant, you would need to give the extends clause of `None` explicitly.

As for normal enum values, the cases of an enum are all defined in the enums companion object. So it's `Option.Some` and `Option.None` unless the definitions are “pulled out” with an import:

```
scala> Option.Some("hello")
val res1: t2.Option[String] = Some(hello)
```

```
scala> Option.None
val res2: t2.Option[Nothing] = None
```

Note that the type of the expressions above is always `Option`. Generally, the type of a enum case constructor application will be widened to the underlying enum type, unless a more specific type is expected. This is a subtle difference with respect to normal case classes. The classes making up the cases do exist, and can be unveiled, either by constructing them directly with a `new`, or by explicitly providing an expected type.

```
scala> new Option.Some(2)
val res3: Option.Some[Int] = Some(2)
```

```
scala> val x: Option.Some[Int] = Option.Some(3)
val res4: Option.Some[Int] = Some(3)
```

As all other enums, ADTs can define methods. For instance, here is `Option` again, with an `isDefined` method and an `Option(...)` constructor in its companion object.

```
enum Option[+T]:
  case Some(x: T)
  case None

  def isDefined: Boolean = this match
    case None => false
    case _    => true

object Option:

  def apply[T >: Null](x: T): Option[T] =
    if x == null then None else Some(x)

end Option
```

Enumerations and ADTs have been presented as two different concepts. But since they share the same syntactic construct, they can be seen simply as two ends of a spectrum and it is perfectly possible to construct hybrids. For instance, the code below gives an implementation of `Color` either with three enum values or with a parameterized case that takes an RGB value.

```
enum Color(val rgb: Int):
  case Red    extends Color(0xFF0000)
  case Green  extends Color(0x00FF00)
  case Blue   extends Color(0x0000FF)
  case Mix(mix: Int) extends Color(mix)
```

3.2.0.1 Parameter Variance of Enums By default, parameterized cases of enums with type parameters will copy the type parameters of their parent, along with any variance notations. As usual, it is important to use type parameters carefully when they are variant, as shown below:

The following `View` enum has a contravariant type parameter `T` and a single case `Refl`, representing a function mapping a type `T` to itself:

```
enum View[-T]:
  case Refl(f: T => T)
```

The definition of `Refl` is incorrect, as it uses contravariant type `T` in the covariant result position of a function type, leading to the following error:

```
-- Error: View.scala:2:12 -----
2 |   case Refl(f: T => T)
  |               ^^^^^^^
```

|contravariant `type T` occurs in covariant position in `type T => T` of value `f`
 |`enum case Refl` requires explicit declaration of `type T` to resolve `this` issue.

Because `Refl` does not declare explicit parameters, it looks to the compiler like the following:

```
enum View[-T]:
  case Refl[/*synthetic*/-T1](f: T1 => T1) extends View[T1]
```

The compiler has inferred for `Refl` the contravariant type parameter `T1`, following `T` in `View`. We can now clearly see that `Refl` needs to declare its own non-variant type parameter to correctly type `f`, and can remedy the error by the following change to `Refl`:

```
enum View[-T]:
-   case Refl(f: T => T)
+   case Refl[R](f: R => R) extends View[R]
```

Above, type `R` is chosen as the parameter for `Refl` to highlight that it has a different meaning to type `T` in `View`, but any name will do.

After some further changes, a more complete implementation of `View` can be given as follows and be used as the function type `T => U`:

```
enum View[-T, +U] extends (T => U):
  case Refl[R](f: R => R) extends View[R, R]

  final def apply(t: T): U = this match
    case refl: Refl[r] => refl.f(t)
```

3.2.0.2 Syntax of Enums Changes to the syntax fall in two categories: enum definitions and cases inside enums. The changes are specified below as deltas with respect to the Scala syntax given [here](#)

1. Enum definitions are defined as follows:

```
TplDef    ::= `enum' EnumDef
EnumDef   ::= id ClassConstr [`extends' [ConstrApps]] EnumBody
EnumBody  ::= [nl] '{' [SelfType] EnumStat {semi EnumStat} '}'
EnumStat  ::= TemplateStat
           | {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} EnumCase
```

2. Cases of enums are defined as follows:

```
EnumCase ::= `case' (id ClassConstr [`extends' ConstrApps]) | ids)
```

3.2.0.3 Reference For more information, see [Issue #1970](#).

3.3 Translation of Enums and ADTs

The compiler expands enums and their cases to code that only uses Scala's other language features. As such, enums in Scala are convenient syntactic sugar, but they are not essential to understand Scala's core.

We now explain the expansion of enums in detail. First, some terminology and notational conventions:

- We use `E` as a name of an enum, and `C` as a name of a case that appears in `E`.
- We use `<...>` for syntactic constructs that in some circumstances might be empty. For instance, `<value-params>` represents one or more parameter lists `(...)` or nothing at all.
- Enum cases fall into three categories:
 - Class cases are those cases that are parameterized, either with a type parameter section `[...]` or with one or more (possibly empty) parameter sections `(...)`.
 - Simple cases are cases of a non-generic enum that have neither parameters nor an extends clause or body. That is, they consist of a name only.
 - Value cases are all cases that do not have a parameter section but that do have a (possibly generated) extends clause and/or a body.

Simple cases and value cases are collectively called singleton cases.

The desugaring rules imply that class cases are mapped to case classes, and singleton cases are mapped to `val` definitions.

There are nine desugaring rules. Rule (1) desugars enum definitions. Rules (2) and (3) desugar simple cases. Rules (4) to (6) define extends clauses for cases that are missing them. Rules (7) to (9) define how such cases with extends clauses map into case classes or `vals`.

1. An enum definition

```
enum E ... { <defs> <cases> }
```

expands to a sealed abstract class that extends the `scala.reflect.Enum` trait and an associated companion object that contains the defined cases, expanded according to rules (2 - 8). The enum class starts with a compiler-generated import that imports the names `<caseIds>` of all cases so that they can be used without prefix in the class.

```
sealed abstract class E ... extends <parents> with scala.reflect.Enum {
  import E.{ <caseIds> }
  <defs>
}
object E { <cases> }
```

2. A simple case consisting of a comma-separated list of enum names

```
case C_1, ..., C_n
```

expands to

```
case C_1; ...; case C_n
```

Any modifiers or annotations on the original case extend to all expanded cases.

3. A simple case

```
case C
```

of an enum E that does not take type parameters expands to

```
val C = $new(n, "C")
```

Here, \$new is a private method that creates an instance of E (see below).

4. If E is an enum with type parameters

$$V_1 T_1 >: L_1 <: U_1, \dots, V_n T_n >: L_n <: U_n \quad (n > 0)$$

where each of the variances V_i is either '+' or '-', then a simple case

```
case C
```

expands to

```
case C extends E[B1, ..., Bn]
```

where B_i is L_i if $V_i = '+'$ and U_i if $V_i = '-'$. This result is then further rewritten with rule (8). Simple cases of enums with non-variant type parameters are not permitted (however value cases with explicit extends clause are)

5. A class case without an extends clause

```
case C <type-params> <value-params>
```

of an enum E that does not take type parameters expands to

```
case C <type-params> <value-params> extends E
```

This result is then further rewritten with rule (9).

6. If E is an enum with type parameters T_s , a class case with neither type parameters nor an extends clause

```
case C <value-params>
```

expands to

```
case C[Ts] <value-params> extends E[Ts]
```

This result is then further rewritten with rule (9). For class cases that have type parameters themselves, an extends clause needs to be given explicitly.

7. If E is an enum with type parameters T_s , a class case without type parameters but with an extends clause

```
case C <value-params> extends <parents>
```

expands to

```
case C[Ts] <value-params> extends <parents>
```

provided at least one of the parameters T_s is mentioned in a parameter type in <value-params> or in a type argument in <parents>.

8. A value case

```
case C extends <parents>
```

expands to a value definition in E's companion object:

```
val C = new <parents> { <body>; def ordinal = n }
```

where n is the ordinal number of the case in the companion object, starting from 0. The anonymous class also implements the abstract Product methods that it inherits from Enum.

It is an error if a value case refers to a type parameter of the enclosing enum in a type argument of <parents>.

9. A class case

```
case C <params> extends <parents>
```

expands analogous to a final case class in E's companion object:

```
final case class C <params> extends <parents>
```

The enum case defines an ordinal method of the form

```
def ordinal = n
```

where n is the ordinal number of the case in the companion object, starting from 0.

It is an error if a value case refers to a type parameter of the enclosing enum in a parameter type in <params> or in a type argument of <parents>, unless that parameter is already a type parameter of the case, i.e. the parameter name is defined in <params>.

The compiler-generated apply and copy methods of an enum case

```
case C(ps) extends P1, ..., Pn
```

are treated specially. A call C(ts) of the apply method is ascribed the underlying type P1 & ... & Pn (dropping any **transparent traits**) as long as that type is still compatible with the expected type at the point of application. A call t.copy(ts) of C's copy method is treated in the same way.

3.3.0.1 Translation of Enums with Singleton Cases An enum E (possibly generic) that defines one or more singleton cases will define the following additional synthetic members in its companion object (where E' denotes E with any type parameters replaced by wildcards):

- A method valueOf(name: String): E'. It returns the singleton case value whose identifier is name.
- A method values which returns an Array[E'] of all singleton case values defined by E, in the order of their definitions.

If E contains at least one simple case, its companion object will define in addition:

- A private method \$new which defines a new simple case value with given ordinal number and name. This method can be thought as being defined as follows.

```
private def $new(_$ordinal: Int, $name: String) =
  new E with runtime.EnumValue:
    def ordinal = _$ordinal
```

```

override def productPrefix = $name // if not overridden in `E`
override def toString = $name      // if not overridden in `E`

```

The anonymous class also implements the abstract `Product` methods that it inherits from `Enum`. The `ordinal` method is only generated if the enum does not extend from `java.lang.Enum` (as Scala enums do not extend `java.lang.Enums` unless explicitly specified). In case it does, there is no need to generate `ordinal` as `java.lang.Enum` defines it. Similarly there is no need to override `toString` as that is defined in terms of `name` in `java.lang.Enum`. Finally, `productPrefix` will call `this.name` when `E` extends `java.lang.Enum`.

3.3.0.2 Scopes for Enum Cases A case in an enum is treated similarly to a secondary constructor. It can access neither the enclosing enum using `this`, nor its value parameters or instance members using simple identifiers.

Even though translated enum cases are located in the enum's companion object, referencing this object or its members via `this` or a simple identifier is also illegal. The compiler typechecks enum cases in the scope of the enclosing companion object but flags any such illegal accesses as errors.

3.3.0.3 Translation of Java-compatible enums A Java-compatible enum is an enum that extends `java.lang.Enum`. The translation rules are the same as above, with the reservations defined in this section.

It is a compile-time error for a Java-compatible enum to have class cases.

Cases such as `case C` expand to a `@static val` as opposed to a `val`. This allows them to be generated as static fields of the enum type, thus ensuring they are represented the same way as Java enums.

3.3.0.4 Other Rules

- A normal case class which is not produced from an enum case is not allowed to extend `scala.reflect.Enum`. This ensures that the only cases of an enum are the ones that are explicitly declared in it.
- If an enum case has an `extends` clause, the enum class must be one of the classes that's extended.

4 Contextual Abstractions

4.1 Overview

4.1.0.1 Critique of the Status Quo Scala’s implicits are its most distinguished feature. They are the fundamental way to abstract over context. They represent a unified paradigm with a great variety of use cases, among them: implementing type classes, establishing context, dependency injection, expressing capabilities, computing new types and proving relationships between them.

Following Haskell, Scala was the second popular language to have some form of implicits. Other languages have followed suit. E.g [Rust’s traits](#) or [Swift’s protocol extensions](#). Design proposals are also on the table for Kotlin as [compile time dependency resolution](#), for C# as [Shapes and Extensions](#) or for F# as [Traits](#). Implicits are also a common feature of theorem provers such as [Coq](#) or [Agda](#).

Even though these designs use widely different terminology, they are all variants of the core idea of term inference. Given a type, the compiler synthesizes a “canonical” term that has that type. Scala embodies the idea in a purer form than most other languages: An implicit parameter directly leads to an inferred argument term that could also be written down explicitly. By contrast, type class based designs are less direct since they hide term inference behind some form of type classification and do not offer the option of writing the inferred quantities (typically, dictionaries) explicitly.

Given that term inference is where the industry is heading, and given that Scala has it in a very pure form, how come implicits are not more popular? In fact, it’s fair to say that implicits are at the same time Scala’s most distinguished and most controversial feature. I believe this is due to a number of aspects that together make implicits harder to learn than necessary and also make it harder to prevent abuses.

Particular criticisms are:

1. Being very powerful, implicits are easily over-used and mis-used. This observation holds in almost all cases when we talk about implicit conversions, which, even though conceptually different, share the same syntax with other implicit definitions. For instance, regarding the two definitions

```
implicit def i1(implicit x: T): C[T] = ...
implicit def i2(x: T): C[T] = ...
```

the first of these is a conditional implicit value, the second an implicit conversion. Conditional implicit values are a cornerstone for expressing type classes, whereas most applications of implicit conversions have turned out to be of dubious value. The problem is that many newcomers to the language start with defining implicit conversions since they are easy to understand and seem powerful and convenient. Scala 3 will put under a language flag both definitions and applications of “undisciplined” implicit conversions between types defined elsewhere. This is a useful step to push back against overuse of implicit conversions. But the problem remains that syntactically, conversions and values just look too similar for comfort.

2. Another widespread abuse is over-reliance on implicit imports. This often leads to inscrutable type errors that go away with the right import incantation, leaving a feeling of frustration. Conversely, it is hard to see what implicits a program uses since implicits can hide anywhere in a long list of imports.
3. The syntax of implicit definitions is too minimal. It consists of a single modifier, `implicit`, that can be attached to a large number of language constructs. A problem with this for newcomers is that it conveys mechanism instead of intent. For instance, a type class instance is an implicit object or `val` if unconditional and an implicit `def` with implicit parameters referring to some class if conditional. This describes precisely what the implicit definitions translate to – just drop the `implicit` modifier, and that’s it! But the cues that define intent are rather indirect and can be easily misread, as demonstrated by the definitions of `i1` and `i2` above.
4. The syntax of implicit parameters also has shortcomings. While implicit parameters are designated specifically, arguments are not. Passing an argument to an implicit parameter looks like a regular application `f(arg)`. This is problematic because it means there can be confusion regarding what parameter gets instantiated in a call. For instance, in

```
def currentMap(implicit ctx: Context): Map[String, Int]
```

one cannot write `currentMap("abc")` since the string `"abc"` is taken as explicit argument to the implicit `ctx` parameter. One has to write `currentMap.apply("abc")` instead, which is awkward and irregular. For the same reason, a method definition can only have one implicit parameter section and it must always come last. This restriction not only reduces orthogonality, but also prevents some useful program constructs, such as a method with a regular parameter whose type depends on an implicit value. Finally, it’s also a bit annoying that implicit parameters must have a name, even though in many cases that name is never referenced.

5. Implicits pose challenges for tooling. The set of available implicits depends on context, so command completion has to take context into account. This is feasible in an IDE but tools like [Scaladoc](#) that are based on static web pages can only provide an approximation. Another problem is that failed implicit searches often give very unspecific error messages, in particular if some deeply recursive implicit search has failed. Note that the Scala 3 compiler has already made a lot of progress in the error diagnostics area. If a recursive search fails some levels down, it shows what was constructed and what is missing. Also, it suggests imports that can bring missing implicits in scope.

None of the shortcomings is fatal, after all implicits are very widely used, and many libraries and applications rely on them. But together, they make code using implicits a lot more cumbersome and less clear than it could be.

Historically, many of these shortcomings come from the way implicits were gradually “discovered” in Scala. Scala originally had only implicit conversions with the intended use case of “extending” a class or trait after it was defined, i.e. what is expressed by implicit classes in later versions of Scala. Implicit parameters and instance definitions came later in 2006 and we picked similar syntax since it seemed convenient. For the same reason, no effort was

made to distinguish implicit imports or arguments from normal ones.

Existing Scala programmers by and large have gotten used to the status quo and see little need for change. But for newcomers this status quo presents a big hurdle. I believe if we want to overcome that hurdle, we should take a step back and allow ourselves to consider a radically new design.

4.1.0.2 The New Design The following pages introduce a redesign of contextual abstractions in Scala. They introduce four fundamental changes:

1. **Given Instances** are a new way to define basic terms that can be synthesized. They replace implicit definitions. The core principle of the proposal is that, rather than mixing the `implicit` modifier with a large number of features, we have a single way to define terms that can be synthesized for types.
2. **Using Clauses** are a new syntax for implicit parameters and their arguments. It unambiguously aligns parameters and arguments, solving a number of language warts. It also allows us to have several using clauses in a definition.
3. **“Given” Imports** are a new class of import selectors that specifically import givens and nothing else.
4. **Implicit Conversions** are now expressed as given instances of a standard `Conversion` class. All other forms of implicit conversions will be phased out.

This section also contains pages describing other language features that are related to context abstraction. These are:

- **Context Bounds**, which carry over unchanged.
- **Extension Methods** replace implicit classes in a way that integrates better with type classes.
- **Implementing Type Classes** demonstrates how some common type classes can be implemented using the new constructs.
- **Type Class Derivation** introduces constructs to automatically derive type class instances for ADTs.
- **Multiversal Equality** introduces a special type class to support type safe equality.
- **Context Functions** provide a way to abstract over context parameters.
- **By-Name Context Parameters** are an essential tool to define recursive synthesized values without looping.
- **Relationship with Scala 2 Implicits** discusses the relationship between old-style implicits and new-style givens and how to migrate from one to the other.

Overall, the new design achieves a better separation of term inference from the rest of the language: There is a single way to define givens instead of a multitude of forms all taking an `implicit` modifier. There is a single way to introduce implicit parameters and arguments instead of conflating implicit with normal arguments. There is a separate way to import givens that does not allow them to hide in a sea of normal imports. And there is a single way to define an implicit conversion which is clearly marked as such and does not require special syntax.

This design thus avoids feature interactions and makes the language more consistent and orthogonal. It will make implicits easier to learn and harder to abuse. It will greatly improve the clarity of the 95% of Scala programs that use implicits. It has thus the potential to fulfil the promise of term inference in a principled way that is also accessible and friendly.

Could we achieve the same goals by tweaking existing implicits? After having tried for a long time, I believe now that this is impossible.

- First, some of the problems are clearly syntactic and require different syntax to solve them.
- Second, there is the problem how to migrate. We cannot change the rules in mid-flight. At some stage of language evolution we need to accommodate both the new and the old rules. With a syntax change, this is easy: Introduce the new syntax with new rules, support the old syntax for a while to facilitate cross compilation, deprecate and phase out the old syntax at some later time. Keeping the same syntax does not offer this path, and in fact does not seem to offer any viable path for evolution
- Third, even if we would somehow succeed with migration, we still have the problem how to teach this. We cannot make existing tutorials go away. Almost all existing tutorials start with implicit conversions, which will go away; they use normal imports, which will go away, and they explain calls to methods with implicit parameters by expanding them to plain applications, which will also go away. This means that we'd have to add modifications and qualifications to all existing literature and courseware, likely causing more confusion with beginners instead of less. By contrast, with a new syntax there is a clear criterion: Any book or courseware that mentions `implicit` is outdated and should be updated.

4.2 Given Instances

Given instances (or, simply, “givens”) define “canonical” values of certain types that serve for synthesizing arguments to **context parameters**. Example:

```
trait Ord[T]:
  def compare(x: T, y: T): Int
  extension (x: T) def < (y: T) = compare(x, y) < 0
  extension (x: T) def > (y: T) = compare(x, y) > 0

given intOrd: Ord[Int] with
  def compare(x: Int, y: Int) =
    if x < y then -1 else if x > y then +1 else 0

given listOrd[T](using ord: Ord[T]): Ord[List[T]] with

  def compare(xs: List[T], ys: List[T]): Int = (xs, ys) match
    case (Nil, Nil) => 0
    case (Nil, _) => -1
    case (_, Nil) => +1
    case (x :: xs1, y :: ys1) =>
      val fst = ord.compare(x, y)
```



```
if fst != 0 then fst else compare(xsl, ysl)
```

This code defines a trait `Ord` with two given instances. `intOrd` defines a given for the type `Ord[Int]` whereas `listOrd[T]` defines givens for `Ord[List[T]]` for all types `T` that come with a given instance for `Ord[T]` themselves. The `using` clause in `listOrd` defines a condition: There must be a given of type `Ord[T]` for a given of type `Ord[List[T]]` to exist. Such conditions are expanded by the compiler to **context parameters**.

4.2.1 Anonymous Givens

The name of a given can be left out. So the definitions of the last section can also be expressed like this:

```
given Ord[Int] with
  ...
given [T](using Ord[T]): Ord[List[T]] with
  ...
```

If the name of a given is missing, the compiler will synthesize a name from the implemented type(s).

Note The name synthesized by the compiler is chosen to be readable and reasonably concise. For instance, the two instances above would get the names:

```
given_Ord_Int
given_Ord_List_T
```

The precise rules for synthesizing names are found [here](#). These rules do not guarantee absence of name conflicts between given instances of types that are “too similar”. To avoid conflicts one can use named instances.

Note To ensure robust binary compatibility, publicly available libraries should prefer named instances.

4.2.2 Alias Givens

An alias can be used to define a given instance that is equal to some expression. Example:

```
given global: ExecutionContext = ForkJoinPool()
```

This creates a given `global` of type `ExecutionContext` that resolves to the right hand side `ForkJoinPool()`. The first time `global` is accessed, a new `ForkJoinPool` is created, which is then returned for this and all subsequent accesses to `global`. This operation is thread-safe.

Alias givens can be anonymous as well, e.g.

```
given Position = enclosingTree.position
given (using config: Config): Factory = MemoizingFactory(config)
```

An alias given can have type parameters and context parameters just like any other given, but it can only implement a single type.

4.2.3 Given Macros

Given aliases can have the `inline` and `transparent` modifiers. Example:

```
transparent inline given mkAnnotations[A, T]: Annotations[A, T] = ${
  // code producing a value of a subtype of Annotations
}
```

Since `mkAnnotations` is transparent, the type of an application is the type of its right-hand side, which can be a proper subtype of the declared result type `Annotations[A, T]`.

4.2.4 Pattern-Bound Given Instances

Given instances can also appear in patterns. Example:

```
for given Context <- applicationContexts do

pair match
  case (ctx @ given Context, y) => ...
```

In the first fragment above, anonymous given instances for class `Context` are established by enumerating over `applicationContexts`. In the second fragment, a given `Context` instance named `ctx` is established by matching against the first half of the pair selector.

In each case, a pattern-bound given instance consists of `given` and a type `T`. The pattern matches exactly the same selectors as the type ascription pattern `_: T`.

4.2.5 Negated Givens

Scala 2's somewhat puzzling behavior with respect to ambiguity has been exploited to implement the analogue of a "negated" search in implicit resolution, where a query `Q1` fails if some other query `Q2` succeeds and `Q1` succeeds if `Q2` fails. With the new cleaned up behavior these techniques no longer work. But the new special type `scala.util.NotGiven` now implements negation directly.

For any query type `Q`, `NotGiven[Q]` succeeds if and only if the implicit search for `Q` fails, for example:

```
import scala.util.NotGiven

trait Tagged[A]

case class Foo[A](value: Boolean)
object Foo:
  given fooTagged[A](using Tagged[A]): Foo[A] = Foo(true)
  given fooNotTagged[A](using NotGiven[Tagged[A]]): Foo[A] = Foo(false)

@main def test(): Unit =
  given Tagged[Int]()
  assert(summon[Foo[Int]].value) // fooTagged is found
  assert(!summon[Foo[String]].value) // fooNotTagged is found
```

4.2.6 Given Instance Initialization

A given instance without type or context parameters is initialized on-demand, the first time it is accessed. If a given has type or context parameters, a fresh instance is created for each reference.

4.2.7 Syntax

Here is the syntax for given instances:

```

TplDef      ::= ...
              | 'given' GivenDef
GivenDef     ::= [GivenSig] StructuralInstance
              | [GivenSig] AnnotType '=' Expr
              | [GivenSig] AnnotType
GivenSig     ::= [id] [DefTypeParamClause] {UsingParamClause} ':'
StructuralInstance ::= ConstrApp {'with' ConstrApp} 'with' TemplateBody

```

A given instance starts with the reserved word `given` and an optional signature. The signature defines a name and/or parameters for the instance. It is followed by `:`. There are three kinds of given instances:

- A structural instance contains one or more types or constructor applications, followed by `with` and a template body that contains member definitions of the instance.
- An alias instance contains a type, followed by `=` and a right-hand side expression.
- An abstract instance contains just the type, which is not followed by anything.

4.3 Using Clauses

Functional programming tends to express most dependencies as simple function parameterization. This is clean and powerful, but it sometimes leads to functions that take many parameters where the same value is passed over and over again in long call chains to many functions. Context parameters can help here since they enable the compiler to synthesize repetitive arguments instead of the programmer having to write them explicitly.

For example, with the `given instances` defined previously, a `max` function that works for any arguments for which an ordering exists can be defined as follows:

```

def max[T](x: T, y: T)(using ord: Ord[T]): T =
  if ord.compare(x, y) < 0 then y else x

```

Here, `ord` is a context parameter introduced with a `using` clause. The `max` function can be applied as follows:

```
max(2, 3)(using intOrd)
```

The `(using intOrd)` part passes `intOrd` as an argument for the `ord` parameter. But the point of context parameters is that this argument can also be left out (and it usually is). So the following applications are equally valid:

```
max(2, 3)
max(List(1, 2, 3), Nil)
```

4.3.1 Anonymous Context Parameters

In many situations, the name of a context parameter need not be mentioned explicitly at all, since it is used only in synthesized arguments for other context parameters. In that case one can avoid defining a parameter name and just provide its type. Example:

```
def maximum[T](xs: List[T])(using Ord[T]): T =
  xs.reduceLeft(max)
```

maximum takes a context parameter of type Ord only to pass it on as an inferred argument to max. The name of the parameter is left out.

Generally, context parameters may be defined either as a full parameter list (p_1: T_1, ..., p_n: T_n) or just as a sequence of types T_1, ..., T_n. Vararg parameters are not supported in using clauses.

4.3.2 Inferring Complex Arguments

Here are two other methods that have a context parameter of type Ord[T]:

```
def descending[T](using asc: Ord[T]): Ord[T] = new Ord[T]:
  def compare(x: T, y: T) = asc.compare(y, x)

def minimum[T](xs: List[T])(using Ord[T]) =
  maximum(xs)(using descending)
```

The minimum method's right-hand side passes descending as an explicit argument to maximum(xs). With this setup, the following calls are all well-formed, and they all normalize to the last one:

```
minimum(xs)
maximum(xs)(using descending)
maximum(xs)(using descending(using listOrd))
maximum(xs)(using descending(using listOrd(using intOrd)))
```

4.3.3 Multiple using Clauses

There can be several using clauses in a definition and using clauses can be freely mixed with normal parameter clauses. Example:

```
def f(u: Universe)(using ctx: u.Context)(using s: ctx.Symbol, k: ctx.Kind) = ...
```

Multiple using clauses are matched left-to-right in applications. Example:

```
object global extends Universe { type Context = ... }
given ctx : global.Context with { type Symbol = ...; type Kind = ... }
given sym : ctx.Symbol
given kind: ctx.Kind
```

Then the following calls are all valid (and normalize to the last one)

```
f(global)
f(global)(using ctx)
f(global)(using ctx)(using sym, kind)
```

But `f(global)(using sym, kind)` would give a type error.

4.3.4 Summoning Instances

The method `summon` in `Predef` returns the given of a specific type. For example, the given instance for `Ord[List[Int]]` is produced by

```
summon[Ord[List[Int]]] // reduces to listOrd(using intOrd)
```

The `summon` method is simply defined as the (non-widening) identity function over a context parameter.

```
def summon[T](using x: T): x.type = x
```

4.3.5 Syntax

Here is the new syntax of parameters and arguments seen as a delta from the **standard context free syntax of Scala 3**. `using` is a soft keyword, recognized only at the start of a parameter or argument list. It can be used as a normal identifier everywhere else.

```
ClsParamClause      ::= ... | UsingClsParamClause
DefParamClauses     ::= ... | UsingParamClause
UsingClsParamClause ::= '(' 'using' (ClsParams | Types) ')'
UsingParamClause    ::= '(' 'using' (DefParams | Types) ')'
ParArgumentExprs    ::= ... | '(' 'using' ExprsInParens ')'
```

4.4 Context Bounds

A context bound is a shorthand for expressing the common pattern of a context parameter that depends on a type parameter. Using a context bound, the maximum function of the last section can be written like this:

```
def maximum[T: Ord](xs: List[T]): T = xs.reduceLeft(max)
```

A bound like `: Ord` on a type parameter `T` of a method or class indicates a context parameter with `Ord[T]`. The context parameter(s) generated from context bounds come last in the definition of the containing method or class. For instance,

```
def f[T: C1 : C2, U: C3](x: T)(using y: U, z: V): R
```

would expand to

```
def f[T, U](x: T)(using y: U, z: V)(using C1[T], C2[T], C3[U]): R
```

Context bounds can be combined with subtype bounds. If both are present, subtype bounds come first, e.g.

```
def g[T <: B : C](x: T): R = ...
```

4.4.1 Migration

To ease migration, context bounds in Dotty map in Scala 3.0 to old-style implicit parameters for which arguments can be passed either with a `(using ...)` clause or with a normal application. From Scala 3.1 on, they will map to context parameters instead, as is described above.

If the source version is future-migration, any pairing of an evidence context parameter stemming from a context bound with a normal argument will give a migration warning. The warning indicates that a `(using ...)` clause is needed instead. The rewrite can be done automatically under `-rewrite`.

4.4.2 Syntax

```
TypeParamBounds ::= [SubtypeBounds] {ContextBound}
ContextBound    ::= ':' Type
```

4.5 Importing Givens

A special form of import wildcard selector is used to import given instances. Example:

```
object A:
  class TC
  given tc: TC = ???
  def f(using TC) = ???
```

```
object B:
  import A.*
  import A.given
  ...
```

In the code above, the `import A.*` clause in object B imports all members of A except the given instance `tc`. Conversely, the second import `import A.given` will import only that given instance. The two import clauses can also be merged into one:

```
object B:
  import A.{given, *}
  ...
```

Generally, a normal wildcard selector `_` brings all definitions other than givens or extensions into scope whereas a given selector brings all givens (including those resulting from extensions) into scope.

There are two main benefits arising from these rules:

- It is made clearer where givens in scope are coming from. In particular, it is not possible to hide imported givens in a long list of regular wildcard imports.

- It enables importing all givens without importing anything else. This is particularly important since givens can be anonymous, so the usual recourse of using named imports is not practical.

4.5.0.1 Importing By Type Since givens can be anonymous it is not always practical to import them by their name, and wildcard imports are typically used instead. By-type imports provide a more specific alternative to wildcard imports, which makes it clearer what is imported. Example:

```
import A.given TC
```

This imports any given in A that has a type which conforms to TC. Importing givens of several types T_1, \dots, T_n is expressed by multiple given selectors.

```
import A.{given T1, ..., given Tn}
```

Importing all given instances of a parameterized type is expressed by wildcard arguments. For instance, assuming the object

```
object Instances:
  given intOrd: Ordering[Int] = ...
  given listOrd[T: Ordering]: Ordering[List[T]] = ...
  given ec: ExecutionContext = ...
  given im: Monoid[Int] = ...
```

the import clause

```
import Instances.{given Ordering[?], given ExecutionContext}
```

would import the `intOrd`, `listOrd`, and `ec` instances but leave out the `im` instance, since it fits none of the specified bounds.

By-type imports can be mixed with by-name imports. If both are present in an import clause, by-type imports come last. For instance, the import clause

```
import Instances.{im, given Ordering[?]}
```

would import `im`, `intOrd`, and `listOrd` but leave out `ec`.

4.5.0.2 Migration The rules for imports stated above have the consequence that a library would have to migrate in lockstep with all its users from old style implicits and normal imports to givens and given imports.

The following modifications avoid this hurdle to migration.

1. A given import selector also brings old style implicits into scope. So, in Scala 3.0 an old-style implicit definition can be brought into scope either by a `_` or a given wildcard selector.
2. In Scala 3.1, old-style implicits accessed through a `_` wildcard import will give a deprecation warning.

3. In some version after 3.1, old-style implicits accessed through a `_` wildcard import will give a compiler error.

These rules mean that library users can use given selectors to access old-style implicits in Scala 3.0, and will be gently nudged and then forced to do so in later versions. Libraries can then switch to given instances once their user base has migrated.

4.5.0.3 Syntax

```

Import      ::= 'import' ImportExpr {',' ImportExpr}
Export      ::= 'export' ImportExpr {',' ImportExpr}
ImportExpr  ::= SimpleRef {'.' id} '.' ImportSpec
ImportSpec  ::= NamedSelector
              | WildcardSelector
              | '{' ImportSelectors '}'
NamedSelector ::= id ['as' (id | '_')]
WildcardSelector ::= '*' | 'given' [InfixType]
ImportSelectors ::= NamedSelector {',' ImportSelectors}
                | WildcardSelector {',' WildcardSelector}

```

4.6 Extension Methods

Extension methods allow one to add methods to a type after the type is defined. Example:

```

case class Circle(x: Double, y: Double, radius: Double)

extension (c: Circle)
  def circumference: Double = c.radius * math.Pi * 2

```

Like regular methods, extension methods can be invoked with infix `..`:

```

val circle = Circle(0, 0, 1)
circle.circumference

```

4.6.0.1 Translation of Extension Methods An extension method translates to a specially labelled method that takes the leading parameter section as its first argument list. The label, expressed as `<extension>` here, is compiler-internal. So, the definition of `circumference` above translates to the following method, and can also be invoked as such:

```

<extension> def circumference(c: Circle): Double = c.radius * math.Pi * 2

assert(circle.circumference == circumference(circle))

```

4.6.0.2 Operators The extension method syntax can also be used to define operators. Examples:

```

extension (x: String)
  def < (y: String): Boolean = ...
extension (x: Elem)

```



```

def +: (xs: Seq[Elem]): Seq[Elem] = ...
extension (x: Number)
  infix def min (y: Number): Number = ...

"ab" < "c"
1 +: List(2, 3)
x min 3

```

The three definitions above translate to

```

<extension> def < (x: String)(y: String): Boolean = ...
<extension> def +: (xs: Seq[Elem])(x: Elem): Seq[Elem] = ...
<extension> infix def min(x: Number)(y: Number): Number = ...

```

Note the swap of the two parameters `x` and `xs` when translating the right-associative operator `+`: to an extension method. This is analogous to the implementation of right binding operators as normal methods. The Scala compiler preprocesses an infix operation `x +: xs` to `xs.+: (x)`, so the extension method ends up being applied to the sequence as first argument (in other words, the two swaps cancel each other out). See [here](#) for details.

4.6.0.3 Generic Extensions It is also possible to extend generic types by adding type parameters to an extension. For instance:

```

extension [T](xs: List[T])
  def second = xs.tail.head

extension [T: Numeric](x: T)
  def + (y: T): T = summon[Numeric[T]].plus(x, y)

```

Type parameters on extensions can also be combined with type parameters on the methods themselves:

```

extension [T](xs: List[T])
  def sumBy[U: Numeric](f: T => U): U = ...

```

Type arguments matching method type parameters are passed as usual:

```
List("a", "bb", "ccc").sumBy[Int](_.length)
```

By contrast, type arguments matching type parameters following extension can be passed only if the method is referenced as a non-extension method:

```
sumBy[String](List("a", "bb", "ccc"))(_.length)
```

Or, when passing both type arguments:

```
sumBy[String](List("a", "bb", "ccc"))[Int](_.length)
```

Extensions can also take using clauses. For instance, the `+` extension above could equivalently be written with a using clause:

```

extension [T](x: T)(using n: Numeric[T])
  def + (y: T): T = n.plus(x, y)

```

4.6.0.4 **Collective Extensions** Sometimes, one wants to define several extension methods that share the same left-hand parameter type. In this case one can “pull out” the common parameters into a single extension and enclose all methods in braces or an indented region. Example:

```
extension (ss: Seq[String])

  def longestStrings: Seq[String] =
    val maxLength = ss.map(_.length).max
    ss.filter(_.length == maxLength)

  def longestString: String = longestStrings.head
```

The same can be written with braces as follows (note that indented regions can still be used inside braces):

```
extension (ss: Seq[String]) {

  def longestStrings: Seq[String] = {
    val maxLength = ss.map(_.length).max
    ss.filter(_.length == maxLength)
  }

  def longestString: String = longestStrings.head
}
```

Note the right-hand side of `longestString`: it calls `longestStrings` directly, implicitly assuming the common extended value `ss` as receiver.

Collective extensions like these are a shorthand for individual extensions where each method is defined separately. For instance, the first extension above expands to:

```
extension (ss: Seq[String])
  def longestStrings: Seq[String] =
    val maxLength = ss.map(_.length).max
    ss.filter(_.length == maxLength)

extension (ss: Seq[String])
  def longestString: String = ss.longestStrings.head
```

Collective extensions also can take type parameters and have using clauses. Example:

```
extension [T](xs: List[T])(using Ordering[T])
  def smallest(n: Int): List[T] = xs.sorted.take(n)
  def smallestIndices(n: Int): List[Int] =
    val limit = smallest(n).max
    xs.zipWithIndex.collect { case (x, i) if x <= limit => i }
```

4.6.0.5 **Translation of Calls to Extension Methods** To convert a reference to an extension method, the compiler has to know about the extension method. We say in this case that the

extension method is applicable at the point of reference. There are four possible ways for an extension method to be applicable:

1. The extension method is visible under a simple name, by being defined or inherited or imported in a scope enclosing the reference.
2. The extension method is a member of some given instance that is visible at the point of the reference.
3. The reference is of the form `r.m` and the extension method is defined in the implicit scope of the type of `r`.
4. The reference is of the form `r.m` and the extension method is defined in some given instance in the implicit scope of the type of `r`.

Here is an example for the first rule:

```
trait IntOps:
  extension (i: Int) def isZero: Boolean = i == 0

  extension (i: Int) def safeMod(x: Int): Option[Int] =
    // extension method defined in same scope IntOps
    if x.isZero then None
    else Some(i % x)

object IntOpsEx extends IntOps:
  extension (i: Int) def safeDiv(x: Int): Option[Int] =
    // extension method brought into scope via inheritance from IntOps
    if x.isZero then None
    else Some(i / x)

trait SafeDiv:
  import IntOpsEx.* // brings safeDiv and safeMod into scope

  extension (i: Int) def divide(d: Int): Option[(Int, Int)] =
    // extension methods imported and thus in scope
    (i.safeDiv(d), i.safeMod(d)) match
      case (Some(d), Some(r)) => Some((d, r))
      case _ => None
```

By the second rule, an extension method can be made available by defining a given instance containing it, like this:

```
given ops1: IntOps() // brings safeMod into scope

1.safeMod(2)
```

By the third and fourth rule, an extension method is available if it is in the implicit scope of the receiver type or in a given instance in that scope. Example:

```
class List[T]:
  ...
object List:
```

```

...
extension [T](xs: List[List[T]])
  def flatten: List[T] = xs.foldLeft(List.empty[T])(_ ++ _)

given [T: Ordering]: Ordering[List[T]] with
  extension (xs: List[T])
    def < (ys: List[T]): Boolean = ...
end List

// extension method available since it is in the implicit scope
// of List[List[Int]]
List(List(1, 2), List(3, 4)).flatten

// extension method available since it is in the given Ordering[List[T]],
// which is itself in the implicit scope of List[Int]
List(1, 2) < List(3)

```

The precise rules for resolving a selection to an extension method are as follows.

Assume a selection $e.m[Ts]$ where m is not a member of e , where the type arguments $[Ts]$ are optional, and where T is the expected type. The following two rewritings are tried in order:

1. The selection is rewritten to $m[Ts](e)$.
2. If the first rewriting does not typecheck with expected type T , and there is an extension method m in some eligible object o , the selection is rewritten to $o.m[Ts](e)$. An object o is eligible if
 - o forms part of the implicit scope of T , or
 - o is a given instance that is visible at the point of the application, or
 - o is a given instance in the implicit scope of T .

This second rewriting is attempted at the time where the compiler also tries an implicit conversion from T to a type containing m . If there is more than one way of rewriting, an ambiguity error results.

An extension method can also be referenced using a simple identifier without a preceding expression. If an identifier g appears in the body of an extension method f and refers to an extension method g that is defined in the same collective extension

```

extension (x: T)
  def f ... = ... g ...
  def g ...

```

the identifier is rewritten to $x.g$. This is also the case if f and g are the same method. Example:

```

extension (s: String)
  def position(ch: Char, n: Int): Int =
    if n < s.length && s(n) != ch then position(ch, n + 1)

```

```
else n
```

The recursive call `position(ch, n + 1)` expands to `s.position(ch, n + 1)` in this case. The whole extension method rewrites to

```
def position(s: String)(ch: Char, n: Int): Int =
  if n < s.length && s(n) != ch then position(s)(ch, n + 1)
  else n
```

4.6.0.6 Syntax Here are the syntax changes for extension methods and collective extensions relative to the **current syntax**.

```
BlockStat      ::= ... | Extension
TemplateStat   ::= ... | Extension
TopStat        ::= ... | Extension
Extension      ::= 'extension' [DefTypeParamClause] '(' DefParam ')'
                  {UsingParamClause} ExtMethods
ExtMethods     ::= ExtMethod | [nl] <<< ExtMethod {semi ExtMethod} >>>
ExtMethod      ::= {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} 'def' DefDef
```

In the above the notation `<<< ts >>>` in the production rule `ExtMethods` is defined as follows:

```
<<< ts >>>      ::= '{' ts '}' | indent ts outdent
```

`extension` is a soft keyword. It is recognized as a keyword only if it appears at the start of a statement and is followed by `[` or `(`. In all other cases it is treated as an identifier.

4.7 Implementing Type classes

A type class is an abstract, parameterized type that lets you add new behavior to any closed data type without using sub-typing. This can be useful in multiple use-cases, for example:

- expressing how a type you don't own (from the standard or 3rd-party library) conforms to such behavior
- expressing such a behavior for multiple types without involving sub-typing relationships (one extends another) between those types (see: [ad hoc polymorphism](#) for instance)

Therefore in Scala 3, type classes are just traits with one or more parameters whose implementations are not defined through the `extends` keyword, but by given instances. Here are some examples of common type classes:

4.7.0.1 Semigroups and monoids Here's the `Monoid` type class definition:

```
trait SemiGroup[T]:
  extension (x: T) def combine (y: T): T

trait Monoid[T] extends SemiGroup[T]:
  def unit: T
```

An implementation of this `Monoid` type class for the type `String` can be the following:

```
given Monoid[String] with
  extension (x: String) def combine (y: String): String = x.concat(y)
  def unit: String = ""
```

Whereas for the type `Int` one could write the following:

```
given Monoid[Int] with
  extension (x: Int) def combine (y: Int): Int = x + y
  def unit: Int = 0
```

This monoid can now be used as context bound in the following `combineAll` method:

```
def combineAll[T: Monoid](xs: List[T]): T =
  xs.foldLeft(summon[Monoid[T]].unit)(_._combine(_))
```

To get rid of the `summon[...]` we can define a `Monoid` object as follows:

```
object Monoid:
  def apply[T](using m: Monoid[T]) = m
```

Which would allow to re-write the `combineAll` method this way:

```
def combineAll[T: Monoid](xs: List[T]): T =
  xs.foldLeft(Monoid[T].unit)(_._combine(_))
```

4.7.0.2 Functors A Functor for a type provides the ability for its values to be “mapped over”, i.e. apply a function that transforms inside a value while remembering its shape. For example, to modify every element of a collection without dropping or adding elements. We can represent all types that can be “mapped over” with `F`. It’s a type constructor: the type of its values becomes concrete when provided a type argument. Therefore we write it `F[_]`, hinting that the type `F` takes another type as argument. The definition of a generic Functor would thus be written as:

```
trait Functor[F[_]]:
  def map[A, B](x: F[A], f: A => B): F[B]
```

Which could read as follows: “A Functor for the type constructor `F[_]` represents the ability to transform `F[A]` to `F[B]` through the application of function `f` with type `A => B`”. We call the Functor definition here a type class. This way, we could define an instance of Functor for the `List` type:

```
given Functor[List] with
  def map[A, B](x: List[A], f: A => B): List[B] =
    x.map(f) // List already has a `map` method
```

With this given instance in scope, everywhere a Functor is expected, the compiler will accept a `List` to be used.

For instance, we may write such a testing method:

```
def assertTransformation[F[_]: Functor, A, B](expected: F[B], original: F[A], mapping:
  assert(expected == summon[Functor[F]].map(original, mapping))
```

And use it this way, for example:

```
assertTransformation(List("a1", "b1"), List("a", "b"), elt => s"${elt}1")
```

That's a first step, but in practice we probably would like the `map` function to be a method directly accessible on the type `F`. So that we can call `map` directly on instances of `F`, and get rid of the `summon[Functor[F]]` part. As in the previous example of Monoids, **extension methods** help achieving that. Let's re-define the `Functor` type class with extension methods.

```
trait Functor[F[_]]:
  extension [A](x: F[A])
    def map[B](f: A => B): F[B]
```

The instance of `Functor` for `List` now becomes:

```
given Functor[List] with
  extension [A](xs: List[A])
    def map[B](f: A => B): List[B] =
      xs.map(f) // List already has a `map` method
```

It simplifies the `assertTransformation` method:

```
def assertTransformation[F[_]: Functor, A, B](expected: F[B], original: F[A], mapping: A => B): Unit =
  assert(expected == original.map(mapping))
```

The `map` method is now directly used on `original`. It is available as an extension method since `original`'s type is `F[A]` and a given instance for `Functor[F[A]]` which defines `map` is in scope.

4.7.0.3 Monads Applying `map` in `Functor[List]` to a mapping function of type `A => B` results in a `List[B]`. So applying it to a mapping function of type `A => List[B]` results in a `List[List[B]]`. To avoid managing lists of lists, we may want to “flatten” the values in a single list.

That's where `Monad` comes in. A `Monad` for type `F[_]` is a `Functor[F]` with two more operations:

- `flatMap`, which turns an `F[A]` into an `F[B]` when given a function of type `A => F[B]`,
- `pure`, which creates an `F[A]` from a single value `A`.

Here is the translation of this definition in Scala 3:

```
trait Monad[F[_]] extends Functor[F]:

  /** The unit value for a monad */
  def pure[A](x: A): F[A]

  extension [A](x: F[A])
    /** The fundamental composition operation */
    def flatMap[B](f: A => F[B]): F[B]

    /** The `map` operation can now be defined in terms of `flatMap` */
    def map[B](f: A => B) = x.flatMap(f.andThen(pure))
```

end Monad

4.7.0.3.1 List A List can be turned into a monad via this given instance:

```
given listMonad: Monad[List] with
  def pure[A](x: A): List[A] =
    List(x)
  extension [A](xs: List[A])
    def flatMap[B](f: A => List[B]): List[B] =
      xs.flatMap(f) // rely on the existing `flatMap` method of `List`
```

Since Monad is a subtype of Functor, List is also a functor. The Functor's map operation is already provided by the Monad trait, so the instance does not need to define it explicitly.

4.7.0.3.2 Option Option is an other type having the same kind of behaviour:

```
given optionMonad: Monad[Option] with
  def pure[A](x: A): Option[A] =
    Option(x)
  extension [A](xo: Option[A])
    def flatMap[B](f: A => Option[B]): Option[B] = xo match
      case Some(x) => f(x)
      case None => None
```

4.7.0.3.3 Reader Another example of a Monad is the Reader Monad, which acts on functions instead of data types like List or Option. It can be used to combine multiple functions that all need the same parameter. For instance multiple functions needing access to some configuration, context, environment variables, etc.

Let's define a Config type, and two functions using it:

```
trait Config
// ...
def compute(i: Int)(config: Config): String = ???
def show(str: String)(config: Config): Unit = ???
```

We may want to combine compute and show into a single function, accepting a Config as parameter, and showing the result of the computation, and we'd like to use a monad to avoid passing the parameter explicitly multiple times. So postulating the right flatMap operation, we could write:

```
def computeAndShow(i: Int): Config => Unit = compute(i).flatMap(show)
```

instead of

```
show(compute(i)(config))(config)
```

Let's define this m then. First, we are going to define a type named ConfigDependent representing a function that when passed a Config produces a Result.


```
type ConfigDependent[Result] = Config => Result
```

The monad instance will look like this:

```
given configDependentMonad: Monad[ConfigDependent] with

  def pure[A](x: A): ConfigDependent[A] =
    config => x

  extension [A](x: ConfigDependent[A])
    def flatMap[B](f: A => ConfigDependent[B]): ConfigDependent[B] =
      config => f(x(config))(config)

end configDependentMonad
```

The type `ConfigDependent` can be written using **type lambdas**:

```
type ConfigDependent = [Result] ==> Config => Result
```

Using this syntax would turn the previous `configDependentMonad` into:

```
given configDependentMonad: Monad[[Result] ==> Config => Result] with

  def pure[A](x: A): Config => A =
    config => x

  extension [A](x: Config => A)
    def flatMap[B](f: A => Config => B): Config => B =
      config => f(x(config))(config)

end configDependentMonad
```

It is likely that we would like to use this pattern with other kinds of environments than our `Config` trait. The `Reader` monad allows us to abstract away `Config` as a type parameter, named `Ctx` in the following definition:

```
given readerMonad[Ctx]: Monad[[X] ==> Ctx => X] with

  def pure[A](x: A): Ctx => A =
    ctx => x

  extension [A](x: Ctx => A)
    def flatMap[B](f: A => Ctx => B): Ctx => B =
      ctx => f(x(ctx))(ctx)

end readerMonad
```

4.7.0.4 Summary The definition of a type class is expressed with a parameterised type with abstract members, such as a `trait`. The main difference between subtype polymorphism

and ad-hoc polymorphism with type classes is how the definition of the type class is implemented, in relation to the type it acts upon. In the case of a type class, its implementation for a concrete type is expressed through a given instance definition, which is supplied as an implicit argument alongside the value it acts upon. With subtype polymorphism, the implementation is mixed into the parents of a class, and only a single term is required to perform a polymorphic operation. The type class solution takes more effort to set up, but is more extensible: Adding a new interface to a class requires changing the source code of that class. But contrast, instances for type classes can be defined anywhere.

To conclude, we have seen that traits and given instances, combined with other constructs like extension methods, context bounds and type lambdas allow a concise and natural expression of type classes.

4.8 Type Class Derivation

Type class derivation is a way to automatically generate given instances for type classes which satisfy some simple conditions. A type class in this sense is any trait or class with a type parameter determining the type being operated on. Common examples are `Eq`, `Ordering`, or `Show`. For example, given the following `Tree` algebraic data type (ADT),

```
enum Tree[T] derives Eq, Ordering, Show:
  case Branch(left: Tree[T], right: Tree[T])
  case Leaf(elem: T)
```

The `derives` clause generates the following given instances for the `Eq`, `Ordering` and `Show` type classes in the companion object of `Tree`,

```
given [T: Eq]          : Eq[Tree[T]]      = Eq.derived
given [T: Ordering]    : Ordering[Tree]    = Ordering.derived
given [T: Show]        : Show[Tree]       = Show.derived
```

We say that `Tree` is the deriving type and that the `Eq`, `Ordering` and `Show` instances are derived instances.

4.8.0.1 Types supporting `derives` clauses All data types can have a `derives` clause. This document focuses primarily on data types which also have a given instance of the `Mirror` type class available. Instances of the `Mirror` type class are generated automatically by the compiler for,

- enums and enum cases
- case classes and case objects
- sealed classes or traits that have only case classes and case objects as children

`Mirror` type class instances provide information at the type level about the components and labelling of the type. They also provide minimal term level infrastructure to allow higher level libraries to provide comprehensive derivation support.

```
sealed trait Mirror:

  /** the type being mirrored */
```

```
type MirroredType

/** the type of the elements of the mirrored type */
type MirroredElemTypes

/** The mirrored *-type */
type MirroredMonoType

/** The name of the type */
type MirroredLabel <: String

/** The names of the elements of the type */
type MirroredElemLabels <: Tuple

object Mirror:

  /** The Mirror for a product type */
  trait Product extends Mirror:

    /** Create a new instance of type `T` with elements
     *  taken from product `p`.
     */
    def fromProduct(p: scala.Product): MirroredMonoType

  trait Sum extends Mirror:

    /** The ordinal number of the case class of `x`.
     *  For enums, `ordinal(x) == x.ordinal`
     */
    def ordinal(x: MirroredMonoType): Int

end Mirror
```

Product types (i.e. case classes and objects, and enum cases) have mirrors which are subtypes of `Mirror.Product`. Sum types (i.e. sealed class or traits with product children, and enums) have mirrors which are subtypes of `Mirror.Sum`.

For the Tree ADT from above the following `Mirror` instances will be automatically provided by the compiler,

```
// Mirror for Tree
new Mirror.Sum:
  type MirroredType = Tree
  type MirroredElemTypes[T] = (Branch[T], Leaf[T])
  type MirroredMonoType = Tree[_]
  type MirroredLabels = "Tree"
  type MirroredElemLabels = ("Branch", "Leaf")
```

```

def ordinal(x: MirroredMonoType): Int = x match
  case _: Branch[_] => 0
  case _: Leaf[_] => 1

// Mirror for Branch
new Mirror.Product:
  type MirroredType = Branch
  type MirroredElemTypes[T] = (Tree[T], Tree[T])
  type MirroredMonoType = Branch[_]
  type MirroredLabels = "Branch"
  type MirroredElemLabels = ("left", "right")

  def fromProduct(p: Product): MirroredMonoType =
    new Branch(...)

// Mirror for Leaf
new Mirror.Product:
  type MirroredType = Leaf
  type MirroredElemTypes[T] = Tuple1[T]
  type MirroredMonoType = Leaf[_]
  type MirroredLabels = "Leaf"
  type MirroredElemLabels = Tuple1["elem"]

  def fromProduct(p: Product): MirroredMonoType =
    new Leaf(...)

```

Note the following properties of Mirror types,

- Properties are encoded using types rather than terms. This means that they have no runtime footprint unless used and also that they are a compile time feature for use with Scala 3's metaprogramming facilities.
- The kinds of `MirroredType` and `MirroredElemTypes` match the kind of the data type the mirror is an instance for. This allows Mirrors to support ADTs of all kinds.
- There is no distinct representation type for sums or products (ie. there is no `HList` or `Coproduct` type as in Scala 2 versions of Shapeless). Instead the collection of child types of a data type is represented by an ordinary, possibly parameterized, tuple type. Scala 3's metaprogramming facilities can be used to work with these tuple types as-is, and higher level libraries can be built on top of them.
- For both product and sum types, the elements of `MirroredElemTypes` are arranged in definition order (i.e. `Branch[T]` precedes `Leaf[T]` in `MirroredElemTypes` for `Tree` because `Branch` is defined before `Leaf` in the source file). This means that `Mirror.Sum` differs in this respect from Shapeless's generic representation for ADTs in Scala 2, where the constructors are ordered alphabetically by name.
- The methods `ordinal` and `fromProduct` are defined in terms of `MirroredMonoType` which is the type of kind-`*` which is obtained from `MirroredType` by wildcarding its type parameters.

4.8.0.2 Type classes supporting automatic deriving A trait or class can appear in a `derives` clause if its companion object defines a method named `derived`. The signature and implementation of a derived method for a type class `TC[_]` are arbitrary but it is typically of the following form,

```
def derived[T](using Mirror.Of[T]): TC[T] = ...
```

That is, the `derived` method takes a context parameter of (some subtype of) type `Mirror` which defines the shape of the deriving type `T`, and computes the type class implementation according to that shape. This is all that the provider of an ADT with a `derives` clause has to know about the derivation of a type class instance.

Note that `derived` methods may have context `Mirror` parameters indirectly (e.g. by having a context argument which in turn has a context `Mirror` parameter, or not at all (e.g. they might use some completely different user-provided mechanism, for instance using Scala 3 macros or runtime reflection). We expect that (direct or indirect) `Mirror` based implementations will be the most common and that is what this document emphasises.

Type class authors will most likely use higher level derivation or generic programming libraries to implement `derived` methods. An example of how a `derived` method might be implemented using only the low level facilities described above and Scala 3's general metaprogramming features is provided below. It is not anticipated that type class authors would normally implement a `derived` method in this way, however this walkthrough can be taken as a guide for authors of the higher level derivation libraries that we expect typical type class authors will use (for a fully worked out example of such a library, see [Shapeless 3](#)).

4.8.0.2.1 How to write a type class `derived` method using low level mechanisms The low-level method we will use to implement a type class `derived` method in this example exploits three new type-level constructs in Scala 3: `inline` methods, `inline` matches, and `implicit` searches via `summonInline` or `summonFrom`. Given this definition of the `Eq` type class,

```
trait Eq[T]:
  def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean
```

we need to implement a method `Eq.derived` on the companion object of `Eq` that produces a given instance for `Eq[T]` given a `Mirror[T]`. Here is a possible implementation,

```
inline given derived[T](using m: Mirror.Of[T]): Eq[T] =
  val elemInstances = summonAll[m.MirroredElemTypes]           // (1)
  inline m match                                              // (2)
    case s: Mirror.SumOf[T] => eqSum(s, elemInstances)
    case p: Mirror.ProductOf[T] => eqProduct(p, elemInstances)
```

Note that `derived` is defined as an `inline given`. This means that the method will be expanded at call sites (for instance the compiler generated instance definitions in the companion objects of ADTs which have a `derived Eq` clause), and also that it can be used recursively if necessary, to compute instances for children.

The body of this method (1) first materializes the `Eq` instances for all the child types of type the instance is being derived for. This is either all the branches of a sum type or all the

fields of a product type. The implementation of `summonAll` is inline and uses Scala 3's `summonInline` construct to collect the instances as a `List`,

```
inline def summonAll[T <: Tuple]: List[Eq[_]] =
  inline erasedValue[T] match
    case _: EmptyTuple => Nil
    case _: (t *: ts) => summonInline[Eq[t]] :: summonAll[ts]
```

with the instances for children in hand the derived method uses an `inline match` to dispatch to methods which can construct instances for either sums or products (2). Note that because `derived` is `inline` the match will be resolved at compile-time and only the left-hand side of the matching case will be inlined into the generated code with types refined as revealed by the match.

In the sum case, `eqSum`, we use the runtime ordinal values of the arguments to `eqv` to first check if the two values are of the same subtype of the ADT (3) and then, if they are, to further test for equality based on the `Eq` instance for the appropriate ADT subtype using the auxiliary method `check` (4).

```
def eqSum[T](s: Mirror.SumOf[T], elems: List[Eq[_]]): Eq[T] =
  new Eq[T]:
    def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean =
      val ordx = s.ordinal(x) // (3)
      (s.ordinal(y) == ordx) && check(elems(ordx))(x, y) // (4)
```

In the product case, `eqProduct` we test the runtime values of the arguments to `eqv` for equality as products based on the `Eq` instances for the fields of the data type (5),

```
def eqProduct[T](p: Mirror.ProductOf[T], elems: List[Eq[_]]): Eq[T] =
  new Eq[T]:
    def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean =
      iterator(x).zip(iterator(y)).zip(elems.iterator).forall { // (5)
        case ((x, y), elem) => check(elem)(x, y)
      }
```

Pulling this all together we have the following complete implementation,

```
import scala.deriving.*
import scala.compiletime.{erasedValue, summonInline}

inline def summonAll[T <: Tuple]: List[Eq[_]] =
  inline erasedValue[T] match
    case _: EmptyTuple => Nil
    case _: (t *: ts) => summonInline[Eq[t]] :: summonAll[ts]

trait Eq[T]:
  def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean

object Eq:
  given Eq[Int] with
```

```

def eqv(x: Int, y: Int) = x == y

def check(elem: Eq[_])(x: Any, y: Any): Boolean =
  elem.asInstanceOf[Eq[Any]].eqv(x, y)

def iterator[T](p: T) = p.asInstanceOf[Product].productIterator

def eqSum[T](s: Mirror.SumOf[T], elems: => List[Eq[_]]): Eq[T] =
  new Eq[T]:
    def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean =
      val ordx = s.ordinal(x)
      (s.ordinal(y) == ordx) && check(elems(ordx))(x, y)

def eqProduct[T](p: Mirror.ProductOf[T], elems: => List[Eq[_]]): Eq[T] =
  new Eq[T]:
    def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean =
      iterator(x).zip(iterator(y)).zip(elems.iterator).forall {
        case ((x, y), elem) => check(elem)(x, y)
      }

inline given derived[T](using m: Mirror.Of[T]): Eq[T] =
  lazy val elemInstances = summonAll[m.MirroredElemTypes]
  inline m match
    case s: Mirror.SumOf[T]      => eqSum(s, elemInstances)
    case p: Mirror.ProductOf[T] => eqProduct(p, elemInstances)
end Eq

```

we can test this relative to a simple ADT like so,

```

enum Opt[+T] derives Eq:
  case Sm(t: T)
  case Nn

@main def test(): Unit =
  import Opt.*
  val eqoi = summon[Eq[Opt[Int]]]
  assert(eqoi.eqv(Sm(23), Sm(23)))
  assert(!eqoi.eqv(Sm(23), Sm(13)))
  assert(!eqoi.eqv(Sm(23), Nn))

```

In this case the code that is generated by the inline expansion for the derived Eq instance for Opt looks like the following, after a little polishing,

```

given derived$Eq[T](using eqT: Eq[T]): Eq[Opt[T]] =
  eqSum(
    summon[Mirror[Opt[T]]],
    List(
      eqProduct(summon[Mirror[Sm[T]]], List(summon[Eq[T]])),

```

```

    eqProduct(summon[Mirror[Nn.type]], Nil)
  )
)

```

Alternative approaches can be taken to the way that derived methods can be defined. For example, more aggressively inlined variants using Scala 3 macros, whilst being more involved for type class authors to write than the example above, can produce code for type classes like `Eq` which eliminate all the abstraction artefacts (eg. the `Lists` of child instances in the above) and generate code which is indistinguishable from what a programmer might write by hand. As a third example, using a higher level library such as `Shapeless` the type class author could define an equivalent derived method as,

```

given eqSum[A](using inst: => K0.CoproductInstances[Eq, A]): Eq[A] with
  def eqv(x: A, y: A): Boolean = inst.fold2(x, y)(false)(
    [t] => (eqt: Eq[t], t0: t, t1: t) => eqt.eqv(t0, t1)
  )

given eqProduct[A](using inst: K0.ProductInstances[Eq, A]): Eq[A] with
  def eqv(x: A, y: A): Boolean = inst.foldLeft2(x, y)(true: Boolean)(
    [t] => (acc: Boolean, eqt: Eq[t], t0: t, t1: t) =>
      Complete(!eqt.eqv(t0, t1))(false)(true)
  )

inline def derived[A](using gen: K0.Generic[A]) as Eq[A] =
  gen.derive(eqSum, eqProduct)

```

The framework described here enables all three of these approaches without mandating any of them.

For a brief discussion on how to use macros to write a type class derived method please read more at [How to write a type class derived method using macros](#).

4.8.0.3 Deriving instances elsewhere Sometimes one would like to derive a type class instance for an ADT after the ADT is defined, without being able to change the code of the ADT itself. To do this, simply define an instance using the derived method of the type class as right-hand side. E.g, to implement `Ordering` for `Option` define,

```
given [T: Ordering]: Ordering[Option[T]] = Ordering.derived
```

Assuming the `Ordering.derived` method has a context parameter of type `Mirror[T]` it will be satisfied by the compiler generated `Mirror` instance for `Option` and the derivation of the instance will be expanded on the right hand side of this definition in the same way as an instance defined in ADT companion objects.

4.8.0.4 Syntax

```

Template      ::= InheritClauses [TemplateBody]
EnumDef       ::= id ClassConstr InheritClauses EnumBody
InheritClauses ::= ['extends' ConstrApps] ['derives' QualId {' ',' QualId}]

```



```
ConstrApps      ::=  ConstrApp {'with' ConstrApp}
                  |  ConstrApp {',' ConstrApp}
```

Note: To align extends clauses and derives clauses, Scala 3 also allows multiple extended types to be separated by commas. So the following is now legal:

```
class A extends B, C { ... }
```

It is equivalent to the old form

```
class A extends B with C { ... }
```

4.8.0.5 Discussion This type class derivation framework is intentionally very small and low-level. There are essentially two pieces of infrastructure in compiler-generated `Mirror` instances,

- type members encoding properties of the mirrored types.
- a minimal value level mechanism for working generically with terms of the mirrored types.

The `Mirror` infrastructure can be seen as an extension of the existing `Product` infrastructure for case classes: typically `Mirror` types will be implemented by the ADTs companion object, hence the type members and the `ordinal` or `fromProduct` methods will be members of that object. The primary motivation for this design decision, and the decision to encode properties via types rather than terms was to keep the bytecode and runtime footprint of the feature small enough to make it possible to provide `Mirror` instances unconditionally.

Whilst `Mirrors` encode properties precisely via type members, the value level `ordinal` and `fromProduct` are somewhat weakly typed (because they are defined in terms of `MirroredMonoType`) just like the members of `Product`. This means that code for generic type classes has to ensure that type exploration and value selection proceed in lockstep and it has to assert this conformance in some places using casts. If generic type classes are correctly written these casts will never fail.

As mentioned, however, the compiler-provided mechanism is intentionally very low level and it is anticipated that higher level type class derivation and generic programming libraries will build on this and Scala 3's other metaprogramming facilities to hide these low-level details from type class authors and general users. Type class derivation in the style of both `Shapeless` and `Magnolia` are possible (a prototype of `Shapeless 3`, which combines aspects of both `Shapeless 2` and `Magnolia` has been developed alongside this language feature) as is a more aggressively inlined style, supported by Scala 3's new `quote/splice` macro and inlining facilities.

4.9 Multiversal Equality

Previously, Scala had universal equality: Two values of any types could be compared with each other with `==` and `!=`. This came from the fact that `==` and `!=` are implemented in terms of Java's `equals` method, which can also compare values of any two reference types.

Universal equality is convenient. But it is also dangerous since it undermines type safety. For instance, let's assume one is left after some refactoring with an erroneous program where a

value `y` has type `S` instead of the correct type `T`.

```
val x = ... // of type T
val y = ... // of type S, but should be T
x == y      // typechecks, will always yield false
```

If `y` gets compared to other values of type `T`, the program will still typecheck, since values of all types can be compared with each other. But it will probably give unexpected results and fail at runtime.

Multiversal equality is an opt-in way to make universal equality safer. It uses a binary type class `scala.CanEqual` to indicate that values of two given types can be compared with each other. The example above would not typecheck if `S` or `T` was a class that derives `CanEqual`, e.g.

```
class T derives CanEqual
```

Alternatively, one can also provide a `CanEqual` given instance directly, like this:

```
given CanEqual[T, T] = CanEqual.derived
```

This definition effectively says that values of type `T` can (only) be compared to other values of type `T` when using `==` or `!=`. The definition affects type checking but it has no significance for runtime behavior, since `==` always maps to `equals` and `!=` always maps to the negation of `equals`. The right-hand side `CanEqual.derived` of the definition is a value that has any `CanEqual` instance as its type. Here is the definition of class `CanEqual` and its companion object:

```
package scala
import annotation.implicitNotFound

@implicitNotFound("Values of types ${L} and ${R} cannot be compared with == or !=")
sealed trait CanEqual[-L, -R]

object CanEqual:
  object derived extends CanEqual[Any, Any]
```

One can have several `CanEqual` given instances for a type. For example, the four definitions below make values of type `A` and type `B` comparable with each other, but not comparable to anything else:

```
given CanEqual[A, A] = CanEqual.derived
given CanEqual[B, B] = CanEqual.derived
given CanEqual[A, B] = CanEqual.derived
given CanEqual[B, A] = CanEqual.derived
```

The `scala.CanEqual` object defines a number of `CanEqual` given instances that together define a rule book for what standard types can be compared (more details below).

There is also a “fallback” instance named `canEqualAny` that allows comparisons over all types that do not themselves have a `CanEqual` given. `canEqualAny` is defined as follows:

```
def canEqualAny[L, R]: CanEqual[L, R] = CanEqual.derived
```

Even though `canEqualAny` is not declared as given, the compiler will still construct an `canEqualAny` instance as answer to an implicit search for the type `CanEqual[L, R]`, unless `L` or `R` have `CanEqual` instances defined on them, or the language feature `strictEquality` is enabled.

The primary motivation for having `canEqualAny` is backwards compatibility. If this is of no concern, one can disable `canEqualAny` by enabling the language feature `strictEquality`. As for all language features this can be either done with an import

```
import scala.language.strictEquality
```

or with a command line option `-language:strictEquality`.

4.9.1 Deriving CanEqual Instances

Instead of defining `CanEqual` instances directly, it is often more convenient to derive them. Example:

```
class Box[T](x: T) derives CanEqual
```

By the usual rules of **type class derivation**, this generates the following `CanEqual` instance in the companion object of `Box`:

```
given [T, U](using CanEqual[T, U]): CanEqual[Box[T], Box[U]] =
  CanEqual.derived
```

That is, two boxes are comparable with `==` or `!=` if their elements are. Examples:

```
new Box(1) == new Box(1L)    // ok since there is an instance for `CanEqual[Int, Long]`
new Box(1) == new Box("a")  // error: can't compare
new Box(1) == 1              // error: can't compare
```

4.9.2 Precise Rules for Equality Checking

The precise rules for equality checking are as follows.

If the `strictEquality` feature is enabled then a comparison using `x == y` or `x != y` between values `x: T` and `y: U` is legal if there is a given of type `CanEqual[T, U]`.

In the default case where the `strictEquality` feature is not enabled the comparison is also legal if

1. `T` and `U` are the same, or
2. one of `T`, `U` is a subtype of the lifted version of the other type, or
3. neither `T` nor `U` have a reflexive `CanEqual` instance.

Explanations:

- lifting a type `S` means replacing all references to abstract types in covariant positions of `S` by their upper bound, and replacing all refinement types in covariant positions of `S` by their parent.
- a type `T` has a reflexive `CanEqual` instance if the implicit search for `CanEqual[T, T]` succeeds.

4.9.3 Predefined CanEqual Instances

The `CanEqual` object defines instances for comparing - the primitive types `Byte`, `Short`, `Char`, `Int`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`, `Boolean`, and `Unit`, - `java.lang.Number`, `java.lang.Boolean`, and `java.lang.Character`, - `scala.collection.Seq`, and `scala.collection.Set`.

Instances are defined so that every one of these types has a reflexive `CanEqual` instance, and the following holds:

- Primitive numeric types can be compared with each other.
- Primitive numeric types can be compared with subtypes of `java.lang.Number` (and vice versa).
- `Boolean` can be compared with `java.lang.Boolean` (and vice versa).
- `Char` can be compared with `java.lang.Character` (and vice versa).
- Two sequences (of arbitrary subtypes of `scala.collection.Seq`) can be compared with each other if their element types can be compared. The two sequence types need not be the same.
- Two sets (of arbitrary subtypes of `scala.collection.Set`) can be compared with each other if their element types can be compared. The two set types need not be the same.
- Any subtype of `AnyRef` can be compared with `Null` (and vice versa).

4.9.4 Why Two Type Parameters?

One particular feature of the `CanEqual` type is that it takes two type parameters, representing the types of the two items to be compared. By contrast, conventional implementations of an equality type class take only a single type parameter which represents the common type of both operands. One type parameter is simpler than two, so why go through the additional complication? The reason has to do with the fact that, rather than coming up with a type class where no operation existed before, we are dealing with a refinement of pre-existing, universal equality. It is best illustrated through an example.

Say you want to come up with a safe version of the `contains` method on `List[T]`. The original definition of `contains` in the standard library was:

```
class List[+T]:
  ...
  def contains(x: Any): Boolean
```

That uses universal equality in an unsafe way since it permits arguments of any type to be compared with the list's elements. The “obvious” alternative definition

```
def contains(x: T): Boolean
```

does not work, since it refers to the covariant parameter `T` in a nonvariant context. The only variance-correct way to use the type parameter `T` in `contains` is as a lower bound:

```
def contains[U >: T](x: U): Boolean
```

This generic version of `contains` is the one used in the current (Scala 2.13) version of

List. It looks different but it admits exactly the same applications as the `contains(x: Any)` definition we started with. However, we can make it more useful (i.e. restrictive) by adding a `CanEqual` parameter:

```
def contains[U >: T](x: U)(using CanEqual[T, U]): Boolean // (1)
```

This version of `contains` is equality-safe! More precisely, given `x: T`, `xs: List[T]` and `y: U`, then `xs.contains(y)` is type-correct if and only if `x == y` is type-correct.

Unfortunately, the crucial ability to “lift” equality type checking from simple equality and pattern matching to arbitrary user-defined operations gets lost if we restrict ourselves to an equality class with a single type parameter. Consider the following signature of `contains` with a hypothetical `CanEqual1[T]` type class:

```
def contains[U >: T](x: U)(using CanEqual1[U]): Boolean // (2)
```

This version could be applied just as widely as the original `contains(x: Any)` method, since the `CanEqual1[Any]` fallback is always available! So we have gained nothing. What got lost in the transition to a single parameter type class was the original rule that `CanEqual[A, B]` is available only if neither `A` nor `B` have a reflexive `CanEqual` instance. That rule simply cannot be expressed if there is a single type parameter for `CanEqual`.

The situation is different under `-language:strictEquality`. In that case, the `CanEqual[Any, Any]` or `CanEqual1[Any]` instances would never be available, and the single and two-parameter versions would indeed coincide for most practical purposes.

But assuming `-language:strictEquality` immediately and everywhere poses migration problems which might well be unsurmountable. Consider again `contains`, which is in the standard library. Parameterizing it with the `CanEqual` type class as in (1) is an immediate win since it rules out non-sensical applications while still allowing all sensible ones. So it can be done almost at any time, modulo binary compatibility concerns. On the other hand, parameterizing `contains` with `CanEqual1` as in (2) would make `contains` unusable for all types that have not yet declared a `CanEqual1` instance, including all types coming from Java. This is clearly unacceptable. It would lead to a situation where, rather than migrating existing libraries to use safe equality, the only upgrade path is to have parallel libraries, with the new version only catering to types deriving `CanEqual1` and the old version dealing with everything else. Such a split of the ecosystem would be very problematic, which means the cure is likely to be worse than the disease.

For these reasons, it looks like a two-parameter type class is the only way forward because it can take the existing ecosystem where it is and migrate it towards a future where more and more code uses safe equality.

In applications where `-language:strictEquality` is the default one could also introduce a one-parameter type alias such as

```
type Eq[-T] = CanEqual[T, T]
```

Operations needing safe equality could then use this alias instead of the two-parameter `CanEqual` class. But it would only work under `-language:strictEquality`, since otherwise the universal `Eq[Any]` instance would be available everywhere.

More on multiversal equality is found in a [blog post](#) and a [GitHub issue](#).

4.10 Context Functions

Context functions are functions with (only) context parameters. Their types are context function types. Here is an example of a context function type:

```
type Executable[T] = ExecutionContext ?=> T
```

Context functions are written using `?=>` as the “arrow” sign. They are applied to synthesized arguments, in the same way methods with context parameters are applied. For instance:

```
given ec: ExecutionContext = ...

def f(x: Int): ExecutionContext ?=> Int = ...

// could be written as follows with the type alias from above
// def f(x: Int): Executable[Int] = ...

f(2)(using ec)  // explicit argument
f(2)           // argument is inferred
```

Conversely, if the expected type of an expression `E` is a context function type $(T_1, \dots, T_n) ?=> U$ and `E` is not already an context function literal, `E` is converted to a context function literal by rewriting it to

$$(x_1: T_1, \dots, x_n: T_n) ?=> E$$

where the names `x_1, ..., x_n` are arbitrary. This expansion is performed before the expression `E` is typechecked, which means that `x_1, ..., x_n` are available as givens in `E`.

Like their types, context function literals are written using `?=>` as the arrow between parameters and results. They differ from normal function literals in that their types are context function types.

For example, continuing with the previous definitions,

```
def g(arg: Executable[Int]) = ...

g(22)      // is expanded to g((ev: ExecutionContext) ?=> 22)

g(f(2))    // is expanded to g((ev: ExecutionContext) ?=> f(2)(using ev))

g((ctx: ExecutionContext) ?=> f(3)) // is expanded to g((ctx: ExecutionContext) ?=>
g((ctx: ExecutionContext) ?=> f(3)(using ctx)) // is left as it is
```

4.10.0.1 Example: Builder Pattern Context function types have considerable expressive power. For instance, here is how they can support the “builder pattern”, where the aim is to construct tables like this:

```

table {
  row {
    cell("top left")
    cell("top right")
  }
  row {
    cell("bottom left")
    cell("bottom right")
  }
}

```

The idea is to define classes for Table and Row that allow the addition of elements via add:

```

class Table:
  val rows = new ArrayBuffer[Row]
  def add(r: Row): Unit = rows += r
  override def toString = rows.mkString("Table(", ", ", ", ")")

class Row:
  val cells = new ArrayBuffer[Cell]
  def add(c: Cell): Unit = cells += c
  override def toString = cells.mkString("Row(", ", ", ", ")")

case class Cell(elem: String)

```

Then, the table, row and cell constructor methods can be defined with context function types as parameters to avoid the plumbing boilerplate that would otherwise be necessary.

```

def table(init: Table ?=> Unit) =
  given t: Table = Table()
  init
  t

def row(init: Row ?=> Unit)(using t: Table) =
  given r: Row = Row()
  init
  t.add(r)

def cell(str: String)(using r: Row) =
  r.add(new Cell(str))

```

With that setup, the table construction code above compiles and expands to:

```

table { ($t: Table) ?=>

  row { ($r: Row) ?=>
    cell("top left")(using $r)
    cell("top right")(using $r)
  }(using $t)

```

```

row { ($r: Row) ?=>
  cell("bottom left")(using $r)
  cell("bottom right")(using $r)
}(using $t)
}

```

4.10.0.2 Example: Postconditions As a larger example, here is a way to define constructs for checking arbitrary postconditions using an extension method ensuring so that the checked result can be referred to simply by `result`. The example combines opaque type aliases, context function types, and extension methods to provide a zero-overhead abstraction.

```

object PostConditions:
  opaque type WrappedResult[T] = T

  def result[T](using r: WrappedResult[T]): T = r

  extension [T](x: T)
    def ensuring(condition: WrappedResult[T] ?=> Boolean): T =
      assert(condition(using x))
      x
end PostConditions
import PostConditions.{ensuring, result}

val s = List(1, 2, 3).sum.ensuring(result == 6)

```

Explanations: We use a context function type `WrappedResult[T] ?=> Boolean` as the type of the condition of `ensuring`. An argument to `ensuring` such as `(result == 6)` will therefore have a given of type `WrappedResult[T]` in scope to pass along to the `result` method. `WrappedResult` is a fresh type, to make sure that we do not get unwanted givens in scope (this is good practice in all cases where context parameters are involved). Since `WrappedResult` is an opaque type alias, its values need not be boxed, and since `ensuring` is added as an extension method, its argument does not need boxing either. Hence, the implementation of `ensuring` is as about as efficient as the best possible code one could write by hand:

```

val s =
  val result = List(1, 2, 3).sum
  assert(result == 6)
  result

```

4.10.0.3 Reference For more information, see the [blog article](#), (which uses a different syntax that has been superseded).

More details

4.11 Implicit Conversions

Implicit conversions are defined by given instances of the `scala.Conversion` class. This class is defined in package `scala` as follows:

```
abstract class Conversion[-T, +U] extends (T => U):
  def apply (x: T): U
```

For example, here is an implicit conversion from `String` to `Token`:

```
given Conversion[String, Token] with
  def apply(str: String): Token = new Keyword(str)
```

Using an alias this can be expressed more concisely as:

```
given Conversion[String, Token] = new Keyword(_)
```

An implicit conversion is applied automatically by the compiler in three situations:

1. If an expression `e` has type `T`, and `T` does not conform to the expression's expected type `S`.
2. In a selection `e.m` with `e` of type `T`, but `T` defines no member `m`.
3. In an application `e.m(args)` with `e` of type `T`, if `T` does define some member(s) named `m`, but none of these members can be applied to the arguments `args`.

In the first case, the compiler looks for a given `scala.Conversion` instance that maps an argument of type `T` to type `S`. In the second and third case, it looks for a given `scala.Conversion` instance that maps an argument of type `T` to a type that defines a member `m` which can be applied to `args` if present. If such an instance `C` is found, the expression `e` is replaced by `C.apply(e)`.

4.11.1 Examples

1. The `Predef` package contains “auto-boxing” conversions that map primitive number types to subclasses of `java.lang.Number`. For instance, the conversion from `Int` to `java.lang.Integer` can be defined as follows:

```
given int2Integer: Conversion[Int, java.lang.Integer] =
  java.lang.Integer.valueOf(_)
```

2. The “magnet” pattern is sometimes used to express many variants of a method. Instead of defining overloaded versions of the method, one can also let the method take one or more arguments of specially defined “magnet” types, into which various argument types can be converted. Example:

```
object Completions:
```

```
  // The argument "magnet" type
  enum CompletionArg:
    case Error(s: String)
    case Response(f: Future[HttpResponse])
    case Status(code: Future[StatusCode])
```

```

object CompletionArg:

  // conversions defining the possible arguments to pass to `complete`
  // these always come with CompletionArg
  // They can be invoked explicitly, e.g.
  //
  //   CompletionArg.fromStatusCode(statusCode)

  given fromString    : Conversion[String, CompletionArg]           = Err
  given fromFuture    : Conversion[Future[HttpResponse], CompletionArg] = Res
  given fromStatusCode: Conversion[Future[StatusCode], CompletionArg] = Sta
end CompletionArg
import CompletionArg.*

def complete[T](arg: CompletionArg) = arg match
  case Error(s) => ...
  case Response(f) => ...
  case Status(code) => ...

end Completions

```

This setup is more complicated than simple overloading of `complete`, but it can still be useful if normal overloading is not available (as in the case above, since we cannot have two overloaded methods that take `Future[...]` arguments), or if normal overloading would lead to a combinatorial explosion of variants.

4.12 By-Name Context Parameters

Context parameters can be declared by-name to avoid a divergent inferred expansion. Example:

```

trait Codec[T]:
  def write(x: T): Unit

given intCodec: Codec[Int] = ???

given optionCodec[T](using ev: => Codec[T]): Codec[Option[T]] with
  def write(xo: Option[T]) = xo match
    case Some(x) => ev.write(x)
    case None =>

val s = summon[Codec[Option[Int]]]

s.write(Some(33))
s.write(None)

```

As is the case for a normal by-name parameter, the argument for the context parameter `ev` is

evaluated on demand. In the example above, if the option value `x` is `None`, it is not evaluated at all.

The synthesized argument for a context parameter is backed by a local `val` if this is necessary to prevent an otherwise diverging expansion.

The precise steps for synthesizing an argument for a by-name context parameter of type `=> T` are as follows.

1. Create a new `given` of type `T`:

```
given lv: T = ???
```

where `lv` is an arbitrary fresh name.

2. This `given` is not immediately available as candidate for argument inference (making it immediately available could result in a loop in the synthesized computation). But it becomes available in all nested contexts that look again for an argument to a by-name context parameter.

3. If this search succeeds with expression `E`, and `E` contains references to `lv`, replace `E` by

```
{ given lv: T = E; lv }
```

Otherwise, return `E` unchanged.

In the example above, the definition of `s` would be expanded as follows.

```
val s = summon[Test.Codec[Option[Int]]](
  optionCodec[Int](using intCodec)
)
```

No local `given` instance was generated because the synthesized argument is not recursive.

4.12.0.1 Reference For more information, see [Issue #1998](#) and the associated [Scala SIP](#).

4.13 Relationship with Scala 2 Implicits

Many, but not all, of the new contextual abstraction features in Scala 3 can be mapped to Scala 2's implicits. This page gives a rundown on the relationships between new and old features.

4.13.1 Simulating Scala 3 Contextual Abstraction Concepts with Scala 2 Implicits

4.13.1.1 Given Instances Given instances can be mapped to combinations of implicit objects, classes and implicit methods.

1. Given instances without parameters are mapped to implicit objects. For instance,

```
given intOrd: Ord[Int] with { ... }
```

maps to

```
implicit object intOrd extends Ord[Int] { ... }
```

2. Parameterized givens are mapped to combinations of classes and implicit methods. For instance,

```
given listOrd[T](using ord: Ord[T]): Ord[List[T]] with { ... }
```

maps to

```
class listOrd[T](implicit ord: Ord[T]) extends Ord[List[T]] { ... }
final implicit def listOrd[T](implicit ord: Ord[T]): listOrd[T] =
  new listOrd[T]
```

3. Alias givens map to implicit methods or implicit lazy vals. If an alias has neither type nor context parameters, it is treated as a lazy val, unless the right-hand side is a simple reference, in which case we can use a forwarder to that reference without caching it.

Examples:

```
given global: ExecutionContext = new ForkJoinContext()
```

```
val ctx: Context
given Context = ctx
```

would map to

```
final implicit lazy val global: ExecutionContext = new ForkJoinContext()
final implicit def given_Context = ctx
```

4.13.1.2 Anonymous Given Instances Anonymous given instances get compiler synthesized names, which are generated in a reproducible way from the implemented type(s). For example, if the names of the `IntOrd` and `ListOrd` givens above were left out, the following names would be synthesized instead:

```
given given_Ord_Int: Ord[Int] with { ... }
given given_Ord_List_T[T](using ord: Ord[T]): Ord[List[T]] with { ... }
```

The synthesized type names are formed from

1. the prefix `given_`,
2. the simple name(s) of the implemented type(s), leaving out any prefixes,
3. the simple name(s) of the top-level argument type constructors to these types.

Tuples are treated as transparent, i.e. a type `F[(X, Y)]` would get the synthesized name `F_X_Y`. Directly implemented function types `A => B` are represented as `A_to_B`. Function types used as arguments to other type constructors are represented as `Function`.

4.13.1.3 Using Clauses Using clauses correspond largely to Scala 2's implicit parameter clauses. E.g.

```
def max[T](x: T, y: T)(using ord: Ord[T]): T
```

would be written

```
def max[T](x: T, y: T)(implicit ord: Ord[T]): T
```

in Scala 2. The main difference concerns applications of such parameters. Explicit arguments to parameters of using clauses must be written using `(using ...)`, mirroring the definition syntax. E.g, `max(2, 3)(using IntOrd)`. Scala 2 uses normal applications `max(2, 3)(IntOrd)` instead. The Scala 2 syntax has some inherent ambiguities and restrictions which are overcome by the new syntax. For instance, multiple implicit parameter lists are not available in the old syntax, even though they can be simulated using auxiliary objects in the “Aux” pattern.

The `summon` method corresponds to `implicitly` in Scala 2. It is precisely the same as the `the` method in [Shapeless](#). The difference between `summon` (or `the`) and `implicitly` is that `summon` can return a more precise type than the type that was asked for.

4.13.1.4 Context Bounds Context bounds are the same in both language versions. They expand to the respective forms of implicit parameters.

Note: To ease migration, context bounds in Scala 3 map for a limited time to old-style implicit parameters for which arguments can be passed either in a using clause or in a normal argument list. Once old-style implicits are deprecated, context bounds will map to using clauses instead.

4.13.1.5 Extension Methods Extension methods have no direct counterpart in Scala 2, but they can be simulated with implicit classes. For instance, the extension method

```
extension (c: Circle)
  def circumference: Double = c.radius * math.Pi * 2
```

could be simulated to some degree by

```
implicit class CircleDecorator(c: Circle) extends AnyVal {
  def circumference: Double = c.radius * math.Pi * 2
}
```

Abstract extension methods in traits that are implemented in given instances have no direct counterpart in Scala 2. The only way to simulate these is to make implicit classes available through imports. The `Simulacrum` macro library can automate this process in some cases.

4.13.1.6 Type Class Derivation Type class derivation has no direct counterpart in the Scala 2 language. Comparable functionality can be achieved by macro-based libraries such as [Shapeless](#), [Magnolia](#), or [scalaz-deriving](#).

4.13.1.7 Context Function Types Context function types have no analogue in Scala 2.

4.13.1.8 Implicit By-Name Parameters Implicit by-name parameters are not supported in Scala 2, but can be emulated to some degree by the `Lazy` type in [Shapeless](#).

4.13.2 Simulating Scala 2 Implicits in Scala 3

4.13.2.1 Implicit Conversions Implicit conversion methods in Scala 2 can be expressed as given instances of the `scala.Conversion` class in Scala 3. For instance, instead of

```
implicit def stringToToken(str: String): Token = new Keyword(str)
```

one can write

```
given stringToToken: Conversion[String, Token] with
  def apply(str: String): Token = Keyword(str)
```

or

```
given stringToToken: Conversion[String, Token] = Keyword(_)
```

4.13.2.2 Implicit Classes Implicit classes in Scala 2 are often used to define extension methods, which are directly supported in Scala 3. Other uses of implicit classes can be simulated by a pair of a regular class and a given `Conversion` instance.

4.13.2.3 Implicit Values Implicit `val` definitions in Scala 2 can be expressed in Scala 3 using a regular `val` definition and an alias `given`. For instance, Scala 2's

```
lazy implicit val pos: Position = tree.sourcePos
```

can be expressed in Scala 3 as

```
lazy val pos: Position = tree.sourcePos
given Position = pos
```

4.13.2.4 Abstract Implicits An abstract implicit `val` or `def` in Scala 2 can be expressed in Scala 3 using a regular abstract definition and an alias `given`. For instance, Scala 2's

```
implicit def symDecorator: SymDecorator
```

can be expressed in Scala 3 as

```
def symDecorator: SymDecorator
given SymDecorator = symDecorator
```

4.13.3 Implementation Status and Timeline

The Scala 3 implementation implements both Scala 2's implicits and the new abstractions. In fact, support for Scala 2's implicits is an essential part of the common language subset between 2.13 and Scala 3. Migration to the new abstractions will be supported by making automatic rewritings available.

Depending on adoption patterns, old style implicits might start to be deprecated in a version following Scala 3.0.

4.14 How to write a type class derived method using macros

In the main [derivation](#) documentation page, we explained the details behind `Mirrors` and type class derivation. Here we demonstrate how to implement a type class derived method using macros only. We follow the same example of deriving `Eq` instances and for simplicity we support a `Product` type e.g., a case class `Person`. The low-level method we will use

to implement the derived method exploits quotes, splices of both expressions and types and the `scala.quoted.Expr.summon` method which is the equivalent of `summonFrom`. The former is suitable for use in a quote context, used within macros.

As in the original code, the type class definition is the same:

```
trait Eq[T]:
  def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean
```

we need to implement a method `Eq.derived` on the companion object of `Eq` that produces a quoted instance for `Eq[T]`. Here is a possible signature,

```
given derived[T: Type](using Quotes): Expr[Eq[T]]
```

and for comparison reasons we give the same signature we had with `inline`:

```
inline given derived[T]: (m: Mirror.Of[T]) => Eq[T] = ???
```

Note, that since a type is used in a subsequent stage it will need to be lifted to a `Type` by using the corresponding context bound. Also, not that we can summon the quoted `Mirror` inside the body of the derived this we can omit it from the signature. The body of the derived method is shown below:

```
given derived[T: Type](using Quotes): Expr[Eq[T]] =
  import quotes.reflect.*

  val ev: Expr[Mirror.Of[T]] = Expr.summon[Mirror.Of[T]].get

  ev match
    case '{ $m: Mirror.ProductOf[T] { type MirroredElemTypes = elementTypes } } =>
      val elemInstances = summonAll[elementTypes]
      val eqProductBody: (Expr[T], Expr[T]) => Expr[Boolean] = (x, y) =>
        elemInstances.zipWithIndex.foldLeft(Expr(true: Boolean)) {
          case (acc, (elem, index)) =>
            val e1 = '{$x.asInstanceOf[Product].productElement(${Expr(index)})}
            val e2 = '{$y.asInstanceOf[Product].productElement(${Expr(index)})}
            '{ $acc && $elem.asInstanceOf[Eq[Any]].eqv($e1, $e2) }
        }

      '{ eqProduct((x: T, y: T) => ${eqProductBody('x, 'y)}) }

  // case for Mirror.ProductOf[T]
  // ...
```

Note, that in the `inline` case we can merely write `summonAll[m.MirroredElemTypes]` inside the inline method but here, since `Expr.summon` is required, we can extract the element types in a macro fashion. Being inside a macro, our first reaction would be to write the code below. Since the path inside the type argument is not stable this cannot be used:

```
'{
  summonAll[$m.MirroredElemTypes]
```

```
}
```

Instead we extract the tuple-type for element types using pattern matching over quotes and more specifically of the refined type:

```
case '{ $m: Mirror.ProductOf[T] { type MirroredElemTypes = elementTypes }} => ...
```

Shown below is the implementation of `summonAll` as a macro. We assume that given instances for our primitive types exist.

```
def summonAll[T: Type](using Quotes): List[Expr[Eq[_]]] =
  Type.of[T] match
    case '[String *: tpes] => '{ summon[Eq[String]] } :: summonAll[tpes]
    case '[Int *: tpes]    => '{ summon[Eq[Int]] }      :: summonAll[tpes]
    case '[tpe *: tpes]    => derived[tpe] :: summonAll[tpes]
    case '[EmptyTuple]    => Nil
```

One additional difference with the body of `derived` here as opposed to the one with `inline` is that with macros we need to synthesize the body of the code during the macro-expansion time. That is the rationale behind the `eqProductBody` function. Assuming that we calculate the equality of two `Persons` defined with a case class that holds a name of type `String` and an age of type `Int`, the equality check we want to generate is the following:

```
true
&& Eq[String].eqv(x.productElement(0), y.productElement(0))
&& Eq[Int].eqv(x.productElement(1), y.productElement(1))
```

4.14.1 Calling the derived method inside the macro

Following the rules in **Macros** we create two methods. One that hosts the top-level splice `eqv` and one that is the implementation. Alternatively and what is shown below is that we can call the `eqv` method directly. The `eqGen` can trigger the derivation.

```
extension [T](inline x: T)
  inline def === (inline y: T)(using eq: Eq[T]): Boolean = eq.eqv(x, y)

inline given eqGen[T]: Eq[T] = ${ Eq.derived[T] }
```

Note, that we use `inline` method syntax and we can compare instance such as `Sm(Person("Test", 23)) === Sm(Person("Test", 24))` for e.g., the following two types:

```
case class Person(name: String, age: Int)

enum Opt[+T]:
  case Sm(t: T)
  case Nn
```

The full code is shown below:

```
import scala.deriving.*
import scala.quoted.*
```



```

trait Eq[T]:
  def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean

object Eq:
  given Eq[String] with
    def eqv(x: String, y: String) = x == y

  given Eq[Int] with
    def eqv(x: Int, y: Int) = x == y

  def eqProduct[T](body: (T, T) => Boolean): Eq[T] =
    new Eq[T]:
      def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean = body(x, y)

  def eqSum[T](body: (T, T) => Boolean): Eq[T] =
    new Eq[T]:
      def eqv(x: T, y: T): Boolean = body(x, y)

  def summonAll[T: Type](using Quotes): List[Expr[Eq[_]]] =
    Type.of[T] match
      case '[String *: tpes] => '{ summon[Eq[String]] } :: summonAll[tpes]
      case '[Int *: tpes]    => '{ summon[Eq[Int]] }      :: summonAll[tpes]
      case '[tpe *: tpes]    => derived[tpe] :: summonAll[tpes]
      case '[EmptyTuple]    => Nil

  given derived[T: Type](using q: Quotes): Expr[Eq[T]] =
    import quotes.reflect.*

    val ev: Expr[Mirror.Of[T]] = Expr.summon[Mirror.Of[T]].get

    ev match
      case '{ $m: Mirror.ProductOf[T] { type MirroredElemTypes = elementTypes }} =>
        val elemInstances = summonAll[elementTypes]
        val eqProductBody: (Expr[T], Expr[T]) => Expr[Boolean] = (x, y) =>
          elemInstances.zipWithIndex.foldLeft(Expr(true: Boolean)) {
            case (acc, (elem, index)) =>
              val e1 = '{$x.asInstanceOf[Product].productElement(${Expr(index)})}
              val e2 = '{$y.asInstanceOf[Product].productElement(${Expr(index)})}

              '{ $acc && $elem.asInstanceOf[Eq[Any]].eqv($e1, $e2) }
          }
        '{ eqProduct((x: T, y: T) => ${eqProductBody('x, 'y)}) }

      case '{ $m: Mirror.SumOf[T] { type MirroredElemTypes = elementTypes }} =>

```

```
val elemInstances = summonAll[elementTypes]
val eqSumBody: (Expr[T], Expr[T]) => Expr[Boolean] = (x, y) =>
  val ordx = '{ $m.ordinal($x) }
  val ordy = '{ $m.ordinal($y) }

  val elements = Expr.ofList(elemInstances)
  '{ $ordx == $ordy && $elements($ordx).asInstanceOf[Eq[Any]].eqv($x, $y)

  '{ eqSum((x: T, y: T) => ${eqSumBody('x, 'y)}) }
end derived
end Eq

object Macro3:
  extension [T](inline x: T)
    inline def === (inline y: T)(using eq: Eq[T]): Boolean = eq.eqv(x, y)

  inline given eqGen[T]: Eq[T] = ${ Eq.derived[T] }
```

5 Metaprogramming [↗](#)

5.1 Overview [↗](#)

The following pages introduce the redesign of metaprogramming in Scala. They introduce the following fundamental facilities:

1. **inline** is a new modifier that guarantees that a definition will be inlined at the point of use. The primary motivation behind inline is to reduce the overhead behind function calls and access to values. The expansion will be performed by the Scala compiler during the Typer compiler phase. As opposed to inlining in some other ecosystems, inlining in Scala is not merely a request to the compiler but is a command. The reason is that inlining in Scala can drive other compile-time operations, like inline pattern matching (enabling type-level programming), macros (enabling compile-time, generative, metaprogramming) and runtime code generation (multi-stage programming).
2. **Macros** are built on two well-known fundamental operations: quotation and splicing. Quotation converts program code to data, specifically, a (tree-like) representation of this code. It is expressed as `'{...}` for expressions and as `'[...]` for types. Splicing, expressed as ``${...}``, goes the other way: it converts a program's representation to program code. Together with inline, these two abstractions allow to construct program code programmatically.
3. **Runtime Staging** Where macros construct code at compile-time, staging lets programs construct new code at runtime. That way, code generation can depend not only on static data but also on data available at runtime. This splits the evaluation of the program in two or more phases or ... stages. Consequently, this method of generative programming is called “Multi-Stage Programming”. Staging is built on the same foundations as macros. It uses quotes and splices, but leaves out inline.
4. **Reflection** Quotations are a “black-box” representation of code. They can be parameterized and composed using splices, but their structure cannot be analyzed from the outside. TASTy reflection gives a way to analyze code structure by partly revealing the representation type of a piece of code in a standard API. The representation type is a form of typed abstract syntax tree, which gives rise to the TASTy moniker.
5. **TASTy Inspection** Typed abstract syntax trees are serialized in a custom compressed binary format stored in `.tasty` files. TASTy inspection allows to load these files and analyze their content's tree structure.

5.2 Inline [↗](#)

5.2.1 Inline Definitions

inline is a new **soft modifier** that guarantees that a definition will be inlined at the point of use. Example:

```
object Config:
  inline val logging = false
```

object Logger:

```

private var indent = 0

inline def log[T](msg: String, indentMargin: =>Int)(op: => T): T =
  if Config.logging then
    println(s"${" " * indent}start $msg")
    indent += indentMargin
    val result = op
    indent -= indentMargin
    println(s"${" " * indent}$msg = $result")
    result
  else op
end Logger

```

The Config object contains a definition of the inline value logging. This means that logging is treated as a constant value, equivalent to its right-hand side false. The right-hand side of such an inline val must itself be a [constant expression](#). Used in this way, inline is equivalent to Java and Scala 2's final. Note that final, meaning inlined constant, is still supported in Scala 3, but will be phased out.

The Logger object contains a definition of the inline method log. This method will always be inlined at the point of call.

In the inlined code, an if-then-else with a constant condition will be rewritten to its then- or else-part. Consequently, in the log method above the if Config.logging with Config.logging == true will get rewritten into its then-part.

Here's an example:

```

var indentSetting = 2

def factorial(n: BigInt): BigInt =
  log(s"factorial($n)", indentSetting) {
    if n == 0 then 1
    else n * factorial(n - 1)
  }

```

If Config.logging == false, this will be rewritten (simplified) to:

```

def factorial(n: BigInt): BigInt =
  if n == 0 then 1
  else n * factorial(n - 1)

```

As you notice, since neither msg or indentMargin were used, they do not appear in the generated code for factorial. Also note the body of our log method: the else- part reduces to just an op. In the generated code we do not generate any closures because we only refer to a by-name parameter once. Consequently, the code was inlined directly and the call was beta-reduced.

In the true case the code will be rewritten to:

```
def factorial(n: BigInt): BigInt =
  val msg = s"factorial($n)"
  println(s"${" " * indent}start $msg")
  Logger.inline$indent_=(indent.+(indentSetting))
  val result =
    if n == 0 then 1
    else n * factorial(n - 1)
  Logger.inline$indent_=(indent.-(indentSetting))
  println(s"${" " * indent}$msg = $result")
  result
```

Note that the by-value parameter `msg` is evaluated only once, per the usual Scala semantics, by binding the value and reusing the `msg` through the body of `factorial`. Also, note the special handling of the assignment to the private var `indent`. It is achieved by generating a setter method `def inline$indent_=` and calling it instead.

5.2.1.1 Recursive Inline Methods Inline methods can be recursive. For instance, when called with a constant exponent `n`, the following method for power will be implemented by straight inline code without any loop or recursion.

```
inline def power(x: Double, n: Int): Double =
  if n == 0 then 1.0
  else if n == 1 then x
  else
    val y = power(x, n / 2)
    if n % 2 == 0 then y * y else y * y * x
```

```
power(expr, 10)
// translates to
//
//   val x = expr
//   val y1 = x * x    // ^2
//   val y2 = y1 * y1  // ^4
//   val y3 = y2 * x   // ^5
//   y3 * y3           // ^10
```

Parameters of inline methods can have an inline modifier as well. This means that actual arguments to these parameters will be inlined in the body of the inline `def`. inline parameters have call semantics equivalent to by-name parameters but allow for duplication of the code in the argument. It is usually useful when constant values need to be propagated to allow further optimizations/reductions.

The following example shows the difference in translation between by-value, by-name and inline parameters:

```
inline def funkyAssertEquals(actual: Double, expected: =>Double, inline delta: Double)
  if (actual - expected).abs > delta then
    throw new AssertionError(s"difference between ${expected} and ${actual} was large")
```

```
funkyAssertEquals(computeActual(), computeExpected(), computeDelta())
// translates to
//
//   val actual = computeActual()
//   def expected = computeExpected()
//   if (actual - expected).abs > computeDelta() then
//       throw new AssertionError(s"difference between ${expected} and ${actual} was la
```

5.2.1.2 Rules for Overriding Inline methods can override other non-inline methods. The rules are as follows:

1. If an inline method `f` implements or overrides another, non-inline method, the inline method can also be invoked at runtime. For instance, consider the scenario:

```
abstract class A:
  def f: Int
  def g: Int = f

class B extends A:
  inline def f = 22
  override inline def g = f + 11

val b = new B
val a: A = b
// inlined invocations
assert(b.f == 22)
assert(b.g == 33)
// dynamic invocations
assert(a.f == 22)
assert(a.g == 33)
```

The inlined invocations and the dynamically dispatched invocations give the same results.

2. Inline methods are effectively final.
3. Inline methods can also be abstract. An abstract inline method can be implemented only by other inline methods. It cannot be invoked directly:

```
abstract class A:
  inline def f: Int

object B extends A:
  inline def f: Int = 22

B.f           // OK
val a: A = B
a.f           // error: cannot inline f in A.
```

5.2.1.3 Relationship to `@inline` Scala 2 also defines a `@inline` annotation which is used as a hint for the backend to inline code. The `inline` modifier is a more powerful option:

- expansion is guaranteed instead of best effort,
- expansion happens in the frontend instead of in the backend and
- expansion also applies to recursive methods.

5.2.1.3.1 The definition of constant expression Right-hand sides of inline values and of arguments for inline parameters must be constant expressions in the sense defined by the [SLS §6.24](#), including platform-specific extensions such as constant folding of pure numeric computations.

An inline value must have a literal type such as `1` or `true`.

```
inline val four = 4
// equivalent to
inline val four: 4 = 4
```

It is also possible to have inline vals of types that do not have a syntax, such as `Short(4)`.

```
trait InlineConstants:
  inline val myShort: Short

object Constants extends InlineConstants:
  inline val myShort/*: Short(4)*/ = 4
```

5.2.2 Transparent Inline Methods

Inline methods can additionally be declared transparent. This means that the return type of the inline method can be specialized to a more precise type upon expansion. Example:

```
class A
class B extends A:
  def m = true

transparent inline def choose(b: Boolean): A =
  if b then new A else new B

val obj1 = choose(true) // static type is A
val obj2 = choose(false) // static type is B

// obj1.m // compile-time error: `m` is not defined on `A`
obj2.m    // OK
```

Here, the inline method `choose` returns an instance of either of the two types `A` or `B`. If `choose` had not been declared to be transparent, the result of its expansion would always be of type `A`, even though the computed value might be of the subtype `B`. The inline method is a “blackbox” in the sense that details of its implementation do not leak out. But if a transparent modifier is given, the expansion is the type of the expanded body. If the argument `b` is `true`, that type is `A`, otherwise it is `B`. Consequently, calling `m` on `obj2`

type-checks since `obj2` has the same type as the expansion of `choose(false)`, which is `B`. Transparent inline methods are “whitebox” in the sense that the type of an application of such a method can be more specialized than its declared return type, depending on how the method expands.

In the following example, we see how the return type of `zero` is specialized to the singleton type `0` permitting the addition to be ascribed with the correct type `1`.

```
transparent inline def zero: Int = 0

val one: 1 = zero + 1
```

5.2.2.1 Transparent vs. non-transparent inline As we already discussed, transparent inline methods may influence type checking at call site. Technically this implies that transparent inline methods must be expanded during type checking of the program. Other inline methods are inlined later after the program is fully typed.

For example, the following two functions will be typed the same way but will be inlined at different times.

```
inline def f1: T = ...
transparent inline def f2: T = (...): T
```

A noteworthy difference is the behavior of `transparent inline given`. If there is an error reported when inlining that definition, it will be considered as an implicit search mismatch and the search will continue. A `transparent inline given` can add a type ascription in its RHS (as in `f2` from the previous example) to avoid the precise type but keep the search behavior. On the other hand, an `inline given` is taken as an implicit and then inlined after typing. Any error will be emitted as usual.

5.2.3 Inline Conditionals

An if-then-else expression whose condition is a constant expression can be simplified to the selected branch. Prefixing an if-then-else expression with `inline` enforces that the condition has to be a constant expression, and thus guarantees that the conditional will always simplify.

Example:

```
inline def update(delta: Int) =
  inline if delta >= 0 then increaseBy(delta)
  else decreaseBy(-delta)
```

A call `update(22)` would rewrite to `increaseBy(22)`. But if `update` was called with a value that was not a compile-time constant, we would get a compile time error like the one below:

```
| inline if delta >= 0 then ???
| ^
| cannot reduce inline if
|   its condition
|   delta >= 0
```



```
| is not a constant value
| This location is in code that was inlined at ...
```

In a transparent inline, an inline if will force the inlining of any inline definition in its condition during type checking.

5.2.4 Inline Matches

A match expression in the body of an inline method definition may be prefixed by the inline modifier. If there is enough static information to unambiguously take a branch, the expression is reduced to that branch and the type of the result is taken. If not, a compile-time error is raised that reports that the match cannot be reduced.

The example below defines an inline method with a single inline match expression that picks a case based on its static type:

```
transparent inline def g(x: Any): Any =
  inline x match
    case x: String => (x, x) // Tuple2[String, String](x, x)
    case x: Double => x

g(1.0d) // Has type 1.0d which is a subtype of Double
g("test") // Has type (String, String)
```

The scrutinee `x` is examined statically and the inline match is reduced accordingly returning the corresponding value (with the type specialized because `g` is declared transparent). This example performs a simple type test over the scrutinee. The type can have a richer structure like the simple ADT below. `toInt` matches the structure of a number in [Church-encoding](#) and computes the corresponding integer.

```
trait Nat
case object Zero extends Nat
case class Succ[N <: Nat](n: N) extends Nat

transparent inline def toInt(n: Nat): Int =
  inline n match
    case Zero      => 0
    case Succ(n1) => toInt(n1) + 1

inline val natTwo = toInt(Succ(Succ(Zero)))
val intTwo: 2 = natTwo
```

`natTwo` is inferred to have the singleton type `2`.

5.2.5 The `scala.compiletime` Package

The `scala.compiletime` package contains helper definitions that provide support for compile time operations over values. They are described in the following.

5.2.5.1 `constValue` and `constValueOpt` `constValue` is a function that produces the constant value represented by a type.

```
import scala.compiletime.constValue
import scala.compiletime.ops.int.S

transparent inline def toIntC[N]: Int =
  inline constValue[N] match
    case 0          => 0
    case _: S[n1] => 1 + toIntC[n1]

inline val ctwo = toIntC[2]
```

`constValueOpt` is the same as `constValue`, however returning an `Option[T]` enabling us to handle situations where a value is not present. Note that `S` is the type of the successor of some singleton type. For example the type `S[1]` is the singleton type 2.

5.2.5.2 `erasedValue` So far we have seen inline methods that take terms (tuples and integers) as parameters. What if we want to base case distinctions on types instead? For instance, one would like to be able to write a function `defaultValue`, that, given a type `T`, returns optionally the default value of `T`, if it exists. We can already express this using rewrite match expressions and a simple helper function, `scala.compiletime.erasedValue`, which is defined as follows:

```
def erasedValue[T]: T
```

The `erasedValue` function pretends to return a value of its type argument `T`. Calling this function will always result in a compiletime error unless the call is removed from the code while inlining.

Using `erasedValue`, we can then define `defaultValue` as follows:

```
import scala.compiletime.erasedValue

inline def defaultValue[T] =
  inline erasedValue[T] match
    case _: Byte    => Some(0: Byte)
    case _: Char    => Some(0: Char)
    case _: Short   => Some(0: Short)
    case _: Int     => Some(0)
    case _: Long    => Some(0L)
    case _: Float   => Some(0.0f)
    case _: Double  => Some(0.0d)
    case _: Boolean => Some(false)
    case _: Unit    => Some(())
    case _         => None
```

Then:

```
val dInt: Some[Int] = defaultValue[Int]
```

```
val dDouble: Some[Double] = defaultValue[Double]
val dBoolean: Some[Boolean] = defaultValue[Boolean]
val dAny: None.type = defaultValue[Any]
```

As another example, consider the type-level version of `toInt` below: given a type representing a Peano number, return the integer value corresponding to it. Consider the definitions of numbers as in the `Inline Match` section above. Here is how `toIntT` can be defined:

```
transparent inline def toIntT[N <: Nat]: Int =
  inline scala.compiletime.erasedValue[N] match
    case _: Zero.type => 0
    case _: Succ[n] => toIntT[n] + 1
```

```
inline val two = toIntT[Succ[Succ[Zero.type]]]
```

`erasedValue` is an erased method so it cannot be used and has no runtime behavior. Since `toIntT` performs static checks over the static type of `N` we can safely use it to scrutinize its return type (`S[S[Z]]` in this case).

5.2.5.3 error The `error` method is used to produce user-defined compile errors during inline expansion. It has the following signature:

```
inline def error(inline msg: String): Nothing
```

If an inline expansion results in a call `error(msgStr)` the compiler produces an error message containing the given `msgStr`.

```
import scala.compiletime.{error, code}
```

```
inline def fail() =
  error("failed for a reason")
```

```
fail() // error: failed for a reason
```

or

```
inline def fail(p1: => Any) =
  error(code"failed on: $p1")
```

```
fail(identity("foo")) // error: failed on: identity("foo")
```

5.2.5.4 The `scala.compiletime.ops` package The `scala.compiletime.ops` package contains types that provide support for primitive operations on singleton types. For example, `scala.compiletime.ops.int.*` provides support for multiplying two singleton `Int` types, and `scala.compiletime.ops.boolean.&&` for the conjunction of two `Boolean` types. When all arguments to a type in `scala.compiletime.ops` are singleton types, the compiler can evaluate the result of the operation.

```
import scala.compiletime.ops.int.*
import scala.compiletime.ops.boolean.*
```

```
val conjunction: true && true = true
val multiplication: 3 * 5 = 15
```

Many of these singleton operation types are meant to be used infix (as in [SLS §3.2.10](#)).

Since type aliases have the same precedence rules as their term-level equivalents, the operations compose with the expected precedence rules:

```
import scala.compiletime.ops.int.*
val x: 1 + 2 * 3 = 7
```

The operation types are located in packages named after the type of the left-hand side parameter: for instance, `scala.compiletime.ops.int.+` represents addition of two numbers, while `scala.compiletime.ops.string.+` represents string concatenation. To use both and distinguish the two types from each other, a match type can dispatch to the correct implementation:

```
import scala.compiletime.ops.*

import scala.annotation.infix

type +[X <: Int | String, Y <: Int | String] = (X, Y) match
  case (Int, Int) => int.+[X, Y]
  case (String, String) => string.+[X, Y]

val concat: "a" + "b" = "ab"
val addition: 1 + 1 = 2
```

5.2.6 Summoning Implicits Selectively

It is foreseen that many areas of typelevel programming can be done with rewrite methods instead of implicits. But sometimes implicits are unavoidable. The problem so far was that the Prolog-like programming style of implicit search becomes viral: Once some construct depends on implicit search it has to be written as a logic program itself. Consider for instance the problem of creating a `TreeSet[T]` or a `HashSet[T]` depending on whether `T` has an `Ordering` or not. We can create a set of implicit definitions like this:

```
trait SetFor[T, S <: Set[T]]

class LowPriority:
  implicit def hashSetFor[T]: SetFor[T, HashSet[T]] = ...

object SetsFor extends LowPriority:
  implicit def treeSetFor[T: Ordering]: SetFor[T, TreeSet[T]] = ...
```

Clearly, this is not pretty. Besides all the usual indirection of implicit search, we face the problem of rule prioritization where we have to ensure that `treeSetFor` takes priority over `hashSetFor` if the element type has an ordering. This is solved (clumsily) by putting `hashSetFor` in a superclass `LowPriority` of the object `SetsFor` where `treeSetFor` is

defined. Maybe the boilerplate would still be acceptable if the crufty code could be contained. However, this is not the case. Every user of the abstraction has to be parameterized itself with a `SetFor` implicit. Considering the simple task “I want a `TreeSet[T]` if `T` has an ordering and a `HashSet[T]` otherwise”, this seems like a lot of ceremony.

There are some proposals to improve the situation in specific areas, for instance by allowing more elaborate schemes to specify priorities. But they all keep the viral nature of implicit search programs based on logic programming.

By contrast, the new `summonFrom` construct makes implicit search available in a functional context. To solve the problem of creating the right set, one would use it as follows:

```
import scala.compiletime.summonFrom

inline def setFor[T]: Set[T] = summonFrom {
  case ord: Ordering[T] => new TreeSet[T](using ord)
  case _                => new HashSet[T]
}
```

A `summonFrom` call takes a pattern matching closure as argument. All patterns in the closure are type ascriptions of the form `identifier : Type`.

Patterns are tried in sequence. The first case with a pattern `x: T` such that an implicit value of type `T` can be summoned is chosen.

Alternatively, one can also use a pattern-bound given instance, which avoids the explicit `using` clause. For instance, `setFor` could also be formulated as follows:

```
import scala.compiletime.summonFrom

inline def setFor[T]: Set[T] = summonFrom {
  case given Ordering[T] => new TreeSet[T]
  case _                => new HashSet[T]
}
```

`summonFrom` applications must be reduced at compile time.

Consequently, if we summon an `Ordering[String]` the code above will return a new instance of `TreeSet[String]`.

```
summon[Ordering[String]]
```

```
println(setFor[String].getClass) // prints class scala.collection.immutable.TreeSet
```

Note `summonFrom` applications can raise ambiguity errors. Consider the following code with two givens in scope of type `A`. The pattern match in `f` will raise an ambiguity error of `f` is applied.

```
class A
given a1: A = new A
given a2: A = new A
```

```
inline def f: Any = summonFrom {
  case given _: A => ??? // error: ambiguous givens
}
```

5.2.7 summonInline

The shorthand `summonInline` provides a simple way to write a `summon` that is delayed until the call is inlined.

```
transparent inline def summonInline[T]: T = summonFrom {
  case t: T => t
}
```

5.2.7.1 Reference For more information about the semantics of `inline`, see the [Scala 2020: Semantics-preserving inlining for metaprogramming](#) paper.

For more information about compiletime operation, see [PR #4768](#), which explains how `summonFrom`'s predecessor (implicit matches) can be used for typelevel programming and code specialization and [PR #7201](#) which explains the new `summonFrom` syntax.

5.3 Macros

When developing macros enable `-Xcheck-macros` `scalac` option flag to have extra runtime checks.

5.3.1 Macros: Quotes and Splices

Macros are built on two well-known fundamental operations: quotation and splicing. Quotation is expressed as `'{...}` for expressions and splicing is expressed as ``${...}``. Additionally, within a quote or a splice we can quote or splice identifiers directly (i.e. `'e` and `$e`). Readers may notice the resemblance of the two aforementioned syntactic schemes with the familiar string interpolation syntax.

```
println(s"Hello, $name, here is the result of 1 + 1 = ${1 + 1}")
```

In string interpolation we quoted a string and then we spliced into it, two others. The first, `name`, is a reference to a value of type `String`, and the second is an arithmetic expression that will be evaluated followed by the splicing of its string representation.

Quotes and splices in this section allow us to treat code in a similar way, effectively supporting macros. The entry point for macros is an inline method with a top-level splice. We call it a top-level because it is the only occasion where we encounter a splice outside a quote (consider as a quote the compilation-unit at the call-site). For example, the code below presents an inline method `assert` which calls at compile-time a method `assertImpl` with a boolean expression tree as argument. `assertImpl` evaluates the expression and prints it again in an error message if it evaluates to false.

```
import scala.quoted.*
```

```

inline def assert(inline expr: Boolean): Unit =
  ${ assertImpl('expr) }

def assertImpl(expr: Expr[Boolean])(using Quotes) = '{
  if !$expr then
    throw AssertionError(s"failed assertion: ${${ showExpr(expr) }}")
}

def showExpr(expr: Expr[Boolean])(using Quotes): Expr[String] =
  '{ "<some source code>" } // Better implementation later in this document

```

If e is an expression, then $\{e\}$ represents the typed abstract syntax tree representing e . If T is a type, then $\text{Type.of}[T]$ represents the type structure representing T . The precise definitions of “typed abstract syntax tree” or “type-structure” do not matter for now, the terms are used only to give some intuition. Conversely, $\${e}$ evaluates the expression e , which must yield a typed abstract syntax tree or type structure, and embeds the result as an expression (respectively, type) in the enclosing program.

Quotations can have spliced parts in them; in this case the embedded splices are evaluated and embedded as part of the formation of the quotation.

Quotes and splices can also be applied directly to identifiers. An identifier $\$x$ starting with a $\$$ that appears inside a quoted expression or type is treated as a splice $\${x}$. Analogously, an quoted identifier $\{x\}$ that appears inside a splice is treated as a quote $\{x\}$. See the Syntax section below for details.

Quotes and splices are duals of each other. For arbitrary expressions e we have:

```

${ '{e}' } = e
'${e}' = e

```

5.3.2 Types for Quotations

The type signatures of quotes and splices can be described using two fundamental types:

- $\text{Expr}[T]$: abstract syntax trees representing expressions of type T
- $\text{Type}[T]$: non erased representation of type T .

Quoting takes expressions of type T to expressions of type $\text{Expr}[T]$ and it takes types T to expressions of type $\text{Type}[T]$. Splicing takes expressions of type $\text{Expr}[T]$ to expressions of type T and it takes expressions of type $\text{Type}[T]$ to types T .

The two types can be defined in package `scala.quoted` as follows:

```
package scala.quoted
```

```
sealed trait Expr[+T]
sealed trait Type[T]
```

Both `Expr` and `Type` are abstract and sealed, so all constructors for these types are provided by the system. One way to construct values of these types is by quoting, the other is by

type-specific lifting operations that will be discussed later on.

5.3.3 The Phase Consistency Principle

A fundamental phase consistency principle (PCP) regulates accesses to free variables in quoted and spliced code:

- For any free variable reference x , the number of quoted scopes and the number of spliced scopes between the reference to x and the definition of x must be equal.

Here, `this`-references count as free variables. On the other hand, we assume that all imports are fully expanded and that `_root_` is not a free variable. So references to global definitions are allowed everywhere.

The phase consistency principle can be motivated as follows: First, suppose the result of a program P is some quoted text `'{ ... x ... }` that refers to a free variable x in P . This can be represented only by referring to the original variable x . Hence, the result of the program will need to persist the program state itself as one of its parts. We don't want to do this, hence this situation should be made illegal. Dually, suppose a top-level part of a program is a spliced text `${ ... x ... }` that refers to a free variable x in P . This would mean that we refer during construction of P to a value that is available only during execution of P . This is of course impossible and therefore needs to be ruled out. Now, the small-step evaluation of a program will reduce quotes and splices in equal measure using the cancellation rules above. But it will neither create nor remove quotes or splices individually. So the PCP ensures that program elaboration will lead to neither of the two unwanted situations described above.

In what concerns the range of features it covers, this form of macros introduces a principled metaprogramming framework that is quite close to the MetaML family of languages. One difference is that MetaML does not have an equivalent of the PCP - quoted code in MetaML can access variables in its immediately enclosing environment, with some restrictions and caveats since such accesses involve serialization. However, this does not constitute a fundamental gain in expressiveness.

5.3.4 From Exprs to Functions and Back

It is possible to convert any `Expr[T => R]` into `Expr[T] => Expr[R]` and back. These conversions can be implemented as follows:

```
def to[T: Type, R: Type](f: Expr[T] => Expr[R])(using Quotes): Expr[T => R] =
  '{ (x: T) => ${ f('x) } }

def from[T: Type, R: Type](f: Expr[T => R])(using Quotes): Expr[T] => Expr[R] =
  (x: Expr[T]) => '{ $f($x) }
```

Note how the fundamental phase consistency principle works in two different directions here for `f` and `x`. In the method `to`, the reference to `f` is legal because it is quoted, then spliced, whereas the reference to `x` is legal because it is spliced, then quoted.

They can be used as follows:


```

val f1: Expr[Int => String] =
  to((x: Expr[Int]) => '{ $x.toString }) // '{ (x: Int) => x.toString }

val f2: Expr[Int] => Expr[String] =
  from('{ (x: Int) => x.toString }) // (x: Expr[Int]) => '{ ((x: Int) => x.toString)(
f2('{2}) // '{ ((x: Int) => x.toString)(2) }

```

One limitation of `from` is that it does not β -reduce when a lambda is called immediately, as evidenced in the code `{ ((x: Int) => x.toString)(2) }`. In some cases we want to remove the lambda from the code, for this we provide the method `Expr.betaReduce` that turns a tree describing a function into a function mapping trees to trees.

```

object Expr:
  ...
  def betaReduce[...](...)(...): ... = ...

```

The definition of `Expr.betaReduce(f)(x)` is assumed to be functionally the same as `'{($f)($x)}`, however it should optimize this call by returning the result of beta-reducing `f(x)` if `f` is a known lambda expression. `Expr.betaReduce` distributes applications of `Expr` over function arrows:

```
Expr.betaReduce(_): Expr[(T1, ..., Tn) => R] => ((Expr[T1], ..., Expr[Tn]) => Expr[R])
```

5.3.5 Lifting Types

Types are not directly affected by the phase consistency principle. It is possible to use types defined at any level in any other level. But, if a type is used in a subsequent stage it will need to be lifted to a `Type`. Indeed, the definition of `to` above uses `T` in the next stage, there is a quote but no splice between the parameter binding of `T` and its usage. But the code can be rewritten by adding an explicit binding of a `Type[T]`:

```

def to[T, R](f: Expr[T] => Expr[R])(using t: Type[T])(using Type[R], Quotes): Expr[T] =>
  '{ (x: t.Underlying) => ${ f('x) } }

```

In this version of `to`, the type of `x` is now the result of inserting the type `Type[T]` and selecting its `Underlying`.

To avoid clutter, the compiler converts any type reference to a type `T` in subsequent phases to `summon[Type[T]].Underlying`.

And to avoid duplication it does it once per type, and creates an alias for that type at the start of the quote.

For instance, the user-level definition of `to`:

```

def to[T, R](f: Expr[T] => Expr[R])(using t: Type[T], r: Type[R])(using Quotes): Expr[T] =>
  '{ (x: T) => ${ f('x) } }

```

would be rewritten to

```

def to[T, R](f: Expr[T] => Expr[R])(using t: Type[T], r: Type[R])(using Quotes): Expr[T] =>
  '{

```

```

type T = t.Underlying
(x: T) => ${ f('x) }
}

```

The summon query succeeds because there is a given instance of type `Type[T]` available (namely the given parameter corresponding to the context bound `: Type`), and the reference to that value is phase-correct. If that was not the case, the phase inconsistency for `T` would be reported as an error.

5.3.6 Lifting Expressions

Consider the following implementation of a staged interpreter that implements a compiler through staging.

```

import scala.quoted.*

enum Exp:
  case Num(n: Int)
  case Plus(e1: Exp, e2: Exp)
  case Var(x: String)
  case Let(x: String, e: Exp, in: Exp)

```

```

import Exp.*

```

The interpreted language consists of numbers `Num`, addition `Plus`, and variables `Var` which are bound by `Let`. Here are two sample expressions in the language:

```

val exp = Plus(Plus(Num(2), Var("x")), Num(4))
val letExp = Let("x", Num(3), exp)

```

Here's a compiler that maps an expression given in the interpreted language to quoted Scala code of type `Expr[Int]`. The compiler takes an environment that maps variable names to Scala `Expr`s.

```

import scala.quoted.*

def compile(e: Exp, env: Map[String, Expr[Int]])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  e match
    case Num(n) =>
      Expr(n)
    case Plus(e1, e2) =>
      '{ ${ compile(e1, env) } + ${ compile(e2, env) } }
    case Var(x) =>
      env(x)
    case Let(x, e, body) =>
      '{ val y = ${ compile(e, env) }; ${ compile(body, env + (x -> 'y)) } }

```

Running `compile(letExp, Map())` would yield the following Scala code:

```

'{ val y = 3; (2 + y) + 4 }

```

The body of the first clause, `case Num(n) => Expr(n)`, looks suspicious. `n` is declared as an `Int`, yet it is converted to an `Expr[Int]` with `Expr()`. Shouldn't `n` be quoted? In fact this would not work since replacing `n` by `'n` in the clause would not be phase correct.

The `Expr.apply` method is defined in package `quoted`:

```
package quoted

object Expr:
  ...
  def apply[T: ToExpr](x: T)(using Quotes): Expr[T] =
    summon[ToExpr[T]].toExpr(x)
```

This method says that values of types implementing the `ToExpr` type class can be converted to `Expr` values using `Expr.apply`.

Scala 3 comes with given instances of `ToExpr` for several types including `Boolean`, `String`, and all primitive number types. For example, `Int` values can be converted to `Expr[Int]` values by wrapping the value in a `Literal` tree node. This makes use of the underlying tree representation in the compiler for efficiency. But the `ToExpr` instances are nevertheless not magic in the sense that they could all be defined in a user program without knowing anything about the representation of `Expr` trees. For instance, here is a possible instance of `ToExpr[Boolean]`:

```
given ToExpr[Boolean] with
  def toExpr(b: Boolean) =
    if b then '{ true } else '{ false }
```

Once we can lift bits, we can work our way up. For instance, here is a possible implementation of `ToExpr[Int]` that does not use the underlying tree machinery:

```
given ToExpr[Int] with
  def toExpr(n: Int) = n match
    case Int.MinValue => '{ Int.MinValue }
    case _ if n < 0    => '{ - ${ toExpr(-n) } }
    case 0             => '{ 0 }
    case _ if n % 2 == 0 => '{ ${ toExpr(n / 2) } * 2 }
    case _             => '{ ${ toExpr(n / 2) } * 2 + 1 }
```

Since `ToExpr` is a type class, its instances can be conditional. For example, a `List` is liftable if its element type is:

```
given [T: ToExpr : Type]: ToExpr[List[T]] with
  def toExpr(xs: List[T]) = xs match
    case head :: tail => '{ ${ Expr(head) } :: ${ toExpr(tail) } }
    case Nil          => '{ Nil: List[T] }
```

In the end, `ToExpr` resembles very much a serialization framework. Like the latter it can be derived systematically for all collections, case classes and enums. Note also that the synthesis of type-tag values of type `Type[T]` is essentially the type-level analogue of lifting.

Using lifting, we can now give the missing definition of `showExpr` in the introductory example:

```
def showExpr[T](expr: Expr[T])(using Quotes): Expr[String] =
  val code: String = expr.show
  Expr(code)
```

That is, the `showExpr` method converts its `Expr` argument to a string (`code`), and lifts the result back to an `Expr[String]` using `Expr.apply`.

5.3.7 Lifting Types

The previous section has shown that the metaprogramming framework has to be able to take a type `T` and convert it to a type tree of type `Type[T]` that can be reified. This means that all free variables of the type tree refer to types and values defined in the current stage.

For a reference to a global class, this is easy: Just issue the fully qualified name of the class. Members of reifiable types are handled by just reifying the containing type together with the member name. But what to do for references to type parameters or local type definitions that are not defined in the current stage? Here, we cannot construct the `Type[T]` tree directly, so we need to get it from a recursive implicit search. For instance, to implement

```
summon[Type[List[T]]]
```

where `T` is not defined in the current stage, we construct the type constructor of `List` applied to the splice of the result of searching for a given instance for `Type[T]`:

```
Type.of[ List[ summon[Type[T]].Underlying ] ]
```

This is exactly the algorithm that Scala 2 uses to search for type tags. In fact Scala 2's type tag feature can be understood as a more ad-hoc version of `quoted.Type`. As was the case for type tags, the implicit search for a `quoted.Type` is handled by the compiler, using the algorithm sketched above.

5.3.8 Relationship with `inline`

Seen by itself, principled metaprogramming looks more like a framework for runtime metaprogramming than one for compile-time metaprogramming with macros. But combined with Scala 3's `inline` feature it can be turned into a compile-time system. The idea is that macro elaboration can be understood as a combination of a macro library and a quoted program. For instance, here's the `assert` macro again together with a program that calls `assert`.

```
object Macros:
```

```
  inline def assert(inline expr: Boolean): Unit =
    ${ assertImpl('expr) }

  def assertImpl(expr: Expr[Boolean])(using Quotes) =
    val failMsg: Expr[String] = Expr("failed assertion: " + expr.show)
    '{ if !($expr) then throw new AssertionError($failMsg) }
```

```
@main def program =
```

```
val x = 1
Macros.assert(x != 0)
```

Inlining the assert function would give the following program:

```
@main def program =
  val x = 1
  ${ Macros.assertImpl('{ x != 0 } ) }
```

The example is only phase correct because `Macros` is a global value and as such not subject to phase consistency checking. Conceptually that's a bit unsatisfactory. If the PCP is so fundamental, it should be applicable without the global value exception. But in the example as given this does not hold since both `assert` and `program` call `assertImpl` with a splice but no quote.

However, one could argue that the example is really missing an important aspect: The macro library has to be compiled in a phase prior to the program using it, but in the code above, macro and program are defined together. A more accurate view of macros would be to have the user program be in a phase after the macro definitions, reflecting the fact that macros have to be defined and compiled before they are used. Hence, conceptually the program part should be treated by the compiler as if it was quoted:

```
@main def program = '{
  val x = 1
  ${ Macros.assertImpl('{ x != 0 }) }
}
```

If `program` is treated as a quoted expression, the call to `Macro.assertImpl` becomes phase correct even if macro library and program are conceptualized as local definitions.

But what about the call from `assert` to `assertImpl`? Here, we need a tweak of the typing rules. An inline function such as `assert` that contains a splice operation outside an enclosing quote is called a macro. Macros are supposed to be expanded in a subsequent phase, i.e. in a quoted context. Therefore, they are also type checked as if they were in a quoted context. For instance, the definition of `assert` is typechecked as if it appeared inside quotes. This makes the call from `assert` to `assertImpl` phase-correct, even if we assume that both definitions are local.

The `inline` modifier is used to declare a `val` that is either a constant or is a parameter that will be a constant when instantiated. This aspect is also important for macro expansion.

To get values out of expressions containing constants `Expr` provides the method `value` (or `valueOrNull`). This will convert the `Expr[T]` into a `Some[T]` (or `T`) when the expression contains value. Otherwise it will return `None` (or emit an error). To avoid having incidental `val` bindings generated by the inlining of the `def` it is recommended to use an inline parameter. To illustrate this, consider an implementation of the power function that makes use of a statically known exponent:

```
inline def power(x: Double, inline n: Int) = ${ powerCode('x, 'n) }

private def powerCode(x: Expr[Double], n: Expr[Int])(using Quotes): Expr[Double] =
```

```

n.value match
  case Some(m) => powerCode(x, m)
  case None => '{ Math.pow($x, $n.toDouble) }

private def powerCode(x: Expr[Double], n: Int)(using Quotes): Expr[Double] =
  if n == 0 then '{ 1.0 }
  else if n == 1 then x
  else if n % 2 == 0 then '{ val y = $x * $x; ${ powerCode('y, n / 2) } }
  else '{ $x * ${ powerCode(x, n - 1) } }

```

5.3.9 Scope Extrusion

Quotes and splices are duals as far as the PCP is concerned. But there is an additional restriction that needs to be imposed on splices to guarantee soundness: code in splices must be free of side effects. The restriction prevents code like this:

```

var x: Expr[T] = ...
'{ (y: T) => ${ x = 'y; 1 } }

```

This code, if it was accepted, would extrude a reference to a quoted variable `y` from its scope. This would subsequently allow access to a variable outside the scope where it is defined, which is likely problematic. The code is clearly phase consistent, so we cannot use PCP to rule it out. Instead, we postulate a future effect system that can guarantee that splices are pure. In the absence of such a system we simply demand that spliced expressions are pure by convention, and allow for undefined compiler behavior if they are not. This is analogous to the status of pattern guards in Scala, which are also required, but not verified, to be pure.

Multi-Stage Programming introduces one additional method where you can expand code at runtime with a method `run`. There is also a problem with that invocation of `run` in splices. Consider the following expression:

```

'{ (x: Int) => ${ run('x); 1 } }

```

This is again phase correct, but will lead us into trouble. Indeed, evaluating the splice will reduce the expression `run('x)` to `x`. But then the result

```

'{ (x: Int) => ${ x; 1 } }

```

is no longer phase correct. To prevent this soundness hole it seems easiest to classify `run` as a side-effecting operation. It would thus be prevented from appearing in splices. In a base language with side effects we would have to do this anyway: Since `run` runs arbitrary code it can always produce a side effect if the code it runs produces one.

5.3.10 Example Expansion

Assume we have two methods, one `map` that takes an `Expr[Array[T]]` and a function `f` and one `sum` that performs a sum by delegating to `map`.

object `Macros`:

```

def map[T](arr: Expr[Array[T]], f: Expr[T] => Expr[Unit])

```

```

      (using Type[T], Quotes): Expr[Unit] = '{
    var i: Int = 0
    while i < ($arr).length do
      val element: T = ($arr)(i)
      ${f('element)}
      i += 1
    }

    def sum(arr: Expr[Array[Int]])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] = '{
      var sum = 0
      ${ map(arr, x => '{sum += $x}) }
      sum
    }

    inline def sum_m(arr: Array[Int]): Int = ${sum('arr)}

```

end Macros

A call to `sum_m(Array(1,2,3))` will first inline `sum_m`:

```

val arr: Array[Int] = Array.apply(1, [2,3 : Int]:Int*)
${_root_.Macros.sum('arr)}

```

then it will splice `sum`:

```

val arr: Array[Int] = Array.apply(1, [2,3 : Int]:Int*)

var sum = 0
${ map('arr, x => '{sum += $x}) }
sum

```

then it will inline `map`:

```

val arr: Array[Int] = Array.apply(1, [2,3 : Int]:Int*)

var sum = 0
val f = x => '{sum += $x}
${ _root_.Macros.map('arr, 'f)(Type.of[Int])}
sum

```

then it will expand and splice inside quotes `map`:

```

val arr: Array[Int] = Array.apply(1, [2,3 : Int]:Int*)

var sum = 0
val f = x => '{sum += $x}
var i: Int = 0
while i < arr.length do
  val element: Int = (arr)(i)
  sum += element

```

```

    i += 1
sum

```

Finally cleanups and dead code elimination:

```

val arr: Array[Int] = Array.apply(1, [2,3 : Int]:Int*)
var sum = 0
var i: Int = 0
while i < arr.length do
    val element: Int = arr(i)
    sum += element
    i += 1
sum

```

5.3.11 Find implicits within a macro

Similarly to the `summonFrom` construct, it is possible to make implicit search available in a quote context. For this we simply provide `scala.quoted.Expr.summon`:

```

import scala.collection.immutable.{ TreeSet, HashSet }
inline def setFor[T]: Set[T] = ${ setForExpr[T] }

def setForExpr[T: Type](using Quotes): Expr[Set[T]] =
    Expr.summon[Ordering[T]] match
        case Some(ord) => '{ new TreeSet[T]()($ord) }
        case _ => '{ new HashSet[T] }

```

5.3.12 Relationship with Transparent Inline

Inline documents inlining. The code below introduces a transparent inline method that can calculate either a value of type `Int` or a value of type `String`.

```

transparent inline def defaultOf(inline str: String) =
    ${ defaultOfImpl('str) }

def defaultOfImpl(strExpr: Expr[String])(using Quotes): Expr[Any] =
    strExpr.valueOrElse match
        case "int" => '{1}
        case "string" => '{"a"}

// in a separate file
val a: Int = defaultOf("int")
val b: String = defaultOf("string")

```

5.3.13 Defining a macro and using it in a single project

It is possible to define macros and use them in the same project as long as the implementation of the macros does not have run-time dependencies on code in the file where it is used.

It might still have compile-time dependencies on types and quoted code that refers to the use-site file.

To provide this functionality Scala 3 provides a transparent compilation mode where files that try to expand a macro but fail because the macro has not been compiled yet are suspended. If there are any suspended files when the compilation ends, the compiler will automatically restart compilation of the suspended files using the output of the previous (partial) compilation as macro classpath. In case all files are suspended due to cyclic dependencies the compilation will fail with an error.

5.3.14 Pattern matching on quoted expressions

It is possible to deconstruct or extract values out of Expr using pattern matching.

scala.quoted contains objects that can help extracting values from Expr.

- `scala.quoted.Expr/scala.quoted.Exprs`: matches an expression of a value (or list of values) and returns the value (or list of values).
- `scala.quoted.Const/scala.quoted.Consts`: Same as Expr/Exprs but only works on primitive values.
- `scala.quoted.Varargs`: matches an explicit sequence of expressions and returns them. These sequences are useful to get individual Expr[T] out of a varargs expression of type Expr[Seq[T]].

These could be used in the following way to optimize any call to sum that has statically known values.

```
inline def sum(inline args: Int*): Int = ${ sumExpr('args) }
private def sumExpr(argsExpr: Expr[Seq[Int]])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  argsExpr match
    case Varargs(args @ Exprs(argValues)) =>
      // args is of type Seq[Expr[Int]]
      // argValues is of type Seq[Int]
      Expr(argValues.sum) // precompute result of sum
    case Varargs(argExprs) => // argExprs is of type Seq[Expr[Int]]
      val staticSum: Int = argExprs.map(_.value.getOrElse(0)).sum
      val dynamicSum: Seq[Expr[Int]] = argExprs.filter(_.value.isEmpty)
      dynamicSum.foldLeft(Expr(staticSum))((acc, arg) => '{ $acc + $arg })
    case _ =>
      '{ $argsExpr.sum }
```

5.3.14.1 Quoted patterns Quoted patterns allow deconstructing complex code that contains a precise structure, types or methods. Patterns '{ ... }' can be placed in any location where Scala expects a pattern.

For example

```
optimize {
  sum(sum(1, a, 2), 3, b)
} // should be optimized to 6 + a + b
```

```

def sum(args: Int*): Int = args.sum
inline def optimize(inline arg: Int): Int = ${ optimizeExpr('arg) }
private def optimizeExpr(body: Expr[Int])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  body match
    // Match a call to sum without any arguments
    case '{ sum() } => Expr(0)
    // Match a call to sum with an argument $n of type Int.
    // n will be the Expr[Int] representing the argument.
    case '{ sum($n) } => n
    // Match a call to sum and extracts all its args in an `Expr[Seq[Int]]`
    case '{ sum(${Varargs(args)}: _*) } => sumExpr(args)
    case body => body

private def sumExpr(args1: Seq[Expr[Int]])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  def flatSumArgs(arg: Expr[Int]): Seq[Expr[Int]] = arg match
    case '{ sum(${Varargs(subArgs)}: _*) } => subArgs.flatMap(flatSumArgs)
    case arg => Seq(arg)
  val args2 = args1.flatMap(flatSumArgs)
  val staticSum: Int = args2.map(_.value.getOrElse(0)).sum
  val dynamicSum: Seq[Expr[Int]] = args2.filter(_.value.isEmpty)
  dynamicSum.foldLeft(Expr(staticSum))((acc, arg) => '{ $acc + $arg })

```

5.3.14.2 Recovering precise types using patterns Sometimes it is necessary to get a more precise type for an expression. This can be achieved using the following pattern match.

```

def f(expr: Expr[Any])(using Quotes) = expr match
  case '{ $x: t } =>
    // If the pattern match succeeds, then there is
    // some type `t` such that
    // - `x` is bound to a variable of type `Expr[t]`
    // - `t` is bound to a new type `t` and a given
    //   instance `Type[t]` is provided for it
    // That is, we have `x: Expr[t]` and `given Type[t]`,
    // for some (unknown) type `t`.

```

This might be used to then perform an implicit search as in:

```

extension (inline sc: StringContext)
  inline def showMe(inline args: Any*): String = ${ showMeExpr('sc, 'args) }

private def showMeExpr(sc: Expr[StringContext], argsExpr: Expr[Seq[Any]])(using Quotes)
  import quotes.reflect.report
  argsExpr match
    case Varargs(argExprs) =>
      val argShowedExprs = argExprs.map {
        case '{ $arg: tp } =>
          Expr.summon[Show[tp]] match
            case Some(showExpr) =>

```

```

        '{ $showExpr.show($arg) }
    case None =>
        report.error(s"could not find implicit for ${Type.show[Show[tp]]}")
    }
    val newArgsExpr = Varargs(argShowedExprs)
    '{ $sc.s($newArgsExpr: _*) }
case _ =>
    // `new StringContext(...).showMeExpr(args: _*)` not an explicit `showMeExpr`
    report.error(s"Args must be explicit", argsExpr)
    '{???'

trait Show[-T]:
    def show(x: T): String

// in a different file
given Show[Boolean] with
    def show(b: Boolean) = "boolean!"

println(showMe"${true}")

```

5.3.14.3 Open code patterns Quoted pattern matching also provides higher-order patterns to match open terms. If a quoted term contains a definition, then the rest of the quote can refer to this definition.

```

'{
    val x: Int = 4
    x * x
}

```

To match such a term we need to match the definition and the rest of the code, but we need to explicitly state that the rest of the code may refer to this definition.

```

case '{ val y: Int = $x; $body(y): Int } =>

```

Here `$x` will match any closed expression while `$body(y)` will match an expression that is closed under `y`. Then the subexpression of type `Expr[Int]` is bound to `body` as an `Expr[Int => Int]`. The extra argument represents the references to `y`. Usually this expression is used in combination with `Expr.betaReduce` to replace the extra argument.

```

inline def eval(inline e: Int): Int = ${ evalExpr('e) }

private def evalExpr(e: Expr[Int])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] = e match
    case '{ val y: Int = $x; $body(y): Int } =>
        // body: Expr[Int => Int] where the argument represents
        // references to y
        evalExpr(Expr.betaReduce('{$body(${evalExpr(x)})}))
    case '{ ($x: Int) * ($y: Int) } =>
        (x.value, y.value) match
            case (Some(a), Some(b)) => Expr(a * b)

```

```

      case _ => e
    case _ => e
eval { // expands to the code: (16: Int)
  val x: Int = 4
  x * x
}

```

We can also close over several bindings using `$b(a1, a2, ..., an)`. To match an actual application we can use braces on the function part `${b}(a1, a2, ..., an)`.

5.3.15 More details

[More details](#)

5.4 Multi-Stage Programming

The framework expresses at the same time compile-time metaprogramming and multi-stage programming. We can think of compile-time metaprogramming as a two stage compilation process: one that we write the code in top-level splices, that will be used for code generation (macros) and one that will perform all necessary evaluations at compile-time and an object program that we will run as usual. What if we could synthesize code at run-time and offer one extra stage to the programmer? Then we can have a value of type `Expr[T]` at run-time that we can essentially treat as a typed-syntax tree that we can either show as a string (pretty-print) or compile and run. If the number of quotes exceeds the number of splices by more than one (effectively handling at run-time values of type `Expr[Expr[T]]`, `Expr[Expr[Expr[T]]]`, ...) then we talk about Multi-Stage Programming.

The motivation behind this paradigm is to let runtime information affect or guide code-generation.

Intuition: The phase in which code is run is determined by the difference between the number of splice scopes and quote scopes in which it is embedded.

- If there are more splices than quotes, the code is run at compile-time i.e. as a macro. In the general case, this means running an interpreter that evaluates the code, which is represented as a typed abstract syntax tree. The interpreter can fall back to reflective calls when evaluating an application of a previously compiled method. If the splice excess is more than one, it would mean that a macro's implementation code (as opposed to the code it expands to) invokes other macros. If macros are realized by interpretation, this would lead to towers of interpreters, where the first interpreter would itself interpret an interpreter code that possibly interprets another interpreter and so on.
- If the number of splices equals the number of quotes, the code is compiled and run as usual.
- If the number of quotes exceeds the number of splices, the code is staged. That is, it produces a typed abstract syntax tree or type structure at run-time. A quote excess of more than one corresponds to multi-staged programming.

Providing an interpreter for the full language is quite difficult, and it is even more difficult to make that interpreter run efficiently. So we currently impose the following restrictions on the use of splices.

1. A top-level splice must appear in an inline method (turning that method into a macro)
2. The splice must call a previously compiled method passing quoted arguments, constant arguments or inline arguments.
3. Splices inside splices (but no intervening quotes) are not allowed.

5.4.1 API

The framework as discussed so far allows code to be staged, i.e. be prepared to be executed at a later stage. To run that code, there is another method in class `Expr` called `run`. Note that `$` and `run` both map from `Expr[T]` to `T` but only `$` is subject to the PCP, whereas `run` is just a normal method. `scala.quoted.staging.run` provides a `Quotes` that can be used to show the expression in its scope. On the other hand `scala.quoted.staging.withQuotes` provides a `Quotes` without evaluating the expression.

```
package scala.quoted.staging

def run[T](expr: Quotes => Expr[T])(using Compiler): T = ...

def withQuotes[T](thunk: Quotes => T)(using Compiler): T = ...
```

5.4.2 Create a new Scala 3 project with staging enabled

```
sbt new scala/scala3-staging.g8
```

From [scala/scala3-staging.g8](#).

It will create a project with the necessary dependencies and some examples.

In case you prefer to create the project on your own, make sure to define the following dependency in your [build.sbt build definition](#)

```
libraryDependencies += "org.scala-lang" %% "scala3-staging" % scalaVersion.value
```

and in case you use `scalac/scala` directly, then use the `-with-compiler` flag for both:

```
scalac -with-compiler -d out Test.scala
scala -with-compiler -classpath out Test
```

5.4.3 Example

Now take exactly the same example as in [Macros](#). Assume that we do not want to pass an array statically but generate code at run-time and pass the value, also at run-time. Note, how we make a future-stage function of type `Expr[Array[Int] => Int]` in line 6 below. Using `staging.run { ... }` we can evaluate an expression at runtime. Within the scope of `staging.run` we can also invoke `show` on an expression to get a source-like representation of the expression.

```
import scala.quoted.*

// make available the necessary compiler for runtime code generation
given staging.Compiler = staging.Compiler.make(getClass.getClassLoader)

val f: Array[Int] => Int = staging.run {
  val stagedSum: Expr[Array[Int] => Int] =
    '{ (arr: Array[Int]) => ${sum('arr)}}
  println(stagedSum.show) // Prints "(arr: Array[Int]) => { var sum = 0; ... }"
  stagedSum
}

f.apply(Array(1, 2, 3)) // Returns 6
```

5.5 Reflection

Reflection enables inspection and construction of Typed Abstract Syntax Trees (Typed-AST). It may be used on quoted expressions (`quoted.Expr`) and quoted types (`quoted.Type`) from **Macros** or on full TASTy files.

If you are writing macros, please first read **Macros**. You may find all you need without using quote reflection.

5.5.1 API: From quotes and splices to TASTy reflect trees and back

With `quoted.Expr` and `quoted.Type` we can compute code but also analyze code by inspecting the ASTs. **Macros** provide the guarantee that the generation of code will be type-correct. Using quote reflection will break these guarantees and may fail at macro expansion time, hence additional explicit checks must be done.

To provide reflection capabilities in macros we need to add an implicit parameter of type `scala.quoted.Quotes` and import `quotes.reflect.*` from it in the scope where it is used.

```
import scala.quoted.*

inline def natConst(inline x: Int): Int = ${natConstImpl('{x})}

def natConstImpl(x: Expr[Int])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  import quotes.reflect.*
  ...
```

5.5.1.1 Extractors `import quotes.reflect.*` will provide all extractors and methods on `quotes.reflect.Trees`. For example the `Literal(_)` extractor used below.

```
def natConstImpl(x: Expr[Int])(using Quotes): Expr[Int] =
  import quotes.reflect.*
  val tree: Term = x.asTerm
```

```

tree match
  case Inlined(_, _, Literal(IntConstant(n))) =>
    if n <= 0 then
      report.error("Parameter must be natural number")
      '{0}'
    else
      tree.asExprOf[Int]
  case _ =>
    report.error("Parameter must be a known constant")
    '{0}'

```

We can easily know which extractors are needed using `Printer.TreeStructure.show`, which returns the string representation the structure of the tree. Other printers can also be found in the `Printer` module.

```

tree.show(using Printer.TreeStructure)
// or
Printer.TreeStructure.show(tree)

```

The methods `quotes.reflect.Term.{asExpr, asExprOf}` provide a way to go back to a quoted `Expr`. Note that `asExpr` returns a `Expr[Any]`. On the other hand `asExprOf[T]` returns a `Expr[T]`, if the type does not conform to it an exception will be thrown at runtime.

5.5.1.2 Positions The `Position` in the context provides an `ofMacroExpansion` value. It corresponds to the expansion site for macros. The macro authors can obtain various information about that expansion site. The example below shows how we can obtain position information such as the start line, the end line or even the source code at the expansion point.

```

def macroImpl()(quotes: Quotes): Expr[Unit] =
  import quotes.reflect.*
  val pos = Position.ofMacroExpansion

  val path = pos.sourceFile.jpath.toString
  val start = pos.start
  val end = pos.end
  val startLine = pos.startLine
  val endLine = pos.endLine
  val startColumn = pos.startColumn
  val endColumn = pos.endColumn
  val sourceCode = pos.sourceCode
  ...

```

5.5.1.3 Tree Utilities `quotes.reflect` contains three facilities for tree traversal and transformation.

`TreeAccumulator` ties the knot of a traversal. By calling `foldOver(x, tree)(owner)` we can dive into the tree node and start accumulating values of type `X` (e.g., of type `List[Symbol]` if we want to collect symbols). The code below, for example, collects the

val definitions in the tree.

```
def collectPatternVariables(tree: Tree)(using ctx: Context): List[Symbol] =
  val acc = new TreeAccumulator[List[Symbol]]:
    def foldTree(syms: List[Symbol], tree: Tree)(owner: Symbol): List[Symbol] = tree
      .case ValDef(_, _, rhs) =>
        val newSyms = tree.symbol :: syms
        foldTree(newSyms, body)(tree.symbol)
      .case _ =>
        foldOverTree(syms, tree)(owner)
  acc(Nil, tree)
```

A `TreeTraverser` extends a `TreeAccumulator` and performs the same traversal but without returning any value. Finally, a `TreeMap` performs a transformation.

5.5.1.3.1 `ValDef.let` `quotes.reflect.ValDef` also offers a method `let` that allows us to bind the rhs (right-hand side) to a `val` and use it in body. Additionally, `lets` binds the given terms to names and allows to use them in the body. Their type definitions are shown below:

```
def let(rhs: Term)(body: Ident => Term): Term = ...
```

```
def lets(terms: List[Term])(body: List[Term] => Term): Term = ...
```

5.6 TASTy Inspection

```
libraryDependencies += "org.scala-lang" %% "scala3-tasty-inspector" % scalaVersion.value
```

TASTy files contain the full typed tree of a class including source positions and documentation. This is ideal for tools that analyze or extract semantic information from the code. To avoid the hassle of working directly with the TASTy file we provide the `Inspector` which loads the contents and exposes it through the TASTy reflect API.

5.6.1 Inspecting TASTy files

To inspect the trees of a TASTy file a consumer can be defined in the following way.

```
import scala.quoted.*
import scala.tasty.inspector.*

class MyInspector extends Inspector:
  def inspect(using Quotes)(tastys: List[Tasty[quotes.type]]): Unit =
    import quotes.reflect.*
    for tasty <- tastys do
      val tree = tasty.ast
      // Do something with the tree
```

Then the consumer can be instantiated with the following code to get the tree of the `foo/Bar.tasty` file.


```
object Test:
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit =
    val tastyFiles = List("foo/Bar.tasty")
    TastyInspector.inspectTastyFiles(tastyFiles)(new MyInspector)
```

Note that if we need to run the main (in the example below defined in an object called Test) after compilation we need to make the compiler available to the runtime:

```
scalac -d out Test.scala
scala -with-compiler -classpath out Test
```

5.6.2 Template project

Using sbt version 1.1.5+, do:

```
sbt new scala/scala3-tasty-inspector.g8
```

in the folder where you want to clone the template.

5.7 The Meta-theory of Symmetric Metaprogramming

This note presents a simplified variant of **principled metaprogramming** and sketches its soundness proof. The variant treats only dialogues between two stages. A program can have quotes which can contain splices (which can contain quotes, which can contain splices, and so on). Or the program could start with a splice with embedded quotes. The essential restriction is that (1) a term can contain top-level quotes or top-level splices, but not both, and (2) quotes cannot appear directly inside quotes and splices cannot appear directly inside splices. In other words, the universe is restricted to two phases only.

Under this restriction we can simplify the typing rules so that there are always exactly two environments instead of having a stack of environments. The variant presented here differs from the full calculus also in that we replace evaluation contexts with contextual typing rules. While this is more verbose, it makes it easier to set up the meta theory.

5.7.1 Syntax

Terms	$t ::= x$	variable
	$(x: T) \Rightarrow t$	lambda
	$t \ t$	application
	$'t$	quote
	$\sim t$	splice
Simple terms	$u ::= x \mid (x: T) \Rightarrow u \mid u \ u$	
Values	$v ::= (x: T) \Rightarrow t$	lambda
	$'u$	quoted value
Types	$T ::= A$	base type
	$T \rightarrow T$	function type

'T quoted type

5.7.2 Operational semantics

5.7.2.1 Evaluation

$$((x: T) \Rightarrow t) \ v \ \twoheadrightarrow \ [x := v]t$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \twoheadrightarrow \ t2}{t1 \ t \ \twoheadrightarrow \ t2 \ t}$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \twoheadrightarrow \ t2}{v \ t1 \ \twoheadrightarrow \ v \ t2}$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \Rightarrow \ t2}{\text{'}t1 \ \twoheadrightarrow \ \text{'}t2}$$

5.7.2.2 Splicing

$$\sim \text{'}u \ \Rightarrow \ u$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \Rightarrow \ t2}{(x: T) \Rightarrow t1 \ \Rightarrow \ (x: T) \Rightarrow t2}$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \Rightarrow \ t2}{t1 \ t \ \Rightarrow \ t2 \ t}$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \Rightarrow \ t2}{u \ t1 \ \Rightarrow \ u \ t2}$$

$$\frac{t1 \ \twoheadrightarrow \ t2}{\sim t1 \ \Rightarrow \ \sim t2}$$

5.7.3 Typing Rules

Typing judgments are of the form $E1 \ * \ E2 \ \vdash \ t : T$ where $E1, E2$ are environments and $*$ is one of \sim and $'$.

$$\frac{x: T \text{ in } E2}{E1 \ * \ E2 \ \vdash \ x: T}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
E1 * E2, x: T1 \vdash t: T2 \\
\hline
E1 * E2 \vdash (x: T1) \Rightarrow t: T \rightarrow T2 \\
\\
E1 * E2 \vdash t1: T2 \rightarrow T \quad E1 * E2 \vdash t2: T2 \\
\hline
E1 * E2 \vdash t1 \ t2: T \\
\\
E2 \ ' \ E1 \vdash t: T \\
\hline
E1 \sim E2 \vdash \ 't: \ 'T \\
\\
E2 \sim E1 \vdash t: \ 'T \\
\hline
E1 \ ' \ E2 \vdash \sim t: T
\end{array}$$

(Curiously, this looks a bit like a Christmas tree).

5.7.4 Soundness

The meta-theory typically requires mutual inductions over two judgments.

5.7.4.1 Progress Theorem

1. If $E1 \sim \vdash t: T$ then either $t = v$ for some value v or $t \rightarrow t2$ for some term $t2$.
2. If $\ ' \ E2 \vdash t: T$ then either $t = u$ for some simple term u or $t \Rightarrow t2$ for some term $t2$.

Proof by structural induction over terms.

To prove (1):

- the cases for variables, lambdas and applications are as in [STLC](#).
- If $t = \ 't2$, then by inversion we have $\ ' \ E1 \vdash t2: T2$ for some type $T2$. By the second [induction hypothesis](#) (I.H.), we have one of:
 - $t2 = u$, hence $\ 't2$ is a value,
 - $t2 \Rightarrow t3$, hence $\ 't2 \rightarrow \ 't3$.
- The case $t = \sim t2$ is not typable.

To prove (2):

- If $t = x$ then t is a simple term.

- If $t = (x: T) \Rightarrow t_2$, then either t_2 is a simple term, in which case t is as well. Or by the second I.H. $t_2 \Rightarrow t_3$, in which case $t \Rightarrow (x: T) \Rightarrow t_3$.
- If $t = t_1 \ t_2$ then one of three cases applies:
 - t_1 and t_2 are a simple term, then t is as well a simple term.
 - t_1 is not a simple term. Then by the second I.H., $t_1 \Rightarrow t_{12}$, hence $t \Rightarrow t_{12} \ t_2$.
 - t_1 is a simple term but t_2 is not. Then by the second I.H. $t_2 \Rightarrow t_{22}$, hence $t \Rightarrow t_1 \ t_{22}$.
- The case $t = 't_2$ is not typable.
- If $t = \sim t_2$ then by inversion we have $E_2 \sim \mid - t_2: 'T_2$, for some type T_2 . By the first I.H., we have one of
 - $t_2 = v$. Since $t_2: 'T_2$, we must have $v = 'u$, for some simple term u , hence $t = \sim'u$. By quote-splice reduction, $t \Rightarrow u$.
 - $t_2 \dashrightarrow t_3$. Then by the context rule for $'t$, $t \Rightarrow 't_3$.

5.7.4.2 Substitution Lemma

1. If $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - s: S$ and $E_1 \sim E_2, x: S \mid - t: T$ then $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - [x := s]t: T$.
2. If $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - s: S$ and $E_2, x: S ' E_1 \mid - t: T$ then $E_2 ' E_1 \mid - [x := s]t: T$.

The proofs are by induction on typing derivations for t , analogous to the proof for STL (with (2) a bit simpler than (1) since we do not need to swap lambda bindings with the bound variable x). The arguments that link the two hypotheses are as follows.

To prove (1), let $t = 't_1$. Then $T = 'T_1$ for some type T_1 and the last typing rule is

$$\frac{E_2, x: S ' E_1 \mid - t_1: T_1}{E_1 \sim E_2, x: S \mid - 't_1: 'T_1}$$

By the second I.H. $E_2 ' E_1 \mid - [x := s]t_1: T_1$. By typing, $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - '[x := s]t_1: 'T_1$. Since $[x := s]t = [x := s]('t_1) = '[x := s]t_1$ we get $[x := s]t: 'T_1$.

To prove (2), let $t = \sim t_1$. Then the last typing rule is

$$\frac{E_1 \sim E_2, x: S \mid - t_1: 'T}{E_2, x: S ' E_1 \mid - \sim t_1: T}$$

By the first I.H., $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - [x := s]t_1: 'T$. By typing, $E_2 ' E_1 \mid - \sim[x := s]t_1: T$. Since $[x := s]t = [x := s](\sim t_1) = \sim[x := s]t_1$ we get $[x := s]t: T$.

5.7.4.3 Preservation Theorem

1. If $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - t_1: T$ and $t_1 \dashrightarrow t_2$ then $E_1 \sim E_2 \mid - t_2: T$.
2. If $E_1 ' E_2 \mid - t_1: T$ and $t_1 \Rightarrow t_2$ then $E_1 ' E_2 \mid - t_2: T$.

The proof is by structural induction on evaluation derivations. The proof of (1) is analogous to the proof for STL, using the substitution lemma for the beta reduction case, with the addition of reduction of quoted terms, which goes as follows:

- Assume the last rule was

$$\frac{t1 ==> t2}{t1 --> t2}$$

By inversion of typing rules, we must have $T = 'T1$ for some type $T1$ such that $t1 : T1$. By the second I.H., $t2 : T1$, hence $'t2 : T1'$.

To prove (2):

- Assume the last rule was $\sim'u ==> u$. The typing proof of $\sim'u$ must have the form

$$\frac{\frac{E1 \ ' \ E2 \ |- \ u : T}{E1 \sim E2 \ |- \ 'u : 'T}}{E1 \ ' \ E2 \ |- \ \sim'u : T}$$

Hence, $E1 \ ' \ E2 \ |- \ u : T$.

- Assume the last rule was

$$\frac{t1 ==> t2}{(x : S) => t1 ==> (x : T) => t2}$$

By typing inversion, $E1 \ ' \ E2, x : S \ |- \ t1 : T1$ for some type $T1$ such that $T = S \rightarrow T1$. By the I.H., $t2 : T1$. By the typing rule for lambdas the result follows.

- The context rules for applications are equally straightforward.
- Assume the last rule was

$$\frac{t1 ==> t2}{\sim t1 ==> \sim t2}$$

By inversion of typing rules, we must have $t1 : 'T$. By the first I.H., $t2 : 'T$, hence $\sim t2 : T$.

6 Other New Features

6.1 Trait Parameters

Scala 3 allows traits to have parameters, just like classes have parameters.

```
trait Greeting(val name: String):
  def msg = s"How are you, $name"

class C extends Greeting("Bob"):
  println(msg)
```

Arguments to a trait are evaluated immediately before the trait is initialized.

One potential issue with trait parameters is how to prevent ambiguities. For instance, you might try to extend `Greeting` twice, with different parameters.

```
class D extends C, Greeting("Bill") // error: parameter passed twice
```

Should this print “Bob” or “Bill”? In fact this program is illegal, because it violates the second rule of the following for trait parameters:

1. If a class `C` extends a parameterized trait `T`, and its superclass does not, `C` must pass arguments to `T`.
2. If a class `C` extends a parameterized trait `T`, and its superclass does as well, `C` must not pass arguments to `T`.
3. Traits must never pass arguments to parent traits.

Here’s a trait extending the parameterized trait `Greeting`.

```
trait FormalGreeting extends Greeting:
  override def msg = s"How do you do, $name"
```

As is required, no arguments are passed to `Greeting`. However, this poses an issue when defining a class that extends `FormalGreeting`:

```
class E extends FormalGreeting // error: missing arguments for `Greeting`.
```

The correct way to write `E` is to extend both `Greeting` and `FormalGreeting` (in either order):

```
class E extends Greeting("Bob"), FormalGreeting
```

6.1.0.1 Traits With Context Parameters This “explicit extension required” rule is relaxed if the missing trait contains only **context parameters**. In that case the trait reference is implicitly inserted as an additional parent with inferred arguments. For instance, here’s a variant of greetings where the addressee is a context parameter of type `ImpliedName`:

```
case class ImpliedName(name: String):
  override def toString = name

trait ImpliedGreeting(using val iname: ImpliedName):
```

```
def msg = s"How are you, $iname"

trait ImpliedFormalGreeting extends ImpliedGreeting:
  override def msg = s"How do you do, $iname"

class F(using iname: ImpliedName) extends ImpliedFormalGreeting
```

The definition of F in the last line is implicitly expanded to

```
class F(using iname: ImpliedName) extends
  Object,
  ImpliedGreeting(using iname),
  ImpliedFormalGreeting(using iname)
```

Note the inserted reference to the super trait ImpliedGreeting, which was not mentioned explicitly.

6.1.1 Reference

For more information, see [Scala SIP 25](#).

6.2 Transparent Traits

Traits are used in two roles:

1. As mixins for other classes and traits
2. As types of vals, defs, or parameters

Some traits are used primarily in the first role, and we usually do not want to see them in inferred types. An example is the Product trait that the compiler adds as a mixin trait to every case class or case object. In Scala 2, this parent trait sometimes makes inferred types more complicated than they should be. Example:

```
trait Kind
case object Var extends Kind
case object Val extends Kind
val x = Set(if condition then Val else Var)
```

Here, the inferred type of x is Set[Kind & Product & Serializable] whereas one would have hoped it to be Set[Kind]. The reasoning for this particular type to be inferred is as follows:

- The type of the conditional above is the **union type** Val | Var.
- A union type is widened in type inference to the least supertype that is not a union type. In the example, this type is Kind & Product & Serializable since all three traits are traits of both Val and Var. So that type becomes the inferred element type of the set.

Scala 3 allows one to mark a mixin trait as transparent, which means that it can be suppressed in type inference. Here's an example that follows the lines of the code above, but now with a new transparent trait S instead of Product:

```
transparent trait S
trait Kind
object Var extends Kind, S
object Val extends Kind, S
val x = Set(if condition then Val else Var)
```

Now `x` has inferred type `Set[Kind]`. The common transparent trait `S` does not appear in the inferred type.

6.2.1 Transparent Traits

The traits `scala.Product`, `java.lang.Serializable` and `java.lang.Comparable` are treated automatically as transparent. Other traits are turned into transparent traits using the modifier `transparent`. Scala 2 traits can also be made transparent by adding a [@transparentTrait annotation](#). This annotation is defined in `scala.annotation`. It will be deprecated and phased out once Scala 2/3 interoperability is no longer needed.

Typically, transparent traits are traits that influence the implementation of inheriting classes and traits that are not usually used as types by themselves. Two examples from the standard collection library are:

- `IterableOps`, which provides method implementations for an `Iterable`.
- `StrictOptimizedSeqOps`, which optimises some of these implementations for sequences with efficient indexing.

Generally, any trait that is extended recursively is a good candidate to be declared transparent.

6.2.2 Rules for Inference

Transparent traits can be given as explicit types as usual. But they are often elided when types are inferred. Roughly, the rules for type inference say that transparent traits are dropped from intersections where possible.

The precise rules are as follows:

- When inferring a type of a type variable, or the type of a `val`, or the return type of a `def`,
- where that type is not higher-kinded,
- and where `B` is its known upper bound or `Any` if none exists:
- If the type inferred so far is of the form `T1 & ... & Tn` where $n \geq 1$, replace the maximal number of transparent `Ti`s by `Any`, while ensuring that the resulting type is still a subtype of the bound `B`.
- However, do not perform this widening if all transparent traits `Ti` can get replaced in that way.

The last clause ensures that a single transparent trait instance such as `Product` is not widened to `Any`. Transparent trait instances are only dropped when they appear in conjunction with some other type.

6.3 Universal Apply Methods

Scala case classes generate apply methods, so that values of case classes can be created using simple function application, without needing to write `new`.

Scala 3 generalizes this scheme to all concrete classes. Example:

```
class StringBuilder(s: String):
  def this() = this("")

StringBuilder("abc") // old: new StringBuilder("abc")
StringBuilder()      // old: new StringBuilder()
```

This works since a companion object with two apply methods is generated together with the class. The object looks like this:

```
object StringBuilder:
  inline def apply(s: String): StringBuilder = new StringBuilder(s)
  inline def apply(): StringBuilder = new StringBuilder()
```

The synthetic object `StringBuilder` and its apply methods are called constructor proxies. Constructor proxies are generated even for Java classes and classes coming from Scala 2. The precise rules are as follows:

1. A constructor proxy companion object `object C` is created for a concrete class `C`, provided the class does not have already a companion, and there is also no other value or method named `C` defined or inherited in the scope where `C` is defined.
2. Constructor proxy apply methods are generated for a concrete class provided
 - the class has a companion object (which might have been generated in step 1), and
 - that companion object does not already define a member named `apply`.

Each generated apply method forwards to one constructor of the class. It has the same type and value parameters as the constructor.

Constructor proxy companions cannot be used as values by themselves. A proxy companion object must be selected with `apply` (or be applied to arguments, in which case the `apply` is implicitly inserted).

Constructor proxies are also not allowed to shadow normal definitions. That is, if an identifier resolves to a constructor proxy, and the same identifier is also defined or imported in some other scope, an ambiguity is reported.

6.3.0.1 Motivation Leaving out `new` hides an implementation detail and makes code more pleasant to read. Even though it requires a new rule, it will likely increase the perceived regularity of the language, since case classes already provide function call creation syntax (and are often defined for this reason alone).

6.4 Export clauses

An export clause defines aliases for selected members of an object. Example:

```
class BitMap
class InkJet

class Printer:
  type PrinterType
  def print(bits: BitMap): Unit = ???
  def status: List[String] = ???

class Scanner:
  def scan(): BitMap = ???
  def status: List[String] = ???

class Copier:
  private val printUnit = new Printer { type PrinterType = InkJet }
  private val scanUnit = new Scanner

  export scanUnit.scan
  export printUnit.{status => _, *}

  def status: List[String] = printUnit.status ++ scanUnit.status
```

The two export clauses define the following export aliases in class Copier:

```
final def scan(): BitMap          = scanUnit.scan()
final def print(bits: BitMap): Unit = printUnit.print(bits)
final type PrinterType            = printUnit.PrinterType
```

They can be accessed inside Copier as well as from outside:

```
val copier = new Copier
copier.print(copier.scan())
```

An export clause has the same format as an import clause. Its general form is:

```
export path . { sel_1, ..., sel_n }
```

It consists of a qualifier expression path, which must be a stable identifier, followed by one or more selectors sel_i that identify what gets an alias. Selectors can be of one of the following forms:

- A simple selector x creates aliases for all eligible members of path that are named x.
- A renaming selector x => y creates aliases for all eligible members of path that are named x, but the alias is named y instead of x.
- An omitting selector x => _ prevents x from being aliased by a subsequent wildcard selector.
- A given selector given x has an optional type bound x. It creates aliases for all eligible given instances that conform to either x, or Any if x is omitted, except for members

that are named by a previous simple, renaming, or omitting selector.

- A wildcard selector `*` creates aliases for all eligible members of `path` except for given instances, synthetic members generated by the compiler and those members that are named by a previous simple, renaming, or omitting selector.

A member is eligible if all of the following holds:

- its owner is not a base class of the class(`*`) containing the export clause,
- the member does not override a concrete definition that has as owner a base class of the class containing the export clause.
- it is accessible at the export clause,
- it is not a constructor, nor the (synthetic) class part of an object,
- it is a given instance (declared with `given`) if and only if the export is from a given selector.

It is a compile-time error if a simple or renaming selector does not identify any eligible members.

Type members are aliased by type definitions, and term members are aliased by method definitions. Export aliases copy the type and value parameters of the members they refer to. Export aliases are always `final`. Aliases of given instances are again defined as `givens` (and aliases of old-style implicits are `implicit`). Aliases of inline methods or values are again defined `inline`. There are no other modifiers that can be given to an alias. This has the following consequences for overriding:

- Export aliases cannot be overridden, since they are `final`.
- Export aliases cannot override concrete members in base classes, since they are not marked `override`.
- However, export aliases can implement deferred members of base classes.

Export aliases for public value definitions that are accessed without referring to private values in the qualifier path are marked by the compiler as “stable” and their result types are the singleton types of the aliased definitions. This means that they can be used as parts of stable identifier paths, even though they are technically methods. For instance, the following is OK:

```
class C { type T }
object O { val c: C = ... }
export O.c
def f: c.T = ...
```

Restrictions:

1. Export clauses can appear in classes or they can appear at the top-level. An export clause cannot appear as a statement in a block.
2. If an export clause contains a wildcard or given selector, it is forbidden for its qualifier path to refer to a package. This is because it is not yet known how to safely track wildcard dependencies to a package for the purposes of incremental compilation.
3. Simple renaming exports like `scala export status as stat` are not supported yet. They would run afoul of the restriction that the exported a cannot be

already a member of the object containing the export. This restriction might be lifted in the future.

(*) Note: Unless otherwise stated, the term “class” in this discussion also includes object and trait definitions.

6.4.1 Motivation

It is a standard recommendation to prefer composition over inheritance. This is really an application of the principle of least power: Composition treats components as blackboxes whereas inheritance can affect the internal workings of components through overriding. Sometimes the close coupling implied by inheritance is the best solution for a problem, but where this is not necessary the looser coupling of composition is better.

So far, object-oriented languages including Scala made it much easier to use inheritance than composition. Inheritance only requires an `extends` clause whereas composition required a verbose elaboration of a sequence of forwarders. So in that sense, object-oriented languages are pushing programmers to a solution that is often too powerful. Export clauses redress the balance. They make composition relationships as concise and easy to express as inheritance relationships. Export clauses also offer more flexibility than `extends` clauses since members can be renamed or omitted.

Export clauses also fill a gap opened by the shift from package objects to top-level definitions. One occasionally useful idiom that gets lost in this shift is a package object inheriting from some class. The idiom is often used in a facade like pattern, to make members of internal compositions available to users of a package. Top-level definitions are not wrapped in a user-defined object, so they can't inherit anything. However, top-level definitions can be export clauses, which supports the facade design pattern in a safer and more flexible way.

6.4.2 Syntax changes:

```

TemplateStat ::= ...
              | Export
TopStat      ::= ...
              | Export
Export       ::= 'export' ImportExpr {',' ImportExpr}
ImportExpr   ::= SimpleRef { '.' id } '.' ImportSpec
ImportSpec   ::= NamedSelector
              | WildcardSelector
              | '{' ImportSelectors '}'
NamedSelector ::= id ['as' (id | '_')]
WildcardSelector ::= '*' | 'given' [InfixType]
ImportSelectors ::= NamedSelector [',' ImportSelectors]
                | WildCardSelector {',' WildCardSelector}

```

6.4.3 Elaboration of Export Clauses

Export clauses raise questions about the order of elaboration during type checking. Consider the following example:

```
class B { val c: Int }
object a { val b = new B }
export a.*
export b.*
```

Is the `export b.*` clause legal? If yes, what does it export? Is it equivalent to `export a.b.*`? What about if we swap the last two clauses?

```
export b.*
export a.*
```

To avoid tricky questions like these, we fix the elaboration order of exports as follows.

Export clauses are processed when the type information of the enclosing object or class is completed. Completion so far consisted of the following steps:

1. Elaborate any annotations of the class.
2. Elaborate the parameters of the class.
3. Elaborate the self type of the class, if one is given.
4. Enter all definitions of the class as class members, with types to be completed on demand.
5. Determine the types of all parents of the class.

With export clauses, the following steps are added:

6. Compute the types of all paths in export clauses in a context logically inside the class but not considering any imports or exports in that class.
7. Enter export aliases for the eligible members of all paths in export clauses.

It is important that steps 6 and 7 are done in sequence: We first compute the types of all paths in export clauses and only after this is done we enter any export aliases as class members. This means that a path of an export clause cannot refer to an alias made available by another export clause of the same class.

6.5 Opaque Type Aliases

Opaque types aliases provide type abstraction without any overhead. Example:

```
object MyMath:

  opaque type Logarithm = Double

  object Logarithm:

    // These are the two ways to lift to the Logarithm type

    def apply(d: Double): Logarithm = math.log(d)
```

```

def safe(d: Double): Option[Logarithm] =
  if d > 0.0 then Some(math.log(d)) else None

end Logarithm

// Extension methods define opaque types' public APIs
extension (x: Logarithm)
  def toDouble: Double = math.exp(x)
  def + (y: Logarithm): Logarithm = Logarithm(math.exp(x) + math.exp(y))
  def * (y: Logarithm): Logarithm = x + y

end MyMath

```

This introduces `Logarithm` as a new abstract type, which is implemented as `Double`. The fact that `Logarithm` is the same as `Double` is only known in the scope where `Logarithm` is defined which in the above example corresponds to the object `MyMath`. Or in other words, within the scope it is treated as type alias, but this is opaque to the outside world where in consequence `Logarithm` is seen as an abstract type and has nothing to do with `Double`.

The public API of `Logarithm` consists of the `apply` and `safe` methods defined in the companion object. They convert from `Doubles` to `Logarithm` values. Moreover, an operation `toDouble` that converts the other way, and operations `+` and `*` are defined as extension methods on `Logarithm` values. The following operations would be valid because they use functionality implemented in the `MyMath` object.

```

import MyMath.Logarithm

val l = Logarithm(1.0)
val l2 = Logarithm(2.0)
val l3 = l * l2
val l4 = l + l2

```

But the following operations would lead to type errors:

```

val d: Double = l           // error: found: Logarithm, required: Double
val l2: Logarithm = 1.0     // error: found: Double, required: Logarithm
l * 2                       // error: found: Int(2), required: Logarithm
l / l2                      // error: `/` is not a member of Logarithm

```

6.5.0.1 Bounds For Opaque Type Aliases Opaque type aliases can also come with bounds. Example:

```
object Access:
```

```

  opaque type Permissions = Int
  opaque type PermissionChoice = Int
  opaque type Permission <: Permissions & PermissionChoice = Int

  extension (x: Permissions)

```

```

    def & (y: Permissions): Permissions = x | y
  extension (x: PermissionChoice)
    def | (y: PermissionChoice): PermissionChoice = x | y
  extension (granted: Permissions)
    def is(required: Permissions) = (granted & required) == required
  extension (granted: Permissions)
    def isOneOf(required: PermissionChoice) = (granted & required) != 0

  val NoPermission: Permission = 0
  val Read: Permission = 1
  val Write: Permission = 2
  val ReadWrite: Permissions = Read | Write
  val ReadOrWrite: PermissionChoice = Read | Write

```

end Access

The Access object defines three opaque type aliases:

- Permission, representing a single permission,
- Permissions, representing a set of permissions with the meaning “all of these permissions granted”,
- PermissionChoice, representing a set of permissions with the meaning “at least one of these permissions granted”.

Outside the Access object, values of type Permissions may be combined using the & operator, where $x \ \& \ y$ means “all permissions in x and in y granted”. Values of type PermissionChoice may be combined using the | operator, where $x \ | \ y$ means “a permission in x or in y granted”.

Note that inside the Access object, the & and | operators always resolve to the corresponding methods of Int, because members always take precedence over extension methods. Because of that, the | extension method in Access does not cause infinite recursion. Also, the definition of ReadWrite must use |, even though an equivalent definition outside Access would use &.

All three opaque type aliases have the same underlying representation type Int. The Permission type has an upper bound Permissions & PermissionChoice. This makes it known outside the Access object that Permission is a subtype of the other two types. Hence, the following usage scenario type-checks.

```

object User:
  import Access.*

  case class Item(rights: Permissions)

  val roItem = Item(Read) // OK, since Permission <: Permissions
  val rwItem = Item(ReadWrite)
  val noItem = Item(NoPermission)

```

```

assert(!roItem.rights.is(ReadWrite))
assert(roItem.rights.isOneOf(ReadOrWrite))

assert(rwItem.rights.is(ReadWrite))
assert(rwItem.rights.isOneOf(ReadOrWrite))

assert(!noItem.rights.is(ReadWrite))
assert(!noItem.rights.isOneOf(ReadOrWrite))
end User

```

On the other hand, the call `roItem.rights.isOneOf(ReadWrite)` would give a type error since `Permissions` and `PermissionChoice` are different, unrelated types outside `Access`.

6.5.0.2 Opaque Type Members on Classes While typically, opaque types are used together with objects to hide implementation details of a module, they can also be used with classes.

For example, we can redefine the above example of `Logarithms` as a class.

```

class Logarithms:

  opaque type Logarithm = Double

  def apply(d: Double): Logarithm = math.log(d)

  def safe(d: Double): Option[Logarithm] =
    if d > 0.0 then Some(math.log(d)) else None

  def mul(x: Logarithm, y: Logarithm) = x + y

```

Opaque type members of different instances are treated as different:

```

val l1 = new Logarithms
val l2 = new Logarithms
val x = l1(1.5)
val y = l1(2.6)
val z = l2(3.1)
l1.mul(x, y) // type checks
l1.mul(x, z) // error: found l2.Logarithm, required l1.Logarithm

```

In general, one can think of an opaque type as being only transparent in the scope of `private[this]`.

More details

6.6 Open Classes

An open modifier on a class signals that the class is planned for extensions. Example:

```

// File Writer.scala
package p

```



```

open class Writer[T]:

  /** Sends to stdout, can be overridden */
  def send(x: T) = println(x)

  /** Sends all arguments using `send` */
  def sendAll(xs: T*) = xs.foreach(send)
end Writer

// File EncryptedWriter.scala
package p

class EncryptedWriter[T: Encryptable] extends Writer[T]:
  override def send(x: T) = super.send(encrypt(x))

```

An open class typically comes with some documentation that describes the internal calling patterns between methods of the class as well as hooks that can be overridden. We call this the extension contract of the class. It is different from the external contract between a class and its users.

Classes that are not open can still be extended, but only if at least one of two alternative conditions is met:

- The extending class is in the same source file as the extended class. In this case, the extension is usually an internal implementation matter.
- The language feature `adhocExtensions` is enabled for the extending class. This is typically enabled by an import clause in the source file of the extension:

```
import scala.language.adhocExtensions
```

Alternatively, the feature can be enabled by the compiler option `-language:adhocExtensions`. If the feature is not enabled, the compiler will issue a “feature” warning. For instance, if the open modifier on class `Writer` is dropped, compiling `EncryptedWriter` would produce a warning:

```

-- Feature Warning: EncryptedWriter.scala:6:14 ----
|class EncryptedWriter[T: Encryptable] extends Writer[T]
|                                     ^
|Unless class Writer is declared 'open', its extension
| in a separate file should be enabled
|by adding the import clause 'import scala.language.adhocExtensions'
|or by setting the compiler option -language:adhocExtensions.

```

6.6.0.1 Motivation When writing a class, there are three possible expectations of extensibility:

1. The class is intended to allow extensions. This means one should expect a carefully worked out and documented extension contract for the class.

2. Extensions of the class are forbidden, for instance to make correctness or security guarantees.
3. There is no firm decision either way. The class is not a priori intended for extensions, but if others find it useful to extend on an ad-hoc basis, let them go ahead. However, they are on their own in this case. There is no documented extension contract, and future versions of the class might break the extensions (by rearranging internal call patterns, for instance).

The three cases are clearly distinguished by using `open` for (1), `final` for (2) and no modifier for (3).

It is good practice to avoid ad-hoc extensions in a code base, since they tend to lead to fragile systems that are hard to evolve. But there are still some situations where these extensions are useful: for instance, to mock classes in tests, or to apply temporary patches that add features or fix bugs in library classes. That's why ad-hoc extensions are permitted, but only if there is an explicit opt-in via a language feature import.

6.6.0.2 Details

- `open` is a soft modifier. It is treated as a normal identifier unless it is in modifier position.
- An `open` class cannot be `final` or `sealed`.
- Traits or abstract classes are always `open`, so `open` is redundant for them.

6.6.0.3 Relationship with `sealed` A class that is neither `abstract` nor `open` is similar to a `sealed` class: it can still be extended, but only in the same compilation unit. The difference is what happens if an extension of the class is attempted in another compilation unit. For a `sealed` class, this is an error, whereas for a simple non-`open` class, this is still permitted provided the `adhocExtensions` feature is enabled, and it gives a warning otherwise.

6.6.0.4 Migration `open` is a new modifier in Scala 3. To allow cross compilation between Scala 2.13 and Scala 3.0 without warnings, the feature warning for ad-hoc extensions is produced only under `-source future`. It will be produced by default from Scala 3.1 on.

6.7 Parameter Untupling

Say you have a list of pairs

```
val xs: List[(Int, Int)]
```

and you want to map `xs` to a list of `Int`s so that each pair of numbers is mapped to their sum. Previously, the best way to do this was with a pattern-matching decomposition:

```
xs map {
  case (x, y) => x + y
}
```

While correct, this is also inconvenient and confusing, since the `case` suggests that the pattern match could fail. As a shorter and clearer alternative Scala 3 now allows

```
xs.map {
  (x, y) => x + y
}
```

or, equivalently:

```
xs.map(_ + _)
```

Generally, a function value with $n > 1$ parameters is converted to a pattern-matching closure using case if the expected type is a unary function type of the form $((T_1, \dots, T_n)) \Rightarrow U$.

6.7.1 Reference

For more information see:

- [More details](#)
- [Issue #897](#).

6.8 Kind Polymorphism

Normally type parameters in Scala are partitioned into kinds. First-level types are types of values. Higher-kinded types are type constructors such as `List` or `Map`. The kind of a type is indicated by the top type of which it is a subtype. Normal types are subtypes of `Any`, covariant single argument type constructors such as `List` are subtypes of `[+X] =>> Any`, and the `Map` type constructor is a subtype of `[X, +Y] =>> Any`.

A type can be used only as prescribed by its kind. Subtypes of `Any` cannot be applied to type arguments whereas subtypes of `[X] =>> Any` must be applied to a type argument, unless they are passed to type parameters of the same kind.

Sometimes we would like to have type parameters that can have more than one kind, for instance to define an implicit value that works for parameters of any kind. This is now possible through a form of (subtype) kind polymorphism. Kind polymorphism relies on the special type `scala.AnyKind` that can be used as an upper bound of a type.

```
def f[T <: AnyKind] = ...
```

The actual type arguments of `f` can then be types of arbitrary kinds. So the following would all be legal:

```
f[Int]
f[List]
f[Map]
f[[X] =>> String]
```

We call type parameters and abstract types with an `AnyKind` upper bound any-kinded types. Since the actual kind of an any-kinded type is unknown, its usage must be heavily restricted: An any-kinded type can be neither the type of a value, nor can it be instantiated with type parameters. So about the only thing one can do with an any-kinded type is to pass it to another any-kinded type argument. Nevertheless, this is enough to achieve some interesting generalizations that work across kinds, typically through advanced uses of implicits.

(todo: insert good concise example)

Some technical details: `AnyKind` is a synthesized class just like `Any`, but without any members. It extends no other class. It is declared `abstract` and `final`, so it can be neither instantiated nor extended.

`AnyKind` plays a special role in Scala's subtype system: It is a supertype of all other types no matter what their kind is. It is also assumed to be kind-compatible with all other types. Furthermore, `AnyKind` is treated as a higher-kinded type (so it cannot be used as a type of values), but at the same time it has no type parameters (so it cannot be instantiated).

Note: This feature is considered experimental but stable and it can be disabled under compiler flag (i.e. `-Yno-kind-polymorphism`).

6.9 The Matchable Trait

A new trait `Matchable` controls the ability to pattern match.

6.9.1 The Problem

The Scala 3 standard library has a type `IArry` for immutable arrays that is defined like this:

```
opaque type IArray[+T] = Array[_ <: T]
```

The `IArry` type offers extension methods for `length` and `apply`, but not for `update`; hence it seems values of type `IArry` cannot be updated.

However, there is a potential hole due to pattern matching. Consider:

```
val imm: IArray[Int] = ...
imm match
  case a: Array[Int] => a(0) = 1
```

The test will succeed at runtime since `IArrys` are represented as `Arrays` at runtime. But if we allowed it, it would break the fundamental abstraction of immutable arrays.

Aside: One could also achieve the same by casting:

```
imm.asInstanceOf[Array[Int]](0) = 1
```

But that is not as much of a problem since in Scala `asInstanceOf` is understood to be low-level and unsafe. By contrast, a pattern match that compiles without warning or error should not break abstractions.

Note also that the problem is not tied to opaque types as match selectors. The following slight variant with a value of parametric type `T` as match selector leads to the same problem:

```
def f[T](x: T) = x match
  case a: Array[Int] => a(0) = 0
f(imm)
```

Finally, note that the problem is not linked to just opaque types. No unbounded type parameter or abstract type should be decomposable with a pattern match.

6.9.2 The Solution

There is a new type `scala.Matchable` that controls pattern matching. When typing a pattern match of a constructor pattern `C(...)` or a type pattern `_: C` it is required that the selector type conforms to `Matchable`. If that's not the case a warning is issued. For instance when compiling the example at the start of this section we get:

```
> sc ../new/test.scala -source future
-- Warning: ../new/test.scala:4:12 -----
4 |     case a: Array[Int] => a(0) = 0
  |           ^^^^^^^^^^
  |           pattern selector should be an instance of Matchable,
  |           but it has unmatchable type IArray[Int] instead
```

To allow migration from Scala 2 and cross-compiling between Scala 2 and 3 the warning is turned on only for `-source future-migration` or higher.

`Matchable` is a universal trait with `Any` as its parent class. It is extended by both `AnyVal` and `AnyRef`. Since `Matchable` is a supertype of every concrete value or reference class it means that instances of such classes can be matched as before. However, match selectors of the following types will produce a warning:

- Type `Any`: if pattern matching is required one should use `Matchable` instead.
- Unbounded type parameters and abstract types: If pattern matching is required they should have an upper bound `Matchable`.
- Type parameters and abstract types that are only bounded by some universal trait: Again, `Matchable` should be added as a bound.

Here is the hierarchy of top-level classes and traits with their defined methods:

```
abstract class Any:
  def getClass
  def isInstanceOf
  def asInstanceOf
  def ==
  def !=
  def ##
  def equals
  def hashCode
  def toString

trait Matchable extends Any

class AnyVal extends Any, Matchable
class Object extends Any, Matchable
```

`Matchable` is currently a marker trait without any methods. Over time we might migrate methods `getClass` and `isInstanceOf` to it, since these are closely related to pattern-matching.

6.9.3 Matchable and Universal Equality

Methods that pattern-match on selectors of type `Any` will need a cast once the `Matchable` warning is turned on. The most common such method is the `universal equals` method. It will have to be written as in the following example:

```
class C(val x: String):

  override def equals(that: Any): Boolean =
    that.asInstanceOf[Matchable] match
      case that: C => this.x == that.x
      case _ => false
```

The cast of `that` to `Matchable` serves as an indication that universal equality is unsafe in the presence of abstract types and opaque types since it cannot properly distinguish the meaning of a type from its representation. The cast is guaranteed to succeed at run-time since `Any` and `Matchable` both erase to `Object`.

For instance, consider the definitions

```
opaque type Meter = Double
def Meter(x: Double) = x

opaque type Second = Double
def Second(x: Double) = x
```

Here, `universal equals` will return true for

```
Meter(10).equals(Second(10))
```

even though this is clearly false mathematically. With **multiversal equality** one can mitigate that problem somewhat by turning

```
Meter(10) == Second(10)
```

into a type error.

6.10 @threadUnsafe Annotation

A new annotation `@threadUnsafe` can be used on a field which defines a lazy `val`. When this annotation is used, the initialization of the lazy `val` will use a faster mechanism which is not thread-safe.

6.10.0.1 Example

```
import scala.annotation.threadUnsafe

class Hello:
  @threadUnsafe lazy val x: Int = 1
```

6.11 @targetName Annotations

A `@targetName` annotation on a definition defines an alternate name for the implementation of that definition. Example:

```
import scala.annotation.targetName

object VecOps:
  extension [T](xs: Vec[T])
    @targetName("append")
    def += [T] (ys: Vec[T]): Vec[T] = ...
```

Here, the `+=` operation is implemented (in Byte code or native code) under the name `append`. The implementation name affects the code that is generated, and is the name under which code from other languages can call the method. For instance, `+=` could be invoked from Java like this:

```
VecOps.append(vec1, vec2)
```

The `@targetName` annotation has no bearing on Scala usages. Any application of that method in Scala has to use `+=`, not `append`.

6.11.0.1 Details

1. `@targetName` is defined in package `scala.annotation`. It takes a single argument of type `String`. That string is called the external name of the definition that's annotated.
2. A `@targetName` annotation can be given for all kinds of definitions.
3. The name given in a `@targetName` annotation must be a legal name for the defined entities on the host platform.
4. It is recommended that definitions with symbolic names have a `@targetName` annotation. This will establish an alternate name that is easier to search for and will avoid cryptic encodings in runtime diagnostics.
5. Definitions with names in backticks that are not legal host platform names should also have a `@targetName` annotation.

6.11.0.2 Relationship with Overriding `@targetName` annotations are significant for matching two method definitions to decide whether they conflict or override each other. Two method definitions match if they have the same name, signature, and erased name. Here,

- The signature of a definition consists of the names of the erased types of all (value-) parameters and the method's result type.
- The erased name of a method definition is its target name if a `@targetName` annotation is given and its defined name otherwise.

This means that `@targetName` annotations can be used to disambiguate two method definitions that would otherwise clash. For instance.

```
def f(x: => String): Int = x.length
def f(x: => Int): Int = x + 1 // error: double definition
```

The two definitions above clash since their erased parameter types are both `Function0`, which is the type of the translation of a by-name-parameter. Hence they have the same names and signatures. But we can avoid the clash by adding a `@targetName` annotation to either method or to both of them. Example:

```
@targetName("f_string")
def f(x: => String): Int = x.length
def f(x: => Int): Int = x + 1 // OK
```

This will produce methods `f_string` and `f` in the generated code.

However, `@targetName` annotations are not allowed to break overriding relationships between two definitions that have otherwise the same names and types. So the following would be in error:

```
import annotation.targetName
class A:
  def f(): Int = 1
class B extends A:
  @targetName("g") def f(): Int = 2
```

The compiler reports here:

```
-- Error: test.scala:6:23 -----
6 | @targetName("g") def f(): Int = 2
  |                   ^
  | error overriding method f in class A of type (): Int;
  | method f of type (): Int should not have a @targetName
  | annotation since the overridden member hasn't one either
```

The relevant overriding rules can be summarized as follows:

- Two members can override each other if their names and signatures are the same, and they either have the same erased names or the same types.
- If two members override, then both their erased names and their types must be the same.

As usual, any overriding relationship in the generated code must also be present in the original code. So the following example would also be in error:

```
import annotation.targetName
class A:
  def f(): Int = 1
class B extends A:
  @targetName("f") def g(): Int = 2
```

Here, the original methods `g` and `f` do not override each other since they have different names. But once we switch to target names, there is a clash that is reported by the compiler:

```
-- [E120] Naming Error: test.scala:4:6 -----
```



```

4 |class B extends A:
  |      ^
  |      Name clash between defined and inherited member:
  |      def f(): Int in class A at line 3 and
  |      def g(): Int in class B at line 5
  |      have the same name and type after erasure.
1 error found

```

6.12 New Control Syntax [↗](#)

Scala 3 has a new “quiet” syntax for control expressions that does not rely on enclosing the condition in parentheses, and also allows to drop parentheses or braces around the generators of a for-expression. Examples:

```

if x < 0 then
  "negative"
else if x == 0 then
  "zero"
else
  "positive"

if x < 0 then -x else x

while x >= 0 do x = f(x)

for x <- xs if x > 0
yield x * x

for
  x <- xs
  y <- ys
do
  println(x + y)

try body
catch case ex: IOException => handle

```

The rules in detail are:

- The condition of an if-expression can be written without enclosing parentheses if it is followed by a then.
- The condition of a while-loop can be written without enclosing parentheses if it is followed by a do.
- The enumerators of a for-expression can be written without enclosing parentheses or braces if they are followed by a yield or do.
- A do in a for-expression expresses a for-loop.
- A catch can be followed by a single case on the same line. If there are multiple cases, these have to appear within braces (just like in Scala 2) or an indented block. ###

Rewrites

The Scala 3 compiler can rewrite source code from old syntax to new syntax and back. When invoked with options `-rewrite -new-syntax` it will rewrite from old to new syntax, dropping parentheses and braces in conditions and enumerators. When invoked with options `-rewrite -old-syntax` it will rewrite in the reverse direction, inserting parentheses and braces as needed.

6.13 Optional Braces

Scala 3 enforces some rules on indentation and allows some occurrences of braces `{...}` to be optional:

- First, some badly indented programs are flagged with warnings.
- Second, some occurrences of braces `{...}` are made optional. Generally, the rule is that adding a pair of optional braces will not change the meaning of a well-indented program.

These changes can be turned off with the compiler flag `-no-indent`.

6.13.0.1 Indentation Rules The compiler enforces two rules for well-indented programs, flagging violations as warnings.

1. In a brace-delimited region, no statement is allowed to start to the left of the first statement after the opening brace that starts a new line.

This rule is helpful for finding missing closing braces. It prevents errors like:

```
if (x < 0) {
  println(1)
  println(2)

println("done") // error: indented too far to the left
```

2. If significant indentation is turned off (i.e. under Scala 2 mode or under `-no-indent`) and we are at the start of an indented sub-part of an expression, and the indented part ends in a newline, the next statement must start at an indentation width less than the sub-part. This prevents errors where an opening brace was forgotten, as in

```
if (x < 0)
  println(1)
  println(2) // error: missing `{`
```

These rules still leave a lot of leeway how programs should be indented. For instance, they do not impose any restrictions on indentation within expressions, nor do they require that all statements of an indentation block line up exactly.

The rules are generally helpful in pinpointing the root cause of errors related to missing opening or closing braces. These errors are often quite hard to diagnose, in particular in large programs.

6.13.0.2 Optional Braces The compiler will insert `<indent>` or `<outdent>` tokens at certain line breaks. Grammatically, pairs of `<indent>` and `<outdent>` tokens have the same effect as pairs of braces `{` and `}`.

The algorithm makes use of a stack `IW` of previously encountered indentation widths. The stack initially holds a single element with a zero indentation width. The current indentation width is the indentation width of the top of the stack.

There are two rules:

1. An `<indent>` is inserted at a line break, if
 - An indentation region can start at the current position in the source, and
 - the first token on the next line has an indentation width strictly greater than the current indentation width

An indentation region can start

- after the leading parameters of an extension, or
- after a `with` in a given instance, or
- after a “`:` at end of line” token (see below)
- after one of the following tokens:


```
= => ?=> <- catch do else finally for
if match return then throw try while yield
```
- after the closing `)` of a condition in an old-style `if` or `while`.
- after the closing `)` or `}` of the enumerations of an old-style `for` loop without a `do`.

If an `<indent>` is inserted, the indentation width of the token on the next line is pushed onto `IW`, which makes it the new current indentation width.

2. An `<outdent>` is inserted at a line break, if
 - the first token on the next line has an indentation width strictly less than the current indentation width, and
 - the last token on the previous line is not one of the following tokens which indicate that the previous statement continues:


```
then else do catch finally yield match
```
 - if the first token on the next line is a **leading infix operator**, then its indentation width is less than the current indentation width, and it either matches a previous indentation width or is also less than the enclosing indentation width.

If an `<outdent>` is inserted, the top element is popped from `IW`. If the indentation width of the token on the next line is still less than the new current indentation width, step (2) repeats. Therefore, several `<outdent>` tokens may be inserted in a row.

The following two additional rules support parsing of legacy code with ad-hoc layout. They might be withdrawn in future language versions:

- An `<outdent>` is also inserted if the next token following a statement sequence starting with an `<indent>` closes an indentation region, i.e. is one of `then`, `else`, `do`, `catch`, `finally`, `yield`, `}`, `)`, `]` or `case`.

An `<outdent>` is finally inserted in front of a comma that follows a statement sequence starting with an `<indent>` if the indented region is itself enclosed in parentheses

It is an error if the indentation width of the token following an `<outdent>` does not match the indentation of some previous line in the enclosing indentation region. For instance, the following would be rejected.

```
if x < 0 then
  -x
  else // error: `else` does not align correctly
    x
```

Indentation tokens are only inserted in regions where newline statement separators are also inferred: at the top-level, inside braces `{ ... }`, but not inside parentheses `(...)`, patterns or types.

Note: The rules for leading infix operators above are there to make sure that

```
one
+ two.match
  case 1 => b
  case 2 => c
+ three
```

is parsed as `one + (two.match ...) + three`. Also, that

```
if x then
  a
  + b
  + c
else d
```

is parsed as `if x then a + b + c else d`.

6.13.0.3 Optional Braces Around Template Bodies The Scala grammar uses the term *template body* for the definitions of a class, trait, or object that are normally enclosed in braces. The braces around a template body can also be omitted by means of the following rule.

If at the point where a template body can start there is a `:` that occurs at the end of a line, and that is followed by at least one indented statement, the recognized token is changed from `“:”` to `“: at end of line”`. The latter token is one of the tokens that can start an indentation region. The Scala grammar is changed so an optional `“: at end of line”` is allowed in front of a template body.

Analogous rules apply for enum bodies and local packages containing nested definitions.

With these new rules, the following constructs are all valid:

```

trait A:
  def f: Int

class C(x: Int) extends A:
  def f = x

object O:
  def f = 3

enum Color:
  case Red, Green, Blue

new A:
  def f = 3

package p:
  def a = 1

package q:
  def b = 2

```

In each case, the `:` at the end of line can be replaced without change of meaning by a pair of braces that enclose the following indented definition(s).

The syntax changes allowing this are as follows:

```

Template    ::= InheritClauses [colonEol] [TemplateBody]
EnumDef     ::= id ClassConstr InheritClauses [colonEol] EnumBody
Packaging   ::= 'package' QualId [nl | colonEol] '{' TopStatSeq '}'
SimpleExpr  ::= 'new' ConstrApp {'with' ConstrApp} [[colonEol] TemplateBody]

```

Here, `colonEol` stands for “`:` at end of line”, as described above. The lexical analyzer is modified so that a `:` at the end of a line is reported as `colonEol` if the parser is at a point where a `colonEol` is valid as next token.

6.13.0.4 Spaces vs Tabs Indentation prefixes can consist of spaces and/or tabs. Indentation widths are the indentation prefixes themselves, ordered by the string prefix relation. So, so for instance “2 tabs, followed by 4 spaces” is strictly less than “2 tabs, followed by 5 spaces”, but “2 tabs, followed by 4 spaces” is incomparable to “6 tabs” or to “4 spaces, followed by 2 tabs”. It is an error if the indentation width of some line is incomparable with the indentation width of the region that’s current at that point. To avoid such errors, it is a good idea not to mix spaces and tabs in the same source file.

6.13.0.5 Indentation and Braces Indentation can be mixed freely with braces `{...}`, as well as brackets `[...]` and parentheses `(...)`. For interpreting indentation inside such

regions, the following rules apply.

1. The assumed indentation width of a multiline region enclosed in braces is the indentation width of the first token that starts a new line after the opening brace.
2. The assumed indentation width of a multiline region inside brackets or parentheses is:
 - if the opening bracket or parenthesis is at the end of a line, the indentation width of token following it,
 - otherwise, the indentation width of the enclosing region.
3. On encountering a closing brace `}`, bracket `]` or parenthesis `)`, as many `<outdent>` tokens as necessary are inserted to close all open nested indentation regions.

For instance, consider:

```
{
  val x = f(x: Int, y =>
    x * (
      y + 1
    ) +
    (x +
     x)
  )
}
```

- Here, the indentation width of the region enclosed by the braces is 3 (i.e. the indentation width of the statement starting with `val`).
- The indentation width of the region in parentheses that follows `f` is also 3, since the opening parenthesis is not at the end of a line.
- The indentation width of the region in parentheses around `y + 1` is 9 (i.e. the indentation width of `y + 1`).
- Finally, the indentation width of the last region in parentheses starting with `(x` is 6 (i.e. the indentation width of the indented region following the `=>`).

6.13.0.6 Special Treatment of Case Clauses The indentation rules for `match` expressions and `catch` clauses are refined as follows:

- An indentation region is opened after a `match` or `catch` also if the following case appears at the indentation width that's current for the `match` itself.
- In that case, the indentation region closes at the first token at that same indentation width that is not a case, or at any token with a smaller indentation width, whichever comes first.

The rules allow to write `match` expressions where cases are not indented themselves, as in the example below:

```
x match
case 1 => print("I")
case 2 => print("II")
case 3 => print("III")
```

```

case 4 => print("IV")
case 5 => print("V")

println(".")

```

6.13.0.7 The End Marker Indentation-based syntax has many advantages over other conventions. But one possible problem is that it makes it hard to discern when a large indentation region ends, since there is no specific token that delineates the end. Braces are not much better since a brace by itself also contains no information about what region is closed.

To solve this problem, Scala 3 offers an optional end marker. Example:

```

def largeMethod(...) =
  ...
  if ... then ...
  else
    ... // a large block
  end if
  ... // more code
end largeMethod

```

An end marker consists of the identifier `end` and a follow-on specifier token that together constitute all the tokens of a line. Possible specifier tokens are identifiers or one of the following keywords

```

if   while   for   match   try   new   this   val   given

```

End markers are allowed in statement sequences. The specifier token `s` of an end marker must correspond to the statement that precedes it. This means:

- If the statement defines a member `x` then `s` must be the same identifier `x`.
- If the statement defines a constructor then `s` must be `this`.
- If the statement defines an anonymous `given`, then `s` must be `given`.
- If the statement defines an anonymous extension, then `s` must be `extension`.
- If the statement defines an anonymous class, then `s` must be `new`.
- If the statement is a `val` definition binding a pattern, then `s` must be `val`.
- If the statement is a package clause that refers to package `p`, then `s` must be the same identifier `p`.
- If the statement is an `if`, `while`, `for`, `try`, or `match` statement, then `s` must be that same token.

For instance, the following end markers are all legal:

```

package p1.p2:

  abstract class C():

    def this(x: Int) =
      this()

```

```

    if x > 0 then
      val a :: b =
        x :: Nil
      end val
      var y =
        x
      end y
      while y > 0 do
        println(y)
        y -= 1
      end while
      try
        x match
          case 0 => println("0")
          case _ =>
            end match
        finally
          println("done")
        end try
      end if
    end this

    def f: String
  end C

  object C:
    given C =
      new C:
        def f = "!"
        end f
      end new
    end given
  end C

  extension (x: C)
    def ff: String = x.f ++ x.f
  end extension

end p2

```

6.13.0.7.1 When to Use End Markers It is recommended that end markers are used for code where the extent of an indentation region is not immediately apparent “at a glance”. People will have different preferences what this means, but one can nevertheless give some guidelines that stem from experience. An end marker makes sense if

- the construct contains blank lines, or
- the construct is long, say 15-20 lines or more,

- the construct ends heavily indented, say 4 indentation levels or more.

If none of these criteria apply, it's often better to not use an end marker since the code will be just as clear and more concise. If there are several ending regions that satisfy one of the criteria above, we usually need an end marker only for the outermost closed region. So cascades of end markers as in the example above are usually better avoided.

6.13.0.7.2 Syntax

```
EndMarker      ::= 'end' EndMarkerTag    -- when followed by EOL
EndMarkerTag   ::= id | 'if' | 'while' | 'for' | 'match' | 'try'
                | 'new' | 'this' | 'given' | 'extension' | 'val'
BlockStat      ::= ... | EndMarker
TemplateStat   ::= ... | EndMarker
TopStat        ::= ... | EndMarker
```

6.13.0.8 Example Here is a (somewhat meta-circular) example of code using indentation. It provides a concrete representation of indentation widths as defined above together with efficient operations for constructing and comparing indentation widths.

```
enum IndentWidth:
  case Run(ch: Char, n: Int)
  case Conc(l: IndentWidth, r: Run)

def <= (that: IndentWidth): Boolean = this match
  case Run(ch1, n1) =>
    that match
      case Run(ch2, n2) => n1 <= n2 && (ch1 == ch2 || n1 == 0)
      case Conc(l, r)   => this <= l
  case Conc(l1, r1) =>
    that match
      case Conc(l2, r2) => l1 == l2 && r1 <= r2
      case _             => false

def < (that: IndentWidth): Boolean =
  this <= that && !(that <= this)

override def toString: String =
  this match
  case Run(ch, n) =>
    val kind = ch match
      case ' ' => "space"
      case '\t' => "tab"
      case _   => s"'$ch'-character"
    val suffix = if n == 1 then "" else "s"
    s"$n $kind$suffix"
  case Conc(l, r) =>
```

```

    s"$l, $r"

object IndentWidth:
  private inline val MaxCached = 40

  private val spaces = IArray.tabulate(MaxCached + 1)(new Run(' ', _))
  private val tabs = IArray.tabulate(MaxCached + 1)(new Run('\t', _))

  def Run(ch: Char, n: Int): Run =
    if n <= MaxCached && ch == ' ' then
      spaces(n)
    else if n <= MaxCached && ch == '\t' then
      tabs(n)
    else
      new Run(ch, n)
  end Run

  val Zero = Run(' ', 0)
end IndentWidth

```

6.13.0.9 Settings and Rewrites Significant indentation is enabled by default. It can be turned off by giving any of the options `-no-indent`, `old-syntax` and `language:Scala2`. If indentation is turned off, it is nevertheless checked that indentation conforms to the logical program structure as defined by braces. If that is not the case, the compiler issues a warning.

The Scala 3 compiler can rewrite source code to indented code and back. When invoked with options `-rewrite -indent` it will rewrite braces to indented regions where possible. When invoked with options `-rewrite -no-indent` it will rewrite in the reverse direction, inserting braces for indentation regions. The `-indent` option only works on **new-style syntax**. So to go from old-style syntax to new-style indented code one has to invoke the compiler twice, first with options `-rewrite -new-syntax`, then again with options `-rewrite -indent`. To go in the opposite direction, from indented code to old-style syntax, it's `-rewrite -no-indent`, followed by `-rewrite -old-syntax`.

6.13.0.10 Variant: Indentation Marker : Generally, the possible indentation regions coincide with those regions where braces `{ ... }` are also legal, no matter whether the braces enclose an expression or a set of definitions. There is one exception, though: Arguments to function can be enclosed in braces but they cannot be simply indented instead. Making indentation always significant for function arguments would be too restrictive and fragile.

To allow such arguments to be written without braces, a variant of the indentation scheme is implemented under language import

```
import language.experimental.fewerBraces
```

This variant is more contentious and less stable than the rest of the significant indentation scheme. In this variant, a colon `:` at the end of a line is also one of the possible tokens that opens an indentation region. Examples:

```
times(10):
  println("ah")
  println("ha")

or

xs.map:
  x =>
    val y = x - 1
    y * y
```

The colon is usable not only for lambdas and by-name parameters, but also even for ordinary parameters:

```
credentials ++ :
  val file = Path.userHome / ".credentials"
  if file.exists
  then Seq(Credentials(file))
  else Seq()
```

How does this syntax variant work? Colons at the end of lines are their own token, distinct from normal `:`. The Scala grammar is changed so that colons at end of lines are accepted at all points where an opening brace enclosing an argument is legal. Special provisions are taken so that method result types can still use a colon on the end of a line, followed by the actual type on the next.

6.14 Fewer Braces

By and large, the possible indentation regions coincide with those regions where braces `{ ... }` are also legal, no matter whether the braces enclose an expression or a set of definitions. There is one exception, though: Arguments to function can be enclosed in braces but they cannot be simply indented instead. Making indentation always significant for function arguments would be too restrictive and fragile.

To allow such arguments to be written without braces, a variant of the indentation scheme is implemented under language import

```
import language.experimental.fewerBraces
```

Alternatively, it can be enabled with command line option `-language:experimental.fewerBraces`.

This variant is more contentious and less stable than the rest of the significant indentation scheme. It allows to replace a function argument in braces by a `:` at the end of a line and indented code, similar to the convention for class bodies. It also allows to leave out braces around arguments that are multi-line function values.

6.14.1 Using `:` At End Of Line

Similar to what is done for classes and objects, a `:` that follows a function reference at the end of a line means braces can be omitted for function arguments. Example:

```
times(10):
  println("ah")
  println("ha")
```

The colon can also follow an infix operator:

```
credentials ++ :
  val file = Path.userHome / ".credentials"
  if file.exists
  then Seq(Credentials(file))
  else Seq()
```

Function calls that take multiple argument lists can also be handled this way:

```
val firstLine = files.get(fileName).fold:
  val fileNames = files.values
  s""""no file named $fileName found among
    |${values.mkString("\n")}"""".stripMargin
:
  f =>
    val lines = f.iterator.map(_.readLine)
    lines.mkString("\n")
```

6.14.2 Lambda Arguments Without Braces

Braces can also be omitted around multiple line function value arguments:

```
val xs = elems.map x =>
  val y = x - 1
  y * y
xs.foldLeft (x, y) =>
  x + y
```

Braces can be omitted if the lambda starts with a parameter list and `=>` or `=>?` at the end of one line and it has an indented body on the following lines.

6.14.3 Syntax Changes

```
SimpleExpr      ::= ...
                  | SimpleExpr `:` IndentedArgument
                  | SimpleExpr FunParams ('=>' | '?=>') IndentedArgument
InfixExpr       ::= ...
                  | InfixExpr id `:` IndentedArgument
IndentedArgument ::= indent (CaseClauses | Block) outdent
```

Note that a lambda argument must have the `=>` at the end of a line for braces to be optional. For instance, the following would also be incorrect:

```
xs.map x => x + 1 // error: braces or parentheses are required
```

The lambda has to be enclosed in braces or parentheses:

```
xs.map(x => x + 1) // ok
```

6.15 Explicit Nulls [↗](#)

Explicit nulls is an opt-in feature that modifies the Scala type system, which makes reference types (anything that extends `AnyRef`) non-nullable.

This means the following code will no longer typecheck:

```
val x: String = null // error: found `Null`, but required `String`
```

Instead, to mark a type as nullable we use a **union type**

```
val x: String | Null = null // ok
```

A nullable type could have null value during runtime; hence, it is not safe to select a member without checking its nullity.

```
x.trim // error: trim is not member of String | Null
```

Explicit nulls are enabled via a `-Yexplicit-nulls` flag.

Read on for details.

6.15.1 New Type Hierarchy

When explicit nulls are enabled, the type hierarchy changes so that `Null` is only a subtype of `Any`, as opposed to every reference type, which means `null` is no longer a value of `AnyRef` and its subtypes.

This is the new type hierarchy:

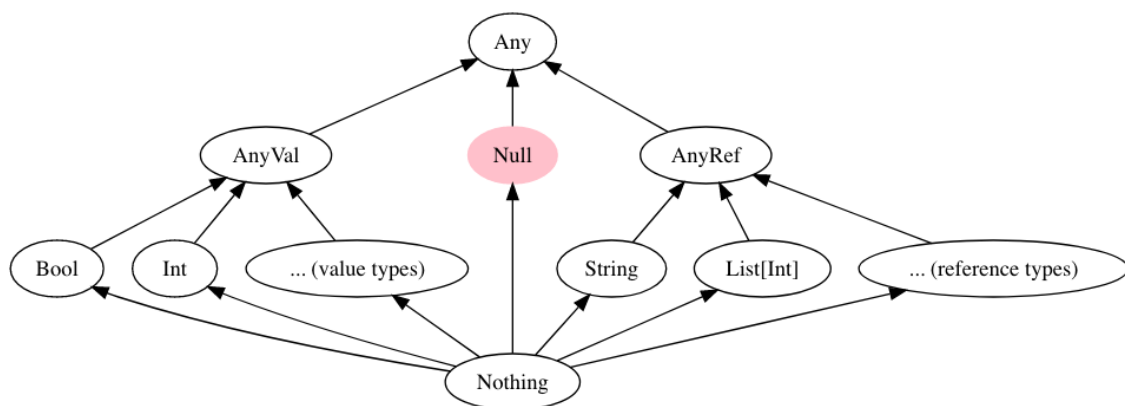


Figure 1: “Type Hierarchy for Explicit Nulls”

After erasure, `Null` remains a subtype of all reference types (as forced by the JVM).

6.15.2 Working with `Null`

To make working with nullable values easier, we propose adding a few utilities to the standard library. So far, we have found the following useful:

- An extension method `.nn` to “cast away” nullability

```
extension [T](x: T | Null)
  inline def nn: T =
    assert(x != null)
    x.asInstanceOf[T]
```

This means that given `x: String | Null`, `x.nn` has type `String`, so we can call all the usual methods on it. Of course, `x.nn` will throw a NPE if `x` is `null`.

Don't use `.nn` on mutable variables directly, because it may introduce an unknown type into the type of the variable.

- An `unsafeNulls` language feature.

When imported, `T | Null` can be used as `T`, similar to regular Scala (without explicit nulls).

See [UnsafeNulls](#) section for more details.

6.15.3 Unsoundness

The new type system is unsound with respect to `null`. This means there are still instances where an expression has a non-nullable type like `String`, but its value is actually `null`.

The unsoundness happens because uninitialized fields in a class start out as `null`:

```
class C:
  val f: String = foo(f)
  def foo(f2: String): String = f2

val c = new C()
// c.f == "field is null"
```

The unsoundness above can be caught by the compiler with the option `-Ysafe-init`. More details can be found in [safe initialization](#).

6.15.4 Equality

We don't allow the double-equal (`==` and `!=`) and reference (`eq` and `ne`) comparison between `AnyRef` and `Null` anymore, since a variable with a non-nullable type cannot have `null` as value. `null` can only be compared with `Null`, nullable union (`T | Null`), or `Any` type.

For some reason, if we really want to compare `null` with non-null values, we have to provide a type hint (e.g. `: Any`).

```
val x: String = ???
val y: String | Null = ???
```

```
x == null           // error: Values of types String and Null cannot be compared with == o
x eq null           // error
"hello" == null     // error
```

```

y == null      // ok
y == x         // ok

(x: String | Null) == null // ok
(x: Any) == null           // ok

```

6.15.5 Java Interoperability

The Scala compiler can load Java classes in two ways: from source or from bytecode. In either case, when a Java class is loaded, we “patch” the type of its members to reflect that Java types remain implicitly nullable.

Specifically, we patch

- the type of fields
- the argument type and return type of methods

We illustrate the rules with following examples:

- The first two rules are easy: we nullify reference types but not value types.

```

class C {
  String s;
  int x;
}

==>

class C:
  val s: String | Null
  val x: Int

```

- We nullify type parameters because in Java a type parameter is always nullable, so the following code compiles.

```

class C<T> { T foo() { return null; } }

==>

class C[T] { def foo(): T | Null }

```

Notice this rule is sometimes too conservative, as witnessed by

```

class InScala:
  val c: C[Bool] = ??? // C as above
  val b: Bool = c.foo() // no longer typechecks, since foo now returns Bool | Null

```

- We can reduce the number of redundant nullable types we need to add. Consider

```

class Box<T> { T get(); }
class BoxFactory<T> { Box<T> makeBox(); }

==>

```

```
class Box[T] { def get(): T | Null }
class BoxFactory[T] { def makeBox(): Box[T] | Null }
```

Suppose we have a `BoxFactory[String]`. Notice that calling `makeBox()` on it returns a `Box[String] | Null`, not a `Box[String | Null] | Null`. This seems at first glance unsound (“What if the box itself has null inside?”), but is sound because calling `get()` on a `Box[String]` returns a `String | Null`.

Notice that we need to patch all Java-defined classes that transitively appear in the argument or return type of a field or method accessible from the Scala code being compiled. Absent crazy reflection magic, we think that all such Java classes must be visible to the Typer in the first place, so they will be patched.

- We will append `Null` to the type arguments if the generic class is defined in Scala.

```
class BoxFactory<T> {
  Box<T> makeBox(); // Box is Scala-defined
  List<Box<List<T>>> makeCrazyBoxes(); // List is Java-defined
}

==>

class BoxFactory[T]:
  def makeBox(): Box[T | Null] | Null
  def makeCrazyBoxes(): java.util.List[Box[java.util.List[T] | Null]] | Null
```

In this case, since `Box` is Scala-defined, we will get `Box[T | Null] | Null`. This is needed because our nullability function is only applied (modularly) to the Java classes, but not to the Scala ones, so we need a way to tell `Box` that it contains a nullable value.

The `List` is Java-defined, so we don’t append `Null` to its type argument. But we still need to nullify its inside.

- We don’t nullify simple literal constant (`final`) fields, since they are known to be non-null

```
class Constants {
  final String NAME = "name";
  final int AGE = 0;
  final char CHAR = 'a';

  final String NAME_GENERATED = getNewName();
}

==>

class Constants:
  val NAME: String("name") = "name"
  val AGE: Int(0) = 0
  val CHAR: Char('a') = 'a'

  val NAME_GENERATED: String | Null = getNewName()
```


- We don't append `Null` to a field nor to a return type of a method which is annotated with a `NotNull` annotation.

```
class C {
  @NotNull String name;
  @NotNull List<String> getNames(String prefix); // List is Java-defined
  @NotNull Box<String> getBoxedName(); // Box is Scala-defined
}
```

==>

```
class C:
  val name: String
  def getNames(prefix: String | Null): java.util.List[String] // we still need t
  def getBoxedName(): Box[String | Null] // we don't append `Null` to the outmos
```

The annotation must be from the list below to be recognized as `NotNull` by the compiler. Check `Definitions.scala` for an updated list.

```
// A list of annotations that are commonly used to indicate
// that a field/method argument or return type is not null.
// These annotations are used by the nullification logic in
// JavaNullInterop to improve the precision of type nullification.
// We don't require that any of these annotations be present
// in the class path, but we want to create Symbols for the
// ones that are present, so they can be checked during nullification.
@tu lazy val NotNullAnnots: List[ClassSymbol] = ctx.getClassesIfDefined(
  "javax.annotation.Nonnull" ::
  "edu.umd.cs.findbugs.annotations.NotNull" ::
  "androidx.annotation.NotNull" ::
  "android.support.annotation.NotNull" ::
  "android.annotation.NotNull" ::
  "com.android.annotations.NotNull" ::
  "org.eclipse.jdt.annotation.NotNull" ::
  "org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.qual.NotNull" ::
  "org.checkerframework.checker.nullness.compatqual.NotNullDecl" ::
  "org.jetbrains.annotations.NotNull" ::
  "lombok.NotNull" ::
  "io.reactivex.annotations.NotNull" :: Nil map PreNamedString)
```

6.15.5.1 Override check When we check overriding between Scala classes and Java classes, the rules are relaxed for `Null` type with this feature, in order to help users to working with Java libraries.

Suppose we have Java method `String f(String x)`, we can override this method in Scala in any of the following forms:

```
def f(x: String | Null): String | Null
```

```
def f(x: String): String | Null
```

```
def f(x: String | Null): String
```

```
def f(x: String): String
```

Note that some of the definitions could cause unsoundness. For example, the return type is not nullable, but a null value is actually returned.

6.15.6 Flow Typing

We added a simple form of flow-sensitive type inference. The idea is that if `p` is a stable path or a trackable variable, then we can know that `p` is non-null if it's compared with `null`. This information can then be propagated to the then and else branches of an if-statement (among other places).

Example:

```
val s: String | Null = ???
if s != null then
  // s: String

// s: String | Null
```

```
assert(s != null)
// s: String
```

A similar inference can be made for the else case if the test is `p == null`

```
if s == null then
  // s: String | Null
else
  // s: String
```

`==` and `!=` is considered a comparison for the purposes of the flow inference.

6.15.6.1 Logical Operators

We also support logical operators (`&&`, `||`, and `!`):

```
val s: String | Null = ???
val s2: String | Null = ???
if s != null && s2 != null then
  // s: String
  // s2: String
```

```
if s == null || s2 == null then
  // s: String | Null
  // s2: String | Null
else
  // s: String
  // s2: String
```

6.15.6.2 Inside Conditions We also support type specialization within the condition, taking into account that `&&` and `||` are short-circuiting:

```
val s: String | Null = ???

if s != null && s.length > 0 then // s: String in `s.length > 0`
  // s: String

if s == null || s.length > 0 then // s: String in `s.length > 0`
  // s: String | Null
else
  // s: String
```

6.15.6.3 Match Case The non-null cases can be detected in match statements.

```
val s: String | Null = ???

s match
  case _: String => // s: String
  case _ =>
```

6.15.6.4 Mutable Variable We are able to detect the nullability of some local mutable variables. A simple example is:

```
class C(val x: Int, val next: C | Null)

var xs: C | Null = C(1, C(2, null))
// xs is trackable, since all assignments are in the same method
while xs != null do
  // xs: C
  val xsx: Int = xs.x
  val xscopy: C = xs
  xs = xscopy // since xscopy is non-null, xs still has type C after this line
  // xs: C
  xs = xs.next // after this assignment, xs can be null again
  // xs: C | Null
```

When dealing with local mutable variables, there are two questions:

1. Whether to track a local mutable variable during flow typing. We track a local mutable variable if the variable is not assigned in a closure. For example, in the following code `x` is assigned to by the closure `y`, so we do not do flow typing on `x`.

```
var x: String | Null = ???
def y =
  x = null

if x != null then
```

```
// y can be called here, which would break the fact
val a: String = x // error: x is captured and mutated by the closure, not tracked
```

- Whether to generate and use flow typing on a specific use of a local mutable variable. We only want to do flow typing on a use that belongs to the same method as the definition of the local variable. For example, in the following code, even `x` is not assigned to by a closure, we can only use flow typing in one of the occurrences (because the other occurrence happens within a nested closure).

```
var x: String | Null = ???
def y =
  if x != null then
    // not safe to use the fact (x != null) here
    // since y can be executed at the same time as the outer block
    val _: String = x
  if x != null then
    val a: String = x // ok to use the fact here
    x = null
```

See [more examples](#).

Currently, we are unable to track paths with a mutable variable prefix. For example, `x.a` if `x` is mutable.

6.15.6.5 Unsupported Idioms We don't support:

- flow facts not related to nullability (if `x == 0` then { // `x: 0.type` not inferred })
- tracking aliasing between non-nullable paths

```
val s: String | Null = ???
val s2: String | Null = ???
if s != null && s == s2 then
  // s: String inferred
  // s2: String not inferred
```

6.15.6.6 UnsafeNulls It is difficult to work with many nullable values, we introduce a language feature `unsafeNulls`. Inside this “unsafe” scope, all `T | Null` values can be used as `T`.

Users can import `scala.language.unsafeNulls` to create such scopes, or use `-language:unsafeNulls` to enable this feature globally (for migration purpose only).

Assume `T` is a reference type (a subtype of `AnyRef`), the following unsafe operation rules are applied in this unsafe-nulls scope:

- the members of `T` can be found on `T | Null`
- a value with type `T` can be compared with `T | Null` and `Null`

3. suppose T1 is not a subtype of T2 using explicit-nulls subtyping (where Null is a direct subtype of Any), extension methods and implicit conversions designed for T2 can be used for T1 if T1 is a subtype of T2 using regular subtyping rules (where Null is a subtype of every reference type)
4. suppose T1 is not a subtype of T2 using explicit-nulls subtyping, a value with type T1 can be used as T2 if T1 is a subtype of T2 using regular subtyping rules

Additionally, `null` can be used as `AnyRef` (`Object`), which means you can select `.eq` or `.toString` on it.

The program in `unsafeNulls` will have a similar semantic as regular Scala, but not equivalent.

For example, the following code cannot be compiled even using unsafe nulls. Because of the Java interoperation, the type of the `get` method becomes `T | Null`.

```
def head[T](xs: java.util.List[T]): T = xs.get(0) // error
```

Since the compiler doesn't know whether `T` is a reference type, it is unable to cast `T | Null` to `T`. A `.nn` need to be inserted after `xs.get(0)` by user manually to fix the error, which strips the `Null` from its type.

The intention of this `unsafeNulls` is to give users a better migration path for explicit nulls. Projects for Scala 2 or regular Scala 3 can try this by adding `-Yexplicit-nulls -language:unsafeNulls` to the compile options. A small number of manual modifications are expected. To migrate to the full explicit nulls feature in the future, `-language:unsafeNulls` can be dropped and add `import scala.language.unsafeNulls` only when needed.

```
def f(x: String): String = ???
def nullOf[T >: Null]: T = null
```

```
import scala.language.unsafeNulls
```

```
val s: String | Null = ???
val a: String = s // unsafely convert String | Null to String
```

```
val b1 = s.trim // call .trim on String | Null unsafely
val b2 = b1.length
```

```
f(s).trim // pass String | Null as an argument of type String unsafely
```

```
val c: String = null // Null to String
```

```
val d1: Array[String] = ???
val d2: Array[String | Null] = d1 // unsafely convert Array[String] to Array[String | Null]
val d3: Array[String] = Array(null) // unsafe
```

```
class C[T >: Null <: String] // define a type bound with unsafe conflict bound
```

```
val n = nullOf[String] // apply a type bound unsafely
```

Without the `unsafeNulls`, all these unsafe operations will not be type-checked.

`unsafeNulls` also works for extension methods and implicit search.

```
import scala.language.unsafeNulls

val x = "hello, world!".split(" ").map(_.length)

given Conversion[String, Array[String]] = _ => ???

val y: String | Null = ???
val z: Array[String | Null] = y
```

6.15.7 Binary Compatibility

Our strategy for binary compatibility with Scala binaries that predate explicit nulls and new libraries compiled without `-Yexplicit-nulls` is to leave the types unchanged and be compatible but unsound.

[More details](#)

6.16 Safe Initialization

Scala 3 implements experimental safe initialization check, which can be enabled by the compiler option `-Ysafe-init`.

6.16.1 A Quick Glance

To get a feel of how it works, we first show several examples below.

6.16.1.1 Parent-Child Interaction Given the following code snippet:

```
abstract class AbstractFile:
  def name: String
  val extension: String = name.substring(4)

class RemoteFile(url: String) extends AbstractFile:
  val localFile: String = s"${url.##}.tmp" // error: usage of `localFile` before it's
  def name: String = localFile
```

The checker will report:

```
-- Warning: tests/init/neg/AbstractFile.scala:7:4 -----
7 |       val localFile: String = s"${url.##}.tmp" // error: usage of `localFile` before it's
  |       ^
  |       Access non-initialized field value localFile. Calling trace:
  |       -> val extension: String = name.substring(4)           [ AbstractFile.scala:3 ]
  |       -> def name: String = localFile                       [ AbstractFile.scala:8 ]
```

6.16.1.2 Inner-Outer Interaction Given the code below:

```
object Trees:
  class ValDef { counter += 1 }
  class EmptyValDef extends ValDef
  val theEmptyValDef = new EmptyValDef
  private var counter = 0 // error
```

The checker will report:

```
-- Warning: tests/init/neg/trees.scala:5:14 -----
5 |   private var counter = 0 // error
   |           ^
   |           Access non-initialized field variable counter. Calling trace:
   |             -> val theEmptyValDef = new EmptyValDef      [ trees.scala:4 ]
   |             -> class EmptyValDef extends ValDef          [ trees.scala:3 ]
   |             -> class ValDef { counter += 1 }              [ trees.scala:2 ]
```

6.16.1.3 Functions Given the code below:

```
abstract class Parent:
  val f: () => String = () => this.message
  def message: String

class Child extends Parent:
  val a = f()
  val b = "hello" // error
  def message: String = b
```

The checker reports:

```
-- Warning: tests/init/neg/features-high-order.scala:7:6 -----
7 |   val b = "hello" // error
   |   ^
   |   Access non-initialized field value b. Calling trace:
   |     -> val a = f() [ features-high-order.scala:6 ]
   |     -> val f: () => String = () => this.message [ features-high-order.scala:2 ]
   |     -> def message: String = b [ features-high-order.scala:8 ]
```

6.16.2 Design Goals

We establish the following design goals:

- Sound: checking always terminates, and is sound for common and reasonable usage (over-approximation)
- Expressive: support common and reasonable initialization patterns
- Friendly: simple rules, minimal syntactic overhead, informative error messages
- Modular: modular checking, no analysis beyond project boundary
- Fast: instant feedback
- Simple: no changes to core type system, explainable by a simple theory

By reasonable usage, we include the following use cases (but not restricted to them):

- Access fields on `this` and outer `this` during initialization
- Call methods on `this` and outer `this` during initialization
- Instantiate inner class and call methods on such instances during initialization
- Capture fields in functions

6.16.3 Principles

To achieve the goals, we uphold three fundamental principles: stackability, monotonicity and scopability.

Stackability means that all fields of a class are initialized at the end of the class body. Scala enforces this property in syntax by demanding that all fields are initialized at the end of the primary constructor, except for the language feature below:

```
var x: T = _
```

Control effects such as exceptions may break this property, as the following example shows:

```
class MyException(val b: B) extends Exception("")
class A:
  val b = try { new B } catch { case myEx: MyException => myEx.b }
  println(b.a)

class B:
  throw new MyException(this)
  val a: Int = 1
```

In the code above, the control effect teleport the uninitialized value wrapped in an exception. In the implementation, we avoid the problem by ensuring that the values that are thrown must be transitively initialized.

Monotonicity means that the initialization status of an object should not go backward: initialized fields continue to be initialized, a field points to an initialized object may not later point to an object under initialization. As an example, the following code will be rejected:

```
trait Reporter:
  def report(msg: String): Unit

class FileReporter(ctx: Context) extends Reporter:
  ctx typer.reporter = this // ctx now reaches an uninitialized object
  val file: File = new File("report.txt")
  def report(msg: String) = file.write(msg)
```

In the code above, suppose `ctx` points to a transitively initialized object. Now the assignment at line 3 makes `this`, which is not fully initialized, reachable from `ctx`. This makes field usage dangerous, as it may indirectly reach uninitialized fields.

Monotonicity is based on a well-known technique called heap monotonic typestate to ensure soundness in the presence of aliasing [1]. Roughly speaking, it means initialization state

should not go backwards.

Scopability means that there are no side channels to access to partially constructed objects. Control effects like coroutines, delimited control, resumable exceptions may break the property, as they can transport a value upper in the stack (not in scope) to be reachable from the current scope. Static fields can also serve as a teleport thus breaks this property. In the implementation, we need to enforce that teleported values are transitively initialized.

The principles enable local reasoning of initialization, which means:

An initialized environment can only produce initialized values.

For example, if the arguments to a new-expression are transitively initialized, so is the result. If the receiver and arguments in a method call are transitively initialized, so is the result.

6.16.4 Rules

With the established principles and design goals, following rules are imposed:

1. In an assignment `o.x = e`, the expression `e` may only point to transitively initialized objects.

This is how monotonicity is enforced in the system. Note that in an initialization `val f: T = e`, the expression `e` may point to an object under initialization. This requires a distinction between mutation and initialization in order to enforce different rules. Scala has different syntax for them, it thus is not an issue.

2. References to objects under initialization may not be passed as arguments to method calls or constructors.

Escape of `this` in the constructor is commonly regarded as an anti-pattern, and it's rarely used in practice. This rule is simple for the programmer to reason about initialization and it simplifies implementation. The theory supports safe escape of `this` with the help of annotations, we delay the extension until there is a strong need.

3. Local definitions may only refer to transitively initialized objects.

It means that in a local definition `val x: T = e`, the expression `e` may only evaluate to transitively initialized objects. The same goes for local lazy variables and methods. This rule is again motivated for simplicity in reasoning about initialization: programmers may safely assume that all local definitions only point to transitively initialized objects.

6.16.5 Modularity (considered)

Currently, the analysis works across project boundaries based on TASTy. The following is a proposal to make the checking more modular. The feedback from the community is welcome.

For modularity, we need to forbid subtle initialization interaction beyond project boundaries. For example, the following code passes the check when the two classes are defined in the same project:

```

class Base:
  private val map: mutable.Map[Int, String] = mutable.Map.empty
  def enter(k: Int, v: String) = map(k) = v

class Child extends Base:
  enter(1, "one")
  enter(2, "two")

```

However, when the class `Base` and `Child` are defined in two different projects, the check can emit a warning for the calls to `enter` in the class `Child`. This restricts subtle initialization within project boundaries, and avoids accidental violation of contracts across library versions.

We can impose the following rules to enforce modularity:

1. A class or trait that may be extended in another project should not call virtual methods on `this` in its template/mixin evaluation, directly or indirectly.
2. The method call `o.m(args)` is forbidden if `o` is not transitively initialized and the target of `m` is defined in an external project.
3. The expression `new p.C(args)` is forbidden, if `p` is not transitively initialized and `C` is defined in an external project.

6.16.6 Theory

The theory is based on type-and-effect systems [2, 3]. We introduce two concepts, effects and potentials:

$$\pi = \text{this} \mid \text{Warm}(C, \pi) \mid \pi.f \mid \pi.m \mid \pi.\text{super}[D] \mid \text{Cold} \mid \text{Fun}(\Pi, \Phi) \mid \pi.\text{outer}[C]$$

$$\phi = \pi\uparrow \mid \pi.f! \mid \pi.m!$$

Potentials (π) represent values that are possibly under initialization.

- `this`: current object
- `Warm(C, π)`: an object of type `C` where all its fields are assigned, and the potential for `this` of its enclosing class is π .
- `$\pi.f$` : the potential of the field `f` in the potential π
- `$\pi.m$` : the potential of the field `f` in the potential π
- `$\pi.\text{super}[D]$` : essentially the object π , used for virtual method resolution
- `Cold`: an object with unknown initialization status
- `Fun(Π , Φ)`: a function, when called produce effects Φ and return potentials Π .
- `$\pi.\text{outer}[C]$` : the potential of `this` for the enclosing class of `C` when `C.this` is π .

Effects are triggered from potentials:

- `$\pi\uparrow$` : promote the object pointed to by the potential π to fully-initialized
- `$\pi.f!$` : access field `f` on the potential π
- `$\pi.m!$` : call the method `m` on the potential π

To ensure that the checking always terminate and for better performance, we restrict the length of potentials to be finite (by default 2). If the potential is too long, the checker stops tracking it by checking that the potential is actually transitively initialized.

For an expression e , it may be summarized by the pair (Π, Φ) , which means evaluation of e may produce the effects Φ and return the potentials Π . Each field and method is associated with such a pair. We call such a pair summary. The expansion of proxy potentials and effects, such as $\pi.f$, $\pi.m$ and $\pi.m!$, will take advantage of the summaries. Depending on the potential π for this, the summaries need to be rebased (`asSeenFrom`) before usage.

The checking treats the templates of concrete classes as entry points. It maintains the set of initialized fields as initialization progresses, and check that only initialized fields are accessed during the initialization and there is no leaking of values under initialization. Virtual method calls on this is not a problem, as they can always be resolved statically.

For a more detailed introduction of the theory, please refer to the paper a type-and-effect system for safe initialization [3].

6.16.7 Back Doors

Occasionally you may want to suppress warnings reported by the checker. You can either write `e: @unchecked` to tell the checker to skip checking for the expression e , or you may use the old trick: mark some fields as lazy.

6.16.8 Caveats

- The system cannot provide safety guarantee when extending Java or Scala 2 classes.
- Safe initialization of global objects is only partially checked.

6.16.9 References

1. Fähndrich, M. and Leino, K.R.M., 2003, July. [Heap monotonic tpestates](#). In International Workshop on Aliasing, Confinement and Ownership in object-oriented programming (IWACO).
2. Lucassen, J.M. and Gifford, D.K., 1988, January. [Polymorphic effect systems](#). In Proceedings of the 15th ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT symposium on Principles of programming languages (pp. 47-57). ACM.
3. Fengyun Liu, Ondřej Lhoták, Aggelos Biboudis, Paolo G. Giarrusso, and Martin Odersky. 2020. [A type-and-effect system for object initialization](#). OOPSLA, 2020.

6.17 Named Type Arguments

Note: This feature is implemented in Scala 3, but is not expected to be part of Scala 3.0.

Type arguments of methods can now be specified by name as well as by position. Example:

```
def construct[Elem, Coll[_]](xs: Elem*): Coll[Elem] = ???

val xs1 = construct[Coll = List, Elem = Int](1, 2, 3)
val xs2 = construct[Coll = List](1, 2, 3)
```

Similar to a named value argument (`x = e`), a named type argument [`X = T`] instantiates the type parameter X to the type T . Named type arguments do not have to be in order (see

xs1 above) and unspecified arguments are inferred by the compiler (see xs2 above). Type arguments must be all named or un-named, mixtures of named and positional type arguments are not supported.

6.17.1 Motivation

The main benefit of named type arguments is that unlike positional arguments, you are allowed to omit passing arguments for some parameters, like in the definition of xs2 above. A missing type argument is inferred as usual by local type inference. This is particularly useful in situations where some type arguments can be easily inferred from others.

[More details](#)

6.18 TypeTest

6.18.1 TypeTest

When pattern matching there are two situations where a runtime type test must be performed. The first case is an explicit type test using the ascription pattern notation.

```
(x: X) match
  case y: Y =>
```

The second case is when an extractor takes an argument that is not a subtype of the scrutinee type.

```
(x: X) match
  case y @ Y(n) =>
```

```
object Y:
  def unapply(x: Y): Some[Int] = ...
```

In both cases, a class test will be performed at runtime. But when the type test is on an abstract type (type parameter or type member), the test cannot be performed because the type is erased at runtime.

A TypeTest can be provided to make this test possible.

```
package scala.reflect
```

```
trait TypeTest[-S, T]:
  def unapply(s: S): Option[s.type & T]
```

It provides an extractor that returns its argument typed as a T if the argument is a T. It can be used to encode a type test.

```
def f[X, Y](x: X)(using tt: TypeTest[X, Y]): Option[Y] = x match
  case tt(x @ Y(1)) => Some(x)
  case tt(x) => Some(x)
  case _ => None
```

To avoid the syntactic overhead the compiler will look for a type test automatically if it detects that the type test is on abstract types. This means that `x: Y` is transformed to `tt(x)` and `x @ Y(_)` to `tt(x @ Y(_))` if there is a contextual `TypeTest[X, Y]` in scope. The previous code is equivalent to

```
def f[X, Y](x: X)(using TypeTest[X, Y]): Option[Y] = x match
  case x @ Y(1) => Some(x)
  case x: Y => Some(x)
  case _ => None
```

We could create a type test at call site where the type test can be performed with runtime class tests directly as follows

```
val tt: TypeTest[Any, String] =
  new TypeTest[Any, String]:
    def unapply(s: Any): Option[s.type & String] = s match
      case s: String => Some(s)
      case _ => None
```

```
f[AnyRef, String]("acb")(using tt)
```

The compiler will synthesize a new instance of a type test if none is found in scope as:

```
new TypeTest[A, B]:
  def unapply(s: A): Option[s.type & B] = s match
    case s: B => Some(s)
    case _ => None
```

If the type tests cannot be done there will be an unchecked warning that will be raised on the `case s: B => test`.

The most common `TypeTest` instances are the ones that take any parameters (i.e. `TypeTest[Any, T]`). To make it possible to use such instances directly in context bounds we provide the alias

```
package scala.reflect

type Typeable[T] = TypeTest[Any, T]
```

This alias can be used as

```
def f[T: Typeable]: Boolean =
  "abc" match
    case x: T => true
    case _ => false
```

```
f[String] // true
f[Int] // false
```

6.18.2 TypeTest and ClassTag

TypeTest is a replacement for functionality provided previously by ClassTag.unapply. Using ClassTag instances was unsound since classtags can check only the class component of a type. TypeTest fixes that unsoundness. ClassTag type tests are still supported but a warning will be emitted after 3.0.

6.18.3 Example

Given the following abstract definition of Peano numbers that provides two given instances of types TypeTest[Nat, Zero] and TypeTest[Nat, Succ]

```
import scala.reflect.*

trait Peano:
  type Nat
  type Zero <: Nat
  type Succ <: Nat

  def safeDiv(m: Nat, n: Succ): (Nat, Nat)

  val Zero: Zero

  val Succ: SuccExtractor
  trait SuccExtractor:
    def apply(nat: Nat): Succ
    def unapply(succ: Succ): Some[Nat]

  given typeTestOfZero: TypeTest[Nat, Zero]
  given typeTestOfSucc: TypeTest[Nat, Succ]
```

together with an implementation of Peano numbers based on type Int

```
object PeanoInt extends Peano:
  type Nat = Int
  type Zero = Int
  type Succ = Int

  def safeDiv(m: Nat, n: Succ): (Nat, Nat) = (m / n, m % n)

  val Zero: Zero = 0

  val Succ: SuccExtractor = new:
    def apply(nat: Nat): Succ = nat + 1
    def unapply(succ: Succ) = Some(succ - 1)

  def typeTestOfZero: TypeTest[Nat, Zero] = new:
    def unapply(x: Nat): Option[x.type & Zero] =
```

```
    if x == 0 then Some(x) else None

def typeTestOfSucc: TypeTest[Nat, Succ] = new:
  def unapply(x: Nat): Option[x.type & Succ] =
    if x > 0 then Some(x) else None
```

it is possible to write the following program

```
@main def test =
  import PeanoInt.*

  def divOpt(m: Nat, n: Nat): Option[(Nat, Nat)] =
    n match
      case Zero => None
      case s @ Succ(_) => Some(safeDiv(m, s))

  val two = Succ(Succ(Zero))
  val five = Succ(Succ(Succ(two)))

  println(divOpt(five, two)) // prints "Some((2,1))"
  println(divOpt(two, five)) // prints "Some((0,2))"
  println(divOpt(two, Zero)) // prints "None"
```

Note that without the `TypeTest[Nat, Succ]` the pattern `Succ.unapply(nat: Succ)` would be unchecked.

7 Other Changed Features [↗](#)

7.1 Numeric Literals [↗](#)

Note: This feature is not yet part of the Scala 3 language definition. It can be made available by a language import:

```
import scala.language.experimental.genericNumberLiterals
```

In Scala 2, numeric literals were confined to the primitive numeric types `Int`, `Long`, `Float`, and `Double`. Scala 3 allows to write numeric literals also for user-defined types. Example:

```
val x: Long = -10_000_000_000
val y: BigInt = 0x123_abc_789_def_345_678_901
val z: BigDecimal = 110_222_799_799.99
```

```
(y: BigInt) match
  case 123_456_789_012_345_678_901 =>
```

The syntax of numeric literals is the same as before, except there are no pre-set limits how large they can be.

7.1.0.1 Meaning of Numeric Literals The meaning of a numeric literal is determined as follows:

- If the literal ends with `l` or `L`, it is a `Long` integer (and must fit in its legal range).
- If the literal ends with `f` or `F`, it is a single precision floating point number of type `Float`.
- If the literal ends with `d` or `D`, it is a double precision floating point number of type `Double`.

In each of these cases the conversion to a number is exactly as in Scala 2 or in Java. If a numeric literal does not end in one of these suffixes, its meaning is determined by the expected type:

1. If the expected type is `Int`, `Long`, `Float`, or `Double`, the literal is treated as a standard literal of that type.
2. If the expected type is a fully defined type `T` that has a given instance of type `scala.util.FromDigits[T]`, the literal is converted to a value of type `T` by passing it as an argument to the `fromDigits` method of that instance (more details below).
3. Otherwise, the literal is treated as a `Double` literal (if it has a decimal point or an exponent), or as an `Int` literal (if not). (This last possibility is again as in Scala 2 or Java.)

With these rules, the definition

```
val x: Long = -10_000_000_000
```

is legal by rule (1), since the expected type is `Long`. The definitions


```
val y: BigInt = 0x123_abc_789_def_345_678_901
val z: BigDecimal = 111222333444.55
```

are legal by rule (2), since both `BigInt` and `BigDecimal` have `FromDigits` instances (which implement the `FromDigits` subclasses `FromDigits.WithRadix` and `FromDigits.Decimal`, respectively). On the other hand,

```
val x = -10_000_000_000
```

gives a type error, since without an expected type `-10_000_000_000` is treated by rule (3) as an `Int` literal, but it is too large for that type.

7.1.0.2 The `FromDigits` Trait To allow numeric literals, a type simply has to define a given instance of the `scala.util.FromDigits` type class, or one of its subclasses. `FromDigits` is defined as follows:

```
trait FromDigits[T]:
  def fromDigits(digits: String): T
```

Implementations of the `fromDigits` convert strings of digits to the values of the implementation type `T`. The `digits` string consists of digits between 0 and 9, possibly preceded by a sign (“+” or “-”). Number separator characters `_` are filtered out before the string is passed to `fromDigits`.

The companion object `FromDigits` also defines subclasses of `FromDigits` for whole numbers with a given radix, for numbers with a decimal point, and for numbers that can have both a decimal point and an exponent:

```
object FromDigits:

  /** A subclass of `FromDigits` that also allows to convert whole
   *  number literals with a radix other than 10
   */
  trait WithRadix[T] extends FromDigits[T]:
    def fromDigits(digits: String): T = fromDigits(digits, 10)
    def fromDigits(digits: String, radix: Int): T

  /** A subclass of `FromDigits` that also allows to convert number
   *  literals containing a decimal point ".".
   */
  trait Decimal[T] extends FromDigits[T]

  /** A subclass of `FromDigits` that allows also to convert number
   *  literals containing a decimal point "." or an
   *  exponent `('e' | 'E')['+' | '-']digit digit*`.
   */
  trait Floating[T] extends Decimal[T]
```

A user-defined number type can implement one of those, which signals to the compiler that hexadecimal numbers, decimal points, or exponents are also accepted in literals for this type.

7.1.0.3 Error Handling FromDigits implementations can signal errors by throwing exceptions of some subtype of FromDigitsException. FromDigitsException is defined with three subclasses in the FromDigits object as follows:

```
abstract class FromDigitsException(msg: String) extends NumberFormatException(msg)

class NumberTooLarge (msg: String = "number too large")      extends FromDigitsException(msg)
class NumberTooSmall (msg: String = "number too small")     extends FromDigitsException(msg)
class MalformedNumber(msg: String = "malformed number literal") extends FromDigitsException(msg)
```

7.1.0.4 Example As a fully worked out example, here is an implementation of a new numeric class, BigFloat, that accepts numeric literals. BigFloat is defined in terms of a BigInt mantissa and an Int exponent:

```
case class BigFloat(mantissa: BigInt, exponent: Int):
  override def toString = s"${mantissa}e${exponent}"
```

BigFloat literals can have a decimal point as well as an exponent. E.g. the following expression should produce the BigFloat number BigFloat(-123, 997):

```
-0.123E+1000: BigFloat
```

The companion object of BigFloat defines an apply constructor method to construct a BigFloat from a digits string. Here is a possible implementation:

```
object BigFloat:
  import scala.util.FromDigits

  def apply(digits: String): BigFloat =
    val (mantissaDigits, givenExponent) =
      digits.toUpperCase.split('E') match
        case Array(mantissaDigits, edigits) =>
          val expo =
            try FromDigits.intFromDigits(edigits)
            catch case ex: FromDigits.NumberTooLarge =>
              throw FromDigits.NumberTooLarge(s"exponent too large: $edigits")
          (mantissaDigits, expo)
        case Array(mantissaDigits) =>
          (mantissaDigits, 0)
    val (intPart, exponent) =
      mantissaDigits.split('.') match
        case Array(intPart, decimalPart) =>
          (intPart ++ decimalPart, givenExponent - decimalPart.length)
        case Array(intPart) =>
          (intPart, givenExponent)
    BigFloat(BigInt(intPart), exponent)
```

To accept BigFloat literals, all that's needed in addition is a given instance of type FromDigits.Floating[BigFloat]:

```

given FromDigits: FromDigits.Floating[BigFloat] with
  def fromDigits(digits: String) = apply(digits)
end BigFloat

```

Note that the `apply` method does not check the format of the `digits` argument. It is assumed that only valid arguments are passed. For calls coming from the compiler that assumption is valid, since the compiler will first check whether a numeric literal has the correct format before it gets passed on to a conversion method.

7.1.0.5 Compile-Time Errors With the setup of the previous section, a literal like

```
1e10_0000_000_000: BigFloat
```

would be expanded by the compiler to

```
BigFloat.FromDigits.fromDigits("1e100000000000")
```

Evaluating this expression throws a `NumberTooLarge` exception at run time. We would like it to produce a compile-time error instead. We can achieve this by tweaking the `BigFloat` class with a small dose of metaprogramming. The idea is to turn the `fromDigits` method into a macro, i.e. make it an inline method with a splice as right-hand side. To do this, replace the `FromDigits` instance in the `BigFloat` object by the following two definitions:

```

object BigFloat:
  ...

  class FromDigits extends FromDigits.Floating[BigFloat]:
    def fromDigits(digits: String) = apply(digits)

  given FromDigits with
    override inline def fromDigits(digits: String) = ${
      fromDigitsImpl('digits)
    }

```

Note that an inline method cannot directly fill in for an abstract method, since it produces no code that can be executed at runtime. That is why we define an intermediary class `FromDigits` that contains a fallback implementation which is then overridden by the inline method in the `FromDigits` given instance. That method is defined in terms of a macro implementation method `fromDigitsImpl`. Here is its definition:

```

private def fromDigitsImpl(digits: Expr[String])(using ctx: Quotes): Expr[BigFloat] =
  digits.value match
    case Some(ds) =>
      try
        val BigFloat(m, e) = apply(ds)
        '{BigFloat(${Expr(m)}, ${Expr(e)})}
      catch case ex: FromDigits.FromDigitsException =>
        ctx.error(ex.getMessage)
        '{BigFloat(0, 0)}
    case None =>

```

```
      '{apply($digits)}'
end BigFloat
```

The macro implementation takes an argument of type `Expr[String]` and yields a result of type `Expr[BigFloat]`. It tests whether its argument is a constant string. If that is the case, it converts the string using the `apply` method and lifts the resulting `BigFloat` back to `Expr` level. For non-constant strings `fromDigitsImpl(digits)` is simply `apply(digits)`, i.e. everything is evaluated at runtime in this case.

The interesting part is the catch part of the case where `digits` is constant. If the `apply` method throws a `FromDigitsException`, the exception's message is issued as a compile time error in the `ctx.error(ex.getMessage)` call.

With this new implementation, a definition like

```
val x: BigFloat = 1234.45e3333333333
```

would give a compile time error message:

```
3 | val x: BigFloat = 1234.45e3333333333
  |                      ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
  |                      exponent too large: 3333333333
```

7.2 Programmatic Structural Types

7.2.1 Motivation

Some usecases, such as modelling database access, are more awkward in statically typed languages than in dynamically typed languages: With dynamically typed languages, it's quite natural to model a row as a record or object, and to select entries with simple dot notation (e.g. `row.columnName`).

Achieving the same experience in statically typed language requires defining a class for every possible row arising from database manipulation (including rows arising from joins and projections) and setting up a scheme to map between a row and the class representing it.

This requires a large amount of boilerplate, which leads developers to trade the advantages of static typing for simpler schemes where column names are represented as strings and passed to other operators (e.g. `row.select("columnName")`). This approach forgoes the advantages of static typing, and is still not as natural as the dynamically typed version.

Structural types help in situations where we would like to support simple dot notation in dynamic contexts without losing the advantages of static typing. They allow developers to use dot notation and configure how fields and methods should be resolved.

7.2.2 Example

Here's an example of a structural type `Person`:

```
class Record(elems: (String, Any)*) extends Selectable:
  private val fields = elems.toMap
  def selectDynamic(name: String): Any = fields(name)
```

```
type Person = Record { val name: String; val age: Int }
```

The type `Person` adds a refinement to its parent type `Record` that defines the two fields `name` and `age`. We say the refinement is structural since `name` and `age` are not defined in the parent type. But they exist nevertheless as members of class `Person`. For instance, the following program would print “Emma is 42 years old.”:

```
val person = Record("name" -> "Emma", "age" -> 42).asInstanceOf[Person]
println(s"${person.name} is ${person.age} years old.")
```

The parent type `Record` in this example is a generic class that can represent arbitrary records in its `elems` argument. This argument is a sequence of pairs of labels of type `String` and values of type `Any`. When we create a `Person` as a `Record` we have to assert with a typecast that the record defines the right fields of the right types. `Record` itself is too weakly typed so the compiler cannot know this without help from the user. In practice, the connection between a structural type and its underlying generic representation would most likely be done by a database layer, and therefore would not be a concern of the end user.

`Record` extends the marker trait `scala.Selectable` and defines a method `selectDynamic`, which maps a field name to its value. Selecting a structural type member is done by calling this method. The `person.name` and `person.age` selections are translated by the Scala compiler to:

```
person.selectDynamic("name").asInstanceOf[String]
person.selectDynamic("age").asInstanceOf[Int]
```

Besides `selectDynamic`, a `Selectable` class sometimes also defines a method `applyDynamic`. This can then be used to translate function calls of structural members. So, if `a` is an instance of `Selectable`, a structural call like `a.f(b, c)` would translate to

```
a.applyDynamic("f")(b, c)
```

7.2.3 Using Java Reflection

Structural types can also be accessed using [Java reflection](#). Example:

```
type Closeable = { def close(): Unit }

class FileInputStream:
  def close(): Unit

class Channel:
  def close(): Unit
```

Here, we define a structural type `Closeable` that defines a `close` method. There are various classes that have `close` methods, we just list `FileInputStream` and `Channel` as two examples. It would be easiest if the two classes shared a common interface that factors out the `close` method. But such factorings are often not possible if different libraries are combined

in one application. Yet, we can still have methods that work on all classes with a `close` method by using the `Closeable` type. For instance,

```
import scala.reflect.Selectable.reflectiveSelectable

def autoClose(f: Closeable)(op: Closeable => Unit): Unit =
  try op(f) finally f.close()
```

The call `f.close()` has to use Java reflection to identify and call the `close` method in the receiver `f`. This needs to be enabled by an import of `reflectiveSelectable` shown above. What happens “under the hood” is then the following:

- The import makes available an implicit conversion that turns any type into a `Selectable`. `f` is wrapped in this conversion.
- The compiler then transforms the `close` call on the wrapped `f` to an `applyDynamic` call. The end result is:

```
reflectiveSelectable(f).applyDynamic("close")()
```

- The implementation of `applyDynamic` in `reflectiveSelectable`’s result uses Java reflection to find and call a method `close` with zero parameters in the value referenced by `f` at runtime.

Structural calls like this tend to be much slower than normal method calls. The mandatory import of `reflectiveSelectable` serves as a signpost that something inefficient is going on.

Note: In Scala 2, Java reflection is the only mechanism available for structural types and it is automatically enabled without needing the `reflectiveSelectable` conversion. However, to warn against inefficient dispatch, Scala 2 requires a language import `import scala.language.reflectiveCalls`.

Before resorting to structural calls with Java reflection one should consider alternatives. For instance, sometimes a more a modular and efficient architecture can be obtained using type classes.

7.2.4 Extensibility

New instances of `Selectable` can be defined to support means of access other than Java reflection, which would enable usages such as the database access example given at the beginning of this document.

7.2.5 Local Selectable Instances

Local and anonymous classes that extend `Selectable` get more refined types than other classes. Here is an example:

```
trait Vehicle extends reflect.Selectable:
  val wheels: Int

val i3 = new Vehicle: // i3: Vehicle { val range: Int }
```

```
val wheels = 4
val range = 240
```

`i3.range`

The type of `i3` in this example is `Vehicle { val range: Int }`. Hence, `i3.range` is well-formed. Since the base class `Vehicle` does not define a `range` field or method, we need structural dispatch to access the `range` field of the anonymous class that initializes `i3`. Structural dispatch is implemented by the base trait `reflect.Selectable` of `Vehicle`, which defines the necessary `selectDynamic` member.

`Vehicle` could also extend some other subclass of `scala.Selectable` that implements `selectDynamic` and `applyDynamic` differently. But if it does not extend a `Selectable` at all, the code would no longer typecheck:

```
trait Vehicle:
  val wheels: Int

val i3 = new Vehicle: // i3: Vehicle
  val wheels = 4
  val range = 240
```

```
i3.range // error: range is not a member of `Vehicle`
```

The difference is that the type of an anonymous class that does not extend `Selectable` is just formed from the parent type(s) of the class, without adding any refinements. Hence, `i3` now has just type `Vehicle` and the selection `i3.range` gives a “member not found” error.

Note that in Scala 2 all local and anonymous classes could produce values with refined types. But members defined by such refinements could be selected only with the language import `reflectiveCalls`.

7.2.6 Relation with `scala.Dynamic`

There are clearly some connections with `scala.Dynamic` here, since both select members programmatically. But there are also some differences.

- Fully dynamic selection is not typesafe, but structural selection is, as long as the correspondence of the structural type with the underlying value is as stated.
- `Dynamic` is just a marker trait, which gives more leeway where and how to define reflective access operations. By contrast `Selectable` is a trait which declares the access operations.
- Two access operations, `selectDynamic` and `applyDynamic` are shared between both approaches. In `Selectable`, `applyDynamic` also may also take `java.lang.Class` arguments indicating the method’s formal parameter types. `Dynamic` comes with `updateDynamic`.

[More details](#)

7.3 Rules for Operators

The rules for infix operators have changed in some parts:

First, an alphanumeric method can be used as an infix operator only if its definition carries an `infix` modifier. Second, it is recommended (but not enforced) to augment definitions of symbolic operators with `@targetName` annotations. Finally, a syntax change allows infix operators to be written on the left in a multi-line expression.

7.3.1 The infix Modifier

An infix modifier on a method definition allows using the method as an infix operation. Example:

```
import scala.annotation.targetName

trait MultiSet[T]:

  infix def union(other: MultiSet[T]): MultiSet[T]

  def difference(other: MultiSet[T]): MultiSet[T]

  @targetName("intersection")
  def *(other: MultiSet[T]): MultiSet[T]

end MultiSet

val s1, s2: MultiSet[Int]

s1 union s2           // OK
s1 `union` s2         // also OK but unusual
s1.union(s2)          // also OK

s1.difference(s2)     // OK
s1 `difference` s2    // OK
s1 difference s2      // gives a deprecation warning

s1 * s2               // OK
s1 `*` s2             // also OK, but unusual
s1.*(s2)              // also OK, but unusual
```

Infix operations involving alphanumeric operators are deprecated, unless one of the following conditions holds:

- the operator definition carries an `infix` modifier, or
- the operator was compiled with Scala 2, or
- the operator is followed by an opening brace.

An alphanumeric operator is an operator consisting entirely of letters, digits, the `$` and `_` charac-

ters, or any Unicode character `c` for which `java.lang.Character.isIdentifierPart(c)` returns `true`.

Infix operations involving symbolic operators are always allowed, so `infix` is redundant for methods with symbolic names.

The `infix` modifier can also be given to a type:

```
infix type or[X, Y]
val x: String or Int = ...
```

7.3.1.1 Motivation The purpose of the `infix` modifier is to achieve consistency across a code base in how a method or type is applied. The idea is that the author of a method decides whether that method should be applied as an infix operator or in a regular application. Use sites then implement that decision consistently.

7.3.1.2 Details

1. `infix` is a soft modifier. It is treated as a normal identifier except when in modifier position.
2. If a method overrides another, their `infix` annotations must agree. Either both are annotated with `infix`, or none of them are.
3. `infix` modifiers can be given to method definitions. The first non-receiver parameter list of an `infix` method must define exactly one parameter. Examples:

```
infix def op1(x: S): R           // ok
infix def op2[T](x: T)(y: S): R  // ok
infix def op3[T](x: T, y: S): R  // error: two parameters

extension (x: A)
  infix def op4(y: B): R         // ok
  infix def op5(y1: B, y2: B): R // error: two parameters
```

4. `infix` modifiers can also be given to type, trait or class definitions that have exactly two type parameters. An `infix` type like

```
infix type op[X, Y]
```

can be applied using infix syntax, i.e. `A op B`.

5. To smooth migration to Scala 3.0, alphanumeric operators will only be deprecated from Scala 3.1 onwards, or if the `-source future` option is given in Dotty/Scala 3.

7.3.2 The `@targetName` Annotation

It is recommended that definitions of symbolic operators carry a `@targetName` annotation that provides an encoding of the operator with an alphanumeric name. This has several benefits:

- It helps interoperability between Scala and other languages. One can call a Scala-defined symbolic operator from another language using its target name, which avoids having to remember the low-level encoding of the symbolic name.
- It helps legibility of stacktraces and other runtime diagnostics, where the user-defined alphanumeric name will be shown instead of the low-level encoding.
- It serves as a documentation tool by providing an alternative regular name as an alias of a symbolic operator. This makes the definition also easier to find in a search.

7.3.3 Syntax Change

Infix operators can now appear at the start of lines in a multi-line expression. Examples:

```
val str = "hello"
  ++ " world"
  ++ "!"

def condition =
  x > 0
  ||
  xs.exists(_ > 0)
  || xs.isEmpty
```

Previously, those expressions would have been rejected, since the compiler's semicolon inference would have treated the continuations `++ " world"` or `|| xs.isEmpty` as separate statements.

To make this syntax work, the rules are modified to not infer semicolons in front of leading infix operators. A leading infix operator is - a symbolic identifier such as `+`, or `approx_==`, or an identifier in backticks, - that starts a new line, - that precedes a token on the same or the next line that can start an expression, - and that is immediately followed by at least one whitespace character.

Example:

```
    freezing
  | boiling
```

This is recognized as a single infix operation. Compare with:

```
    freezing
  !boiling
```

This is seen as two statements, `freezing` and `!boiling`. The difference is that only the operator in the first example is followed by a space.

Another example:

```
println("hello")
???
??? match { case 0 => 1 }
```

This code is recognized as three different statements. `???` is syntactically a symbolic identifier, but neither of its occurrences is followed by a space and a token that can start an expression.

7.4 Wildcard Arguments in Types

The syntax of wildcard arguments in types has changed from `_` to `?`. Example:

```
List[?]
Map[? <: AnyRef, ? >: Null]
```

7.4.0.1 Motivation We would like to use the underscore syntax `_` to stand for an anonymous type parameter, aligning it with its meaning in value parameter lists. So, just as `f(_)` is a shorthand for the lambda `x => f(x)`, in the future `C[_]` will be a shorthand for the type `lambda [X] =>> C[X]`. This makes higher-kinded types easier to use. It also removes the wart that, used as a type parameter, `F[_]` means `F` is a type constructor whereas used as a type, `F[_]` means it is a wildcard (i.e. existential) type. In the future, `F[_]` will mean the same thing, no matter where it is used.

We pick `?` as a replacement syntax for wildcard types, since it aligns with [Java's syntax](#).

7.4.0.2 Migration Strategy The migration to the new scheme is complicated, in particular since the [kind projector](#) compiler plugin still uses the reverse convention, with `?` meaning parameter placeholder instead of wildcard. Fortunately, kind projector has added `*` as an alternative syntax for `?`.

A step-by-step migration is made possible with the following measures:

1. In Scala 3.0, both `_` and `?` are legal names for wildcards.
2. In Scala 3.1, `_` is deprecated in favor of `?` as a name for a wildcard. A `-rewrite` option is available to rewrite one to the other.
3. In Scala 3.2, the meaning of `_` changes from wildcard to placeholder for type parameter.
4. The Scala 3.1 behavior is already available today under the `-source future` setting.

To smooth the transition for codebases that use kind-projector, we adopt the following measures under the command line option `-Ykind-projector`:

1. In Scala 3.0, `*` is available as a type parameter placeholder.
2. In Scala 3.2, `*` is deprecated in favor of `_`. A `-rewrite` option is available to rewrite one to the other.
3. In Scala 3.3, `*` is removed again, and all type parameter placeholders will be expressed with `_`.

These rules make it possible to cross build between Scala 2 using the kind projector plugin and Scala 3.0 - 3.2 using the compiler option `-Ykind-projector`.

7.5 Changes in Type Checking

*** TO BE FILLED IN ***

7.6 Changes in Type Inference

For more information, see the two presentations

- [Scala 3, Type inference and You!](#) by Guillaume Martres (September 2019)
- [GADTs in Dotty](#) by Aleksander Boruch-Gruszecki (July 2019).

7.7 Changes in Implicit Resolution

This section describes changes to the implicit resolution that apply both to the new `givens` and to the old-style `implicits` in Scala 3. Implicit resolution uses a new algorithm which caches implicit results more aggressively for performance. There are also some changes that affect implicits on the language level.

1. Types of implicit values and result types of implicit methods must be explicitly declared. Excepted are only values in local blocks where the type may still be inferred:

```
class C {
  val ctx: Context = ...           // ok

  /**/ implicit val x = ...        // error: type must be given explicitly
  /**/ implicit def y = ...        // error: type must be given explicitly
}
val y = {
  implicit val ctx = this.ctx // ok
  ...
}
```

2. Nesting is now taken into account for selecting an implicit. Consider for instance the following scenario:

```
def f(implicit i: C) = {
  def g(implicit j: C) = {
    implicitly[C]
  }
}
```

This will now resolve the `implicitly` call to `j`, because `j` is nested more deeply than `i`. Previously, this would have resulted in an ambiguity error. The previous possibility of an implicit search failure due to shadowing (where an implicit is hidden by a nested definition) no longer applies.

3. Package prefixes no longer contribute to the implicit search scope of a type. Example:

```
package p

given a: A = A()
```

```
object o:
  given b: B = B()
  type C
```

Both `a` and `b` are visible as implicits at the point of the definition of `type C`. However, a reference to `p.o.C` outside of package `p` will have only `b` in its implicit search scope but not `a`.

In more detail, here are the rules for what constitutes the implicit scope of a type:

Definition: A reference is an anchor if it refers to an object, a class, a trait, an abstract type, an opaque type alias, or a match type alias. References to packages and package objects are anchors only under `-source:3.0-migration`.

Definition: The anchors of a type `T` is a set of references defined as follows:

1. If `T` is a reference to an anchor, `T` itself plus, if `T` is of the form `P#A`, the anchors of `P`.
2. If `T` is an alias of `U`, the anchors of `U`.
3. If `T` is a reference to a type parameter, the union of the anchors of both of its bounds.
4. If `T` is a singleton reference, the anchors of its underlying type, plus, if `T` is of the form `(P#x).type`, the anchors of `P`.
5. If `T` is the `this`-type `o.this` of a static object `o`, the anchors of a term reference `o.type` to that object.
6. If `T` is some other type, the union of the anchors of each constituent type of `T`.

Definition: The implicit scope of a type `T` is the smallest set `S` of term references such that

1. If `T` is a reference to a class, `S` includes a reference to the companion object of the class, if it exists, as well as the implicit scopes of all of `T`'s parent classes.
 2. If `T` is a reference to an object, `S` includes `T` itself as well as the implicit scopes of all of `T`'s parent classes.
 3. If `T` is a reference to an opaque type alias named `A`, `S` includes a reference to an object `A` defined in the same scope as the type, if it exists, as well as the implicit scope of `T`'s underlying type or bounds.
 4. If `T` is a reference to an abstract type or match type alias named `A`, `S` includes a reference to an object `A` defined in the same scope as the type, if it exists, as well as the implicit scopes of `T`'s given bounds.
 5. If `T` is a reference to an anchor of the form `p.A` then `S` also includes all term references on the path `p`.
 6. If `T` is some other type, `S` includes the implicit scopes of all anchors of `T`.
4. The treatment of ambiguity errors has changed. If an ambiguity is encountered in some recursive step of an implicit search, the ambiguity is propagated to the caller.

Example: Say you have the following definitions:

```
class A
class B extends C
class C
implicit def a1: A
implicit def a2: A
```

```
implicit def b(implicit a: A): B
implicit def c: C
```

and the query `implicitly[C]`.

This query would now be classified as ambiguous. This makes sense, after all there are two possible solutions, `b(a1)` and `b(a2)`, neither of which is better than the other and both of which are better than the third solution, `c`. By contrast, Scala 2 would have rejected the search for `A` as ambiguous, and subsequently have classified the query `b(implicitly[A])` as a normal fail, which means that the alternative `c` would be chosen as solution!

Scala 2's somewhat puzzling behavior with respect to ambiguity has been exploited to implement the analogue of a "negated" search in implicit resolution, where a query `Q1` fails if some other query `Q2` succeeds and `Q1` succeeds if `Q2` fails. With the new cleaned up behavior these techniques no longer work. But there is now a new special type `scala.util.NotGiven` which implements negation directly. For any query type `Q`, `NotGiven[Q]` succeeds if and only if the implicit search for `Q` fails.

5. The treatment of divergence errors has also changed. A divergent implicit is treated as a normal failure, after which alternatives are still tried. This also makes sense: Encountering a divergent implicit means that we assume that no finite solution can be found on the corresponding path, but another path can still be tried. By contrast, most (but not all) divergence errors in Scala 2 would terminate the implicit search as a whole.

6. Scala 2 gives a lower level of priority to implicit conversions with call-by-name parameters relative to implicit conversions with call-by-value parameters. Scala 3 drops this distinction. So the following code snippet would be ambiguous in Scala 3:

```
implicit def conv1(x: Int): A = new A(x)
implicit def conv2(x: => Int): A = new A(x)
def buzz(y: A) = ???
buzz(1)    // error: ambiguous
```

7. The rule for picking a most specific alternative among a set of overloaded or implicit alternatives is refined to take context parameters into account. All else being equal, an alternative that takes some context parameters is taken to be less specific than an alternative that takes none. If both alternatives take context parameters, we try to choose between them as if they were methods with regular parameters. The following paragraph in the [SLS §6.26.3](#) is affected by this change:

Original version:

An alternative `A` is more specific than an alternative `B` if the relative weight of `A` over `B` is greater than the relative weight of `B` over `A`.

Modified version:

An alternative `A` is more specific than an alternative `B` if

- the relative weight of `A` over `B` is greater than the relative weight of `B` over `A`, or
- the relative weights are the same, and `A` takes no implicit parameters but `B` does, or

- the relative weights are the same, both A and B take implicit parameters, and A is more specific than B if all implicit parameters in either alternative are replaced by regular parameters.

8. The previous disambiguation of implicits based on inheritance depth is refined to make it transitive. Transitivity is important to guarantee that search outcomes are compilation-order independent. Here's a scenario where the previous rules violated transitivity:

```
class A extends B
object A { given a ... }
class B
object B extends C { given b ... }
class C { given c }
```

Here `a` is more specific than `b` since the companion class `A` is a subclass of the companion class `B`. Also, `b` is more specific than `c` since `object B` extends class `C`. But `a` is not more specific than `c`. This means if `a`, `b`, `c` are all applicable implicits, it makes a difference in what order they are compared. If we compare `b` and `c` first, we keep `b` and drop `c`. Then, comparing `a` with `b` we keep `a`. But if we compare `a` with `c` first, we fail with an ambiguity error.

The new rules are as follows: An implicit `a` defined in `A` is more specific than an implicit `b` defined in `B` if

- `A` extends `B`, or
- `A` is an object and the companion class of `A` extends `B`, or
- `A` and `B` are objects, `B` does not inherit any implicit members from base classes (*), and the companion class of `A` extends the companion class of `B`.

Condition (*) is new. It is necessary to ensure that the defined relation is transitive.

7.8 Implicit Conversions

An implicit conversion, also called view, is a conversion that is applied by the compiler in several situations:

1. When an expression `e` of type `T` is encountered, but the compiler needs an expression of type `S`.
2. When an expression `e.m` where `e` has type `T` but `T` defines no member `m` is encountered.

In those cases, the compiler looks in the implicit scope for a conversion that can convert an expression of type `T` to an expression of type `S` (or to a type that defines a member `m` in the second case).

This conversion can be either:

1. An implicit `def` of type `T => S` or `(=> T) => S`
2. An implicit value of type `scala.Conversion[T, S]`

Defining an implicit conversion will emit a warning unless the import `scala.language.implicitConversions` is in scope, or the flag `-language:implicitConversions` is given to the compiler.

7.8.1 Examples

The first example is taken from `scala.Predef`. Thanks to this implicit conversion, it is possible to pass a `scala.Int` to a Java method that expects a `java.lang.Integer`

```
import scala.language.implicitConversions
implicit def int2Integer(x: Int): java.lang.Integer =
  x.asInstanceOf[java.lang.Integer]
```

The second example shows how to use `Conversion` to define an `Ordering` for an arbitrary type, given existing `Orderings` for other types:

```
import scala.language.implicitConversions
implicit def ordT[T, S](
  implicit conv: Conversion[T, S],
  ordS: Ordering[S]
): Ordering[T] =
  // `ordS` compares values of type `S`, but we can convert from `T` to `S`
  (x: T, y: T) => ordS.compare(x, y)

class A(val x: Int) // The type for which we want an `Ordering`

// Convert `A` to a type for which an `Ordering` is available:
implicit val AToInt: Conversion[A, Int] = _.x

implicitly[Ordering[Int]] // Ok, exists in the standard library
implicitly[Ordering[A]]  // Ok, will use the implicit conversion from
                          // `A` to `Int` and the `Ordering` for `Int`.
```

More details

7.9 Changes in Overload Resolution

Overload resolution in Scala 3 improves on Scala 2 in two ways. First, it takes all argument lists into account instead of just the first argument list. Second, it can infer parameter types of function values even if they are in the first argument list.

7.9.1 Looking Beyond the First Argument List

Overloading resolution now can take argument lists into account when choosing among a set of overloaded alternatives. For example, the following code compiles in Scala 3, while it results in an ambiguous overload error in Scala 2:

```
def f(x: Int)(y: String): Int = 0
def f(x: Int)(y: Int): Int = 0

f(3)("") // ok
```

The following code compiles as well:


```
def g(x: Int)(y: Int)(z: Int): Int = 0
def g(x: Int)(y: Int)(z: String): Int = 0

g(2)(3)(4)      // ok
g(2)(3)("")     // ok
```

To make this work, the rules for overloading resolution in [SLS §6.26.3](#) are augmented as follows:

In a situation where a function is applied to more than one argument list, if overloading resolution yields several competing alternatives when $n \geq 1$ parameter lists are taken into account, then resolution re-tried using $n + 1$ argument lists.

This change is motivated by the new language feature [extension methods](#), where emerges the need to do overload resolution based on additional argument blocks.

7.9.2 Parameter Types of Function Values

The handling of function values with missing parameter types has been improved. We can now pass such values in the first argument list of an overloaded application, provided that the remaining parameters suffice for picking a variant of the overloaded function. For example, the following code compiles in Scala 3, while it results in a missing parameter type error in Scala2:

```
def f(x: Int, f2: Int => Int) = f2(x)
def f(x: String, f2: String => String) = f2(x)
f("a", _.toUpperCase)
f(2, _ * 2)
```

To make this work, the rules for overloading resolution in [SLS §6.26.3](#) are modified as follows:

Replace the sentence

Otherwise, let S_1, \dots, S_m be the vector of types obtained by typing each argument with an undefined expected type.

with the following paragraph:

Otherwise, let S_1, \dots, S_m be the vector of known types of all argument types, where the known type of an argument E is determined as followed:

- If E is a function value $(p_1, \dots, p_n) \Rightarrow B$ that misses some parameter types, the known type of E is $(S_1, \dots, S_n) \Rightarrow ?$, where each S_i is the type of parameter p_i if it is given, or $?$ otherwise. Here $?$ stands for a wildcard type that is compatible with every other type.
- Otherwise the known type of E is the result of typing E with an undefined expected type.

A pattern matching closure

```
{ case P1 => B1 ... case P_n => B_n }
```

is treated as if it was expanded to the function value

```
x => x match { case P1 => B1 ... case P_n => B_n }
```

and is therefore also approximated with a `? => ?` type.

7.10 Match Expressions

The syntactical precedence of match expressions has been changed. `match` is still a keyword, but it is used like an alphabetical operator. This has several consequences:

1. `match` expressions can be chained:

```
xs match {
  case Nil => "empty"
  case _   => "nonempty"
} match {
  case "empty"   => 0
  case "nonempty" => 1
}
```

(or, dropping the optional braces)

```
xs match
  case Nil => "empty"
  case _   => "nonempty"
match
  case "empty"   => 0
  case "nonempty" => 1
```

2. `match` may follow a period:

```
if xs.match
  case Nil => false
  case _   => true
then "nonempty"
else "empty"
```

3. The scrutinee of a match expression must be an `InfixExpr`. Previously the scrutinee could be followed by a type ascription `: T`, but this is no longer supported. So `x : T match { ... }` now has to be written `(x: T) match { ... }`.

7.10.1 Syntax

The new syntax of match expressions is as follows.

```
InfixExpr    ::= ...
               | InfixExpr MatchClause
SimpleExpr   ::= ...
               | SimpleExpr '.' MatchClause
MatchClause  ::= 'match' '{' CaseClauses '}'
```

7.11 Vararg Splices

The syntax of vararg splices in patterns and function arguments has changed. The new syntax uses a postfix `*`, analogously to how a vararg parameter is declared.

```
val arr = Array(0, 1, 2, 3)
val lst = List(arr*)           // vararg splice argument
lst match
  case List(0, 1, xs*) => println(xs) // binds xs to Seq(2, 3)
  case List(1, _) =>           // wildcard pattern
```

The old syntax for splice arguments will be phased out.

```
/*!*/ val lst = List(arr: _*) // syntax error
lst match
  case List(0, 1, xs @ _*) // ok, equivalent to `xs*`
```

7.11.1 Syntax

```
ArgumentPatterns ::= '(' [Patterns] ')'
                  | '(' [Patterns ',' Pattern2 '*' ] ')'

ParArgumentExprs ::= '(' ['using'] ExprsInParens ')'
                  | '(' [ExprsInParens ',' PostfixExpr '*' ] ')'
```

7.11.2 Compatibility considerations

To enable cross compilation between Scala 2 and Scala 3, the compiler will accept both the old and the new syntax. Under the `-source future` setting, an error will be emitted when the old syntax is encountered. An automatic rewrite from old to new syntax is offered under `-source future-migration`.

7.12 Pattern Bindings

In Scala 2, pattern bindings in `val` definitions and for expressions are loosely typed. Potentially failing matches are still accepted at compile-time, but may influence the program's runtime behavior. From Scala 3.1 on, type checking rules will be tightened so that warnings are reported at compile-time instead.

7.12.1 Bindings in Pattern Definitions

```
val xs: List[Any] = List(1, 2, 3)
val (x: String) :: _ = xs // error: pattern's type String is more specialized
                          // than the right-hand side expression's type Any
```

This code gives a compile-time warning in Scala 3.1 (and also in Scala 3.0 under the `-source future` setting) whereas it will fail at runtime with a `ClassCastException` in Scala 2. In Scala 3.1, a pattern binding is only allowed if the pattern is irrefutable, that is, if the right-hand side's type conforms to the pattern's type. For instance, the following is OK:

```
val pair = (1, true)
val (x, y) = pair
```

Sometimes one wants to decompose data anyway, even though the pattern is refutable. For instance, if at some point one knows that a list `elems` is non-empty one might want to decompose it like this:

```
val first :: rest = elems // error
```

This works in Scala 2. In fact it is a typical use case for Scala 2's rules. But in Scala 3.1 it will give a warning. One can avoid the warning by marking the right-hand side with an `@unchecked` annotation:

```
val first :: rest = elems: @unchecked // OK
```

This will make the compiler accept the pattern binding. It might give an error at runtime instead, if the underlying assumption that `elems` can never be empty is wrong.

7.12.2 Pattern Bindings in for Expressions

Analogous changes apply to patterns in for expressions. For instance:

```
val elems: List[Any] = List((1, 2), "hello", (3, 4))
for (x, y) <- elems yield (y, x) // error: pattern's type (Any, Any) is more specialized
                                // than the right-hand side expression's type Any
```

This code gives a compile-time warning in Scala 3.1 whereas in Scala 2 the list `elems` is filtered to retain only the elements of tuple type that match the pattern `(x, y)`. The filtering functionality can be obtained in Scala 3 by prefixing the pattern with `case`:

```
for case (x, y) <- elems yield (y, x) // returns List((2, 1), (4, 3))
```

7.12.3 Syntax Changes

Generators in for expressions may be prefixed with `case`.

```
Generator ::= ['case'] Pattern1 '<-' Expr
```

7.12.4 Migration

The new syntax is supported in Scala 3.0. However, to enable smooth cross compilation between Scala 2 and Scala 3, the changed behavior and additional type checks are only enabled under the `-source future` setting. They will be enabled by default in version 3.1 of the language.

7.13 Option-less pattern matching

The implementation of pattern matching in Scala 3 was greatly simplified compared to Scala 2. From a user perspective, this means that Scala 3 generated patterns are a lot easier to debug, as variables all show up in debug modes and positions are correctly preserved.

Scala 3 supports a superset of Scala 2 [extractors](#).

7.13.1 Extractors

Extractors are objects that expose a method `unapply` or `unapplySeq`:

```
def unapply[A](x: T)(implicit x: B): U
def unapplySeq[A](x: T)(implicit x: B): U
```

Extractors that expose the method `unapply` are called fixed-arity extractors, which work with patterns of fixed arity. Extractors that expose the method `unapplySeq` are called variadic extractors, which enables variadic patterns.

7.13.1.1 Fixed-Arity Extractors Fixed-arity extractors expose the following signature:

```
def unapply[A](x: T)(implicit x: B): U
```

The type `U` conforms to one of the following matches:

- Boolean match
- Product match

Or `U` conforms to the type `R`:

```
type R = {
  def isEmpty: Boolean
  def get: S
}
```

and `S` conforms to one of the following matches:

- single match
- name-based match

The former form of `unapply` has higher precedence, and single match has higher precedence over name-based match.

A usage of a fixed-arity extractor is irrefutable if one of the following condition holds:

- `U = true`
- the extractor is used as a product match
- `U = Some[T]` (for Scala 2 compatibility)
- `U <: R` and `U <: { def isEmpty: false }`

7.13.1.2 Variadic Extractors Variadic extractors expose the following signature:

```
def unapplySeq[A](x: T)(implicit x: B): U
```

The type `U` conforms to one of the following matches:

- sequence match
- product-sequence match

Or `U` conforms to the type `R`:

```
type R = {
  def isEmpty: Boolean
}
```

```
def get: S
}
```

and `S` conforms to one of the two matches above.

The former form of `unapplySeq` has higher priority, and sequence match has higher precedence over product-sequence match.

A usage of a variadic extractor is irrefutable if one of the following conditions holds:

- the extractor is used directly as a sequence match or product-sequence match
- `U = Some[T]` (for Scala 2 compatibility)
- `U <: R` and `U <: { def isEmpty: false }`

7.13.2 Boolean Match

- `U ::= Boolean`
- Pattern-matching on exactly 0 pattern

For example:

```
object Even:
  def unapply(s: String): Boolean = s.size % 2 == 0

"even" match
  case s @ Even() => println(s"$s has an even number of characters")
  case s          => println(s"$s has an odd number of characters")

// even has an even number of characters
```

7.13.3 Product Match

- `U <: Product`
- `N > 0` is the maximum number of consecutive (parameterless `def` or `val`) `_1: P1 ... _N: PN` members in `U`
- Pattern-matching on exactly `N` patterns with types `P1, P2, ..., PN`

For example:

```
class FirstChars(s: String) extends Product:
  def _1 = s.charAt(0)
  def _2 = s.charAt(1)

  // Not used by pattern matching: Product is only used as a marker trait.
  def canEqual(that: Any): Boolean = ???
  def productArity: Int = ???
  def productElement(n: Int): Any = ???

object FirstChars:
  def unapply(s: String): FirstChars = new FirstChars(s)
```

```
"Hi!" match
  case FirstChars(char1, char2) =>
    println(s"First: $char1; Second: $char2")

// First: H; Second: i
```

7.13.4 Single Match

- If there is exactly 1 pattern, pattern-matching on 1 pattern with type U

```
class Nat(val x: Int):
  def get: Int = x
  def isEmpty = x < 0

object Nat:
  def unapply(x: Int): Nat = new Nat(x)

5 match
  case Nat(n) => println(s"$n is a natural number")
  case _      => ()

// 5 is a natural number
```

7.13.5 Name-based Match

- $N > 1$ is the maximum number of consecutive (parameterless def or val) $_1: P_1$
... $_N: P_N$ members in U
- Pattern-matching on exactly N patterns with types P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N

```
object ProdEmpty:
  def _1: Int = ???
  def _2: String = ???
  def isEmpty = true
  def unapply(s: String): this.type = this
  def get = this

"" match
  case ProdEmpty(_, _) => ???
  case _ => ()
```

7.13.6 Sequence Match

- $U <: X$, T2 and T3 conform to T1

```
type X = {
  def lengthCompare(len: Int): Int // or, `def length: Int`
  def apply(i: Int): T1
  def drop(n: Int): scala.Seq[T2]
```

```

def toSeq: scala.Seq[T3]
}

• Pattern-matching on exactly N simple patterns with types T1, T1, ..., T1, where N
  is the runtime size of the sequence, or
• Pattern-matching on >= N simple patterns and a vararg pattern (e.g., xs: _*) with
  types T1, T1, ..., T1, Seq[T1], where N is the minimum size of the sequence.

object CharList:
  def unapplySeq(s: String): Option[Seq[Char]] = Some(s.toList)

"example" match
  case CharList(c1, c2, c3, c4, _, _, _) =>
    println(s"$c1,$c2,$c3,$c4")
  case _ =>
    println("Expected *exactly* 7 characters!")

// e,x,a,m

```

7.13.7 Product-Sequence Match

- `U <: Product`
- `N > 0` is the maximum number of consecutive (parameterless `def` or `val`) `_1: P1 ... _N: PN` members in `U`
- `PN` conforms to the signature `X` defined in `Seq Pattern`
- Pattern-matching on exactly `>= N` patterns, the first `N - 1` patterns have types `P1, P2, ... P(N-1)`, the type of the remaining patterns are determined as in `Seq Pattern`.

```

class Foo(val name: String, val children: Int *)
object Foo:
  def unapplySeq(f: Foo): Option[(String, Seq[Int])] =
    Some((f.name, f.children))

def foo(f: Foo) = f match
  case Foo(name, ns : _*) =>
  case Foo(name, x, y, ns : _*) =>

```

There are plans for further simplification, in particular to factor out product match and name-based match into a single type of extractor.

7.13.8 Type testing

Abstract type testing with `ClassTag` is replaced with `TypeTest` or the alias `Typeable`.

- pattern `_: X` for an abstract type requires a `TypeTest` in scope
- pattern `x @ X()` for an unapply that takes an abstract type requires a `TypeTest` in scope

[More details on TypeTest](#)

7.14 Automatic Eta Expansion

The conversion of methods into functions has been improved and happens automatically for methods with one or more parameters.

```
def m(x: Boolean, y: String)(z: Int): List[Int]
val f1 = m
val f2 = m(true, "abc")
```

This creates two function values:

```
f1: (Boolean, String) => Int => List[Int]
f2: Int => List[Int]
```

The syntax `m _` is no longer needed and will be deprecated in the future.

7.14.1 Automatic eta-expansion and nullary methods

Automatic eta expansion does not apply to “nullary” methods that take an empty parameter list.

```
def next(): T
```

Given a simple reference to `next` does not auto-convert to a function. One has to write explicitly `() => next()` to achieve that. Once again since the `_` is going to be deprecated it's better to write it this way rather than `next _`.

The reason for excluding nullary methods from automatic eta expansion is that Scala implicitly inserts the `()` argument, which would conflict with eta expansion. Automatic `()` insertion is **limited** in Scala 3, but the fundamental ambiguity remains.

[More details](#)

7.15 Changes in Compiler Plugins

Compiler plugins are supported by Dotty (and Scala 3) since 0.9. There are two notable changes compared to `scalac`:

- No support for analyzer plugins
- Added support for research plugins

[Analyzer plugins](#) in `scalac` run during type checking and may influence normal type checking. This is a very powerful feature but for production usages, a predictable and consistent type checker is more important.

For experimentation and research, Scala 3 introduces research plugin. Research plugins are more powerful than `scalac` analyzer plugins as they let plugin authors customize the whole compiler pipeline. One can easily replace the standard typer by a custom one or create a parser for a domain-specific language. However, research plugins are only enabled for nightly or snapshot releases of Scala 3.

Common plugins that add new phases to the compiler pipeline are called standard plugins in Scala 3. In terms of features, they are similar to `scalac` plugins, despite minor changes in the API.

7.15.1 Using Compiler Plugins

Both standard and research plugins can be used with `scalac` by adding the `-Xplugin:` option:

```
scalac -Xplugin:pluginA.jar -Xplugin:pluginB.jar Test.scala
```

The compiler will examine the jar provided, and look for a property file named `plugin.properties` in the root directory of the jar. The property file specifies the fully qualified plugin class name. The format of a property file is as follows:

```
pluginClass=dividezero.DivideZero
```

This is different from `scalac` plugins that required a `scalac-plugin.xml` file.

Starting from 1.1.5, `sbt` also supports Scala 3 compiler plugins. Please refer to the [sbt documentation](#) for more information.

7.15.2 Writing a Standard Compiler Plugin

Here is the source code for a simple compiler plugin that reports integer divisions by zero as errors.

```
package dividezero

import dotty.tools.dotc.ast.Trees.*
import dotty.tools.dotc.ast.tpd
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Constants.Constant
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Contexts.Context
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Decorators.*
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.StdNames.*
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Symbols.*
import dotty.tools.dotc.plugins.{PluginPhase, StandardPlugin}
import dotty.tools.dotc.transform.{Pickler, Staging}

class DivideZero extends StandardPlugin:
  val name: String = "divideZero"
  override val description: String = "divide zero check"

  def init(options: List[String]): List[PluginPhase] =
    (new DivideZeroPhase) :: Nil

class DivideZeroPhase extends PluginPhase:
  import tpd.*

  val phaseName = "divideZero"
```

```

override val runsAfter = Set(Pickler.name)
override val runsBefore = Set(Staging.name)

override def transformApply(tree: Apply)(implicit ctx: Context): Tree =
  tree match
    case Apply(Select(rcvr, nme.DIV), List(Literal(Constant(0))))
      if rcvr.tpe <: defn.IntType =>
        report.error("dividing by zero", tree.pos)
    case _ =>
      ()
  tree
end DivideZeroPhase

```

The plugin main class (`DivideZero`) must extend the trait `StandardPlugin` and implement the method `init` that takes the plugin's options as argument and returns a list of `PluginPhases` to be inserted into the compilation pipeline.

Our plugin adds one compiler phase to the pipeline. A compiler phase must extend the `PluginPhase` trait. In order to specify when the phase is executed, we also need to specify a `runsBefore` and `runsAfter` constraints that are list of phase names.

We can now transform trees by overriding methods like `transformXXX`.

7.15.3 Writing a Research Compiler Plugin

Here is a template for research plugins.

```

import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Contexts.Context
import dotty.tools.dotc.core.Phases.Phase
import dotty.tools.dotc.plugins.ResearchPlugin

class DummyResearchPlugin extends ResearchPlugin:
  val name: String = "dummy"
  override val description: String = "dummy research plugin"

  def init(options: List[String], phases: List[List[Phase]])(implicit ctx: Context):
    phases
end DummyResearchPlugin

```

A research plugin must extend the trait `ResearchPlugin` and implement the method `init` that takes the plugin's options as argument as well as the compiler pipeline in the form of a list of compiler phases. The method can replace, remove or add any phases to the pipeline and return the updated pipeline.

7.16 Lazy Vals Initialization

Scala 3 implements [Version 6](#) of the [SIP-20](#) improved lazy vals initialization proposal.

7.16.1 Motivation

The newly proposed lazy val initialization mechanism aims to eliminate the acquisition of resources during the execution of the lazy val initializer block, thus reducing the possibility of a deadlock. The concrete deadlock scenarios that the new lazy val initialization scheme eliminates are summarized in the [SIP-20](#) document.

7.16.2 Implementation

Given a lazy field of the form:

```
class Foo {
  lazy val bar = <RHS>
}
```

The Scala 3 compiler will generate code equivalent to:

```
class Foo {
  import scala.runtime.LazyVals
  var value_0: Int = _
  var bitmap: Long = 0L
  val bitmap_offset: Long = LazyVals.getOffset(classOf[LazyCell], "bitmap")

  def bar(): Int = {
    while (true) {
      val flag = LazyVals.get(this, bitmap_offset)
      val state = LazyVals.STATE(flag, <field-id>)

      if (state == <state-3>) {
        return value_0
      } else if (state == <state-0>) {
        if (LazyVals.CAS(this, bitmap_offset, flag, <state-1>, <field-id>)) {
          try {
            val result = <RHS>
            value_0 = result
            LazyVals.setFlag(this, bitmap_offset, <state-3>, <field-id>)
            return result
          }
          catch {
            case ex =>
              LazyVals.setFlag(this, bitmap_offset, <state-0>, <field-id>)
              throw ex
          }
        }
      } else /* if (state == <state-1> || state == <state-2>) */ {
        LazyVals.wait4Notification(this, bitmap_offset, flag, <field-id>)
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```

    }
}

```

The state of the lazy val `<state-i>` is represented with 4 values: 0, 1, 2 and 3. The state 0 represents a non-initialized lazy val. The state 1 represents a lazy val that is currently being initialized by some thread. The state 2 denotes that there are concurrent readers of the lazy val. The state 3 represents a lazy val that has been initialized. `<field-id>` is the id of the lazy val. This id grows with the number of volatile lazy vals defined in the class.

7.16.3 Note on recursive lazy vals

Ideally recursive lazy vals should be flagged as an error. The current behavior for recursive lazy vals is undefined (initialization may result in a deadlock).

7.16.4 Reference

- [SIP-20](#)

7.17 Main Methods

Scala 3 offers a new way to define programs that can be invoked from the command line: A `@main` annotation on a method turns this method into an executable program. Example:

```

@main def happyBirthday(age: Int, name: String, others: String*) =
  val suffix =
    age % 100 match
    case 11 | 12 | 13 => "th"
    case _ =>
      age % 10 match
      case 1 => "st"
      case 2 => "nd"
      case 3 => "rd"
      case _ => "th"
  val bldr = new StringBuilder(s"Happy $age$suffix birthday, $name")
  for other <- others do bldr.append(" and ").append(other)
  bldr.toString

```

This would generate a main program `happyBirthday` that could be called like this

```

> scala happyBirthday 23 Lisa Peter
Happy 23rd birthday, Lisa and Peter

```

A `@main` annotated method can be written either at the top-level or in a statically accessible object. The name of the program is in each case the name of the method, without any object prefixes. The `@main` method can have an arbitrary number of parameters. For each parameter type there must be an instance of the `scala.util.CommandLineParser.FromString` type class that is used to convert an argument string to the required parameter type. The parameter list of a main method can end in a repeated parameter that then takes all remaining arguments given on the command line.

The program implemented from a `@main` method checks that there are enough arguments on the command line to fill in all parameters, and that argument strings are convertible to the required types. If a check fails, the program is terminated with an error message.

Examples:

```
> scala happyBirthday 22
```

```
Illegal command line after first argument: more arguments expected
```

```
> scala happyBirthday sixty Fred
```

```
Illegal command line: java.lang.NumberFormatException: For input string: "sixty"
```

The Scala compiler generates a program from a `@main` method `f` as follows:

- It creates a class named `f` in the package where the `@main` method was found
- The class has a static method `main` with the usual signature. It takes an `Array[String]` as argument and returns `Unit`.
- The generated `main` method calls method `f` with arguments converted using methods in the `scala.util.CommandLineParser` object.

For instance, the `happyBirthDay` method above would generate additional code equivalent to the following class:

```
final class happyBirthday:
  import scala.util.CommandLineParser as CLP
  <static> def main(args: Array[String]): Unit =
    try
      happyBirthday(
        CLP.parseArgument[Int](args, 0),
        CLP.parseArgument[String](args, 1),
        CLP.parseRemainingArguments[String](args, 2))
    catch
      case error: CLP.ParseError => CLP.showError(error)
```

Note: The `<static>` modifier above expresses that the `main` method is generated as a static method of class `happyBirthDay`. It is not available for user programs in Scala. Regular “static” members are generated in Scala using objects instead.

`@main` methods are the recommended scheme to generate programs that can be invoked from the command line in Scala 3. They replace the previous scheme to write program as objects with a special `App` parent class. In Scala 2, `happyBirthday` could be written also like this:

```
object happyBirthday extends App:
  // needs by-hand parsing of arguments vector
  ...
```

The previous functionality of `App`, which relied on the “magic” `DelayedInit` trait, is no longer available. `App` still exists in limited form for now, but it does not support command line arguments and will be deprecated in the future. If programs need to cross-build between Scala 2 and Scala 3, it is recommended to use an explicit `main` method with an `Array[String]` argument instead.

7.18 Escapes in interpolations [↗](#)

In Scala 2 there is no straightforward way to represent a single quote character `"` in a single quoted interpolation. A `\` character can't be used for that because interpolators themselves decide how to handle escaping, so the parser doesn't know whether the `"` should be escaped or used as a terminator.

In Scala 3, we can use the `$` meta character of interpolations to escape a `"` character. Example:

```
val inventor = "Thomas Edison"
val interpolation = s"as $inventor said: $"The three great essentials to achieve any
```

7.19 Imports [↗](#)

The syntax of wildcard and renaming imports (and exports) has changed.

7.19.1 Wildcard Imports

Wildcard imports are now expressed with `*` instead of underscore. Example:

```
import scala.annotation.* // imports everything in the annotation package
```

If you want to import a member named `*` specifically, you can use backticks around it.

```
object A:
  def * = ...
  def min = ...

object B:
  import A.`*` // imports just `*`

object C:
  import A.* // imports everything in A
```

7.19.2 Renaming Imports

To rename or exclude an import, we now use `as` instead of `=>`. A single renaming import no longer needs to be enclosed in braces. Examples:

```
import A.{min as minimum, `*` as multiply}
import Predef.{augmentString as _, *} // imports everything except augmentString
import scala.annotation as ann
import java as j
```

7.19.2.1 Migration To support cross-building, Scala 3.0 supports the old import syntax with `_` for wildcards and `=>` for renamings in addition to the new one. The old syntax will be dropped in a future versions. Automatic rewritings from old to new syntax are offered under settings `-source 3.1-migration -rewrite`.

7.19.2.2 Syntax

```
Import          ::= 'import' ImportExpr {' ',' ImportExpr}
ImportExpr      ::= SimpleRef {'.' id} '.' ImportSpec
ImportSpec      ::= NamedSelector
                  | WildcardSelector
                  | '{' ImportSelectors '}'
NamedSelector   ::= id ['as' (id | '_')]
WildcardSelector ::= '*' | 'given' [InfixType]
ImportSelectors ::= NamedSelector [' ',' ImportSelectors]
                  | WildCardSelector {' ',' WildCardSelector}
```


8 Dropped Features

8.1 Dropped: DelayedInit

The special handling of the `DelayedInit` trait is no longer supported.

One consequence is that the `App` class, which used `DelayedInit` is now partially broken. You can still use `App` as a simple way to set up a main program. Example:

```
object HelloWorld extends App {
  println("Hello, world!")
}
```

However, the code is now run in the initializer of the object, which on some JVM's means that it will only be interpreted. So, better not use it for benchmarking! Also, if you want to access the command line arguments, you need to use an explicit `main` method for that.

```
object Hello:
  def main(args: Array[String]) =
    println(s"Hello, ${args(0)}")
```

On the other hand, Scala 3 offers a convenient alternative to such “program” objects with `@main methods`.

8.2 Dropped: Scala 2 Macros

The previous, experimental macro system has been dropped.

Instead, there is a cleaner, more restricted system based on two complementary concepts: `inline` and `'{ ... }/${ ... }` code generation. `'{ ... }` delays the compilation of the code and produces an object containing the code, dually `${ ... }` evaluates an expression which produces code and inserts it in the surrounding `${ ... }`. In this setting, a definition marked as inlined containing a `${ ... }` is a macro, the code inside the `${ ... }` is executed at compile-time and produces code in the form of `'{ ... }`. Additionally, the contents of code can be inspected and created with a more complex reflection API as an extension of `'{ ... }/${ ... }` framework.

- `inline` has been **implemented** in Scala 3.
- Quotes `'{ ... }` and splices `${ ... }` has been **implemented** in Scala 3.
- **TASTy reflect** provides more complex tree based APIs to inspect or create quoted code.

8.3 Dropped: Existential types

Existential types using `forSome` (as in [SLS §3.2.12](#)) have been dropped. The reasons for dropping them are:

- Existential types violate a type soundness principle on which DOT and Scala 3 are constructed. That principle says that every prefix (`p`, respectively `S`) of a type selection

$p.T$ or $S\#T$ must either come from a value constructed at runtime or refer to a type that is known to have only good bounds.

- Existential types create many difficult feature interactions with other Scala constructs.
- Existential types largely overlap with path-dependent types, so the gain of having them is relatively minor.

Existential types that can be expressed using only wildcards (but not `forSome`) are still supported, but are treated as refined types. For instance, the type

```
Map[_ <: AnyRef, Int]
```

is treated as the type `Map`, where the first type parameter is upper-bounded by `AnyRef` and the second type parameter is an alias of `Int`.

When reading class files compiled with Scala 2, Scala 3 will do a best effort to approximate existential types with its own types. It will issue a warning that a precise emulation is not possible.

8.4 Dropped: General Type Projection

Scala so far allowed general type projection $T\#A$ where T is an arbitrary type and A names a type member of T .

Scala 3 disallows this if T is an abstract type (class types and type aliases are fine). This change was made because unrestricted type projection is [unsound](#).

This restriction rules out the [type-level encoding of a combinator calculus](#).

To rewrite code using type projections on abstract types, consider using path-dependent types or implicit parameters.

8.5 Dropped: Do-While

The syntax construct

```
do <body> while <cond>
```

is no longer supported. Instead, it is recommended to use the equivalent `while` loop below:

```
while ({ <body> ; <cond> }) ()
```

For instance, instead of

```
do
  i += 1
while (f(i) == 0)
```

one writes

```
while
  i += 1
```

```
f(i) == 0
do ()
```

The idea to use a block as the condition of a while also gives a solution to the “loop-and-a-half” problem. Here is another example:

```
while
  val x: Int = iterator.next
  x >= 0
do print(". ")
```

8.5.0.1 Why Drop The Construct?

- do-while is used relatively rarely and it can be expressed faithfully using just while. So there seems to be little point in having it as a separate syntax construct.
- Under the **new syntax rules** do is used as a statement continuation, which would clash with its meaning as a statement introduction.

8.6 Dropped: Procedure Syntax

Procedure syntax

```
def f() { ... }
```

has been dropped. You need to write one of the following instead:

```
def f() = { ... }
def f(): Unit = { ... }
```

Scala 3 accepts the old syntax under the `-source:3.0-migration` option. If the `-migration` option is set, it can even rewrite old syntax to new. The [Scalafix](#) tool also can rewrite procedure syntax to make it Scala 3 compatible.

8.7 Dropped: Package Objects

Package objects

```
package object p {
  val a = ...
  def b = ...
}
```

will be dropped. They are still available in Scala 3.0, but will be deprecated and removed afterwards.

Package objects are no longer needed since all kinds of definitions can now be written at the top-level. Example:

```
package p
type Labelled[T] = (String, T)
val a: Labelled[Int] = ("count", 1)
```

```
def b = a._2

case class C()

extension (x: C) def pair(y: C) = (x, y)
```

There may be several source files in a package containing such top-level definitions, and source files can freely mix top-level value, method, and type definitions with classes and objects.

The compiler generates synthetic objects that wrap top-level definitions falling into one of the following categories:

- all pattern, value, method, and type definitions,
- implicit classes and objects,
- companion objects of opaque type aliases.

If a source file `src.scala` contains such top-level definitions, they will be put in a synthetic object named `src$package`. The wrapping is transparent, however. The definitions in `src` can still be accessed as members of the enclosing package.

Note: This means that 1. The name of a source file containing wrapped top-level definitions is relevant for binary compatibility. If the name changes, so does the name of the generated object and its class.

2. A top-level main method `def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = ...` is wrapped as any other method. If it appears in a source file `src.scala`, it could be invoked from the command line using a command like `scala src$package`. Since the “program name” is mangled it is recommended to always put main methods in explicitly named objects.
3. The notion of `private` is independent of whether a definition is wrapped or not. A `private` top-level definition is always visible from everywhere in the enclosing package.
4. If several top-level definitions are overloaded variants with the same name, they must all come from the same source file.

8.8 Dropped: Early Initializers

Early initializers of the form

```
class C extends { ... } with SuperClass ...
```

have been dropped. They were rarely used, and mostly to compensate for the lack of **trait parameters**, which are now directly supported in Scala 3.

For more information, see [SLS §5.1.6](#).

8.9 Dropped: Class shadowing

Scala 2 so far allowed patterns like this:

```
class Base {
  class Ops { ... }
}

class Sub extends Base {
  class Ops { ... }
}
```

Scala 3 rejects this with the error message:

```
6 |      class Ops {  }
  |      ^
  |class Ops cannot have the same name as class Ops in class Base
  | -- class definitions cannot be overridden
```

The issue is that the two `Ops` classes look like one overrides the other, but classes in Scala 2 cannot be overridden. To keep things clean (and its internal operations consistent) the Scala 3 compiler forces you to rename the inner classes so that their names are different.

[More details](#)

8.10 Dropped: Limit 22 [↗](#)

The limits of 22 for the maximal number of parameters of function types and the maximal number of fields in tuple types have been dropped.

- Functions can now have an arbitrary number of parameters. Functions beyond `scala.Function22` are erased to a new trait `scala.runtime.FunctionXXL`.
- Tuples can also have an arbitrary number of fields. Tuples beyond `scala.Tuple22` are erased to a new class `scala.runtime.TupleXXL` (which extends the trait `scala.Product`). Furthermore, they support generic operation such as concatenation and indexing.

Both of these are implemented using arrays.

8.11 Dropped: XML literals [↗](#)

XML Literals are still supported, but will be dropped in the near future, to be replaced with [XML string interpolation](#):

```
import dotty.xml.interpolator.*

case class Person(name: String) { override def toString = name }

@main def test: Unit =
  val bill = Person("Bill")
  val john = Person("John")
  val mike = Person("Mike")
  val todoList = List(
```

```

    (bill, john, "Meeting", "Room 203, 11:00am"),
    (john, mike, "Holiday", "March 22-24")
  )
  // XML literals (to be dropped)
  val mails1 = for (from, to, heading, body) <- todoList yield
    <message>
      <from>{from}</from><to>{to}</to>
      <heading>{heading}</heading><body>{body}</body>
    </message>
  println(mails1)
  // XML string interpolation
  val mails2 = for (from, to, heading, body) <- todoList yield xml"""
    <message>
      <from>${from}</from><to>${to}</to>
      <heading>${heading}</heading><body>${body}</body>
    </message>"""
  println(mails2)

```

For more information, see the semester project [XML String Interpolator for Dotty](#) by Yassin Kammoun (2019).

8.12 Dropped: Symbol literals

Symbol literals are no longer supported.

The `scala.Symbol` class still exists, so a literal translation of the symbol literal `'xyz` is `Symbol("xyz")`. However, it is recommended to use a plain string literal `"xyz"` instead. (The `Symbol` class will be deprecated and removed in the future).

8.13 Dropped: Auto-Application

Previously an empty argument list `()` was implicitly inserted when calling a nullary method without arguments. Example:

```

def next(): T = ...
next      // is expanded to next()

```

In Scala 3, this idiom is an error.

```

next
^
missing arguments for method next

```

In Scala 3, the application syntax has to follow exactly the parameter syntax. Excluded from this rule are methods that are defined in Java or that override methods defined in Java. The reason for being more lenient with such methods is that otherwise everyone would have to write

```
xs.toString().length()
```

instead of

```
xs.toString.length
```

The latter is idiomatic Scala because it conforms to the uniform access principle. This principle states that one should be able to change an object member from a field to a non-side-effecting method and back without affecting clients that access the member. Consequently, Scala encourages to define such “property” methods without a () parameter list whereas side-effecting methods should be defined with it. Methods defined in Java cannot make this distinction; for them a () is always mandatory. So Scala fixes the problem on the client side, by allowing the parameterless references. But where Scala allows that freedom for all method references, Scala 3 restricts it to references of external methods that are not defined themselves in Scala 3.

For reasons of backwards compatibility, Scala 3 for the moment also auto-inserts () for nullary methods that are defined in Scala 2, or that override a method defined in Scala 2. It turns out that, because the correspondence between definition and call was not enforced in Scala so far, there are quite a few method definitions in Scala 2 libraries that use () in an inconsistent way. For instance, we find in `scala.math.Numeric`

```
def toInt(): Int
```

whereas `toInt` is written without parameters everywhere else. Enforcing strict parameter correspondence for references to such methods would project the inconsistencies to client code, which is undesirable. So Scala 3 opts for more leniency when type-checking references to such methods until most core libraries in Scala 2 have been cleaned up.

Stricter conformance rules also apply to overriding of nullary methods. It is no longer allowed to override a parameterless method by a nullary method or vice versa. Instead, both methods must agree exactly in their parameter lists.

```
class A:
  def next(): Int
```

```
class B extends A:
  def next: Int // overriding error: incompatible type
```

Methods overriding Java or Scala 2 methods are again exempted from this requirement.

8.13.0.1 Migrating code Existing Scala code with inconsistent parameters can still be compiled in Scala 3 under `-source 3.0-migration`. When paired with the `-rewrite` option, the code will be automatically rewritten to conform to Scala 3’s stricter checking.

8.13.0.2 Reference For more information, see [Issue #2570](#) and [PR #2716](#).

8.14 Dropped: Weak conformance

In some situations, Scala used a weak conformance relation when testing type compatibility or computing the least upper bound of a set of types. The principal motivation behind weak conformance was to make an expression like this have type `List[Double]`:

```
List(1.0, math.sqrt(3.0), 0, -3.3) // : List[Double]
```

It's “obvious” that this should be a `List[Double]`. However, without some special provision, the least upper bound of the lists's element types (`Double`, `Double`, `Int`, `Double`) would be `AnyVal`, hence the list expression would be given type `List[AnyVal]`.

A less obvious example is the following one, which was also typed as a `List[Double]`, using the weak conformance relation.

```
val n: Int = 3
val c: Char = 'X'
val d: Double = math.sqrt(3.0)
List(n, c, d) // used to be: List[Double], now: List[AnyVal]
```

Here, it is less clear why the type should be widened to `List[Double]`, a `List[AnyVal]` seems to be an equally valid – and more principled – choice.

Weak conformance applies to all “numeric” types (including `Char`), and independently of whether the expressions are literals or not. However, in hindsight, the only intended use case is for integer literals to be adapted to the type of the other expressions. Other types of numerics have an explicit type annotation embedded in their syntax (`f`, `d`, `.`, `L` or `'` for `Chars`) which ensures that their author really meant them to have that specific type).

Therefore, Scala 3 drops the general notion of weak conformance, and instead keeps one rule: `Int` literals are adapted to other numeric types if necessary.

[More details](#)

8.15 Deprecated: Nonlocal Returns

Returning from nested anonymous functions has been deprecated.

Nonlocal returns are implemented by throwing and catching `scala.runtime.NonLocalReturnExceptions`. This is rarely what is intended by the programmer. It can be problematic because of the hidden performance cost of throwing and catching exceptions. Furthermore, it is a leaky implementation: a catch-all exception handler can intercept a `NonLocalReturnException`.

A drop-in library replacement is provided in [scala.util.control.NonLocalReturns](#). Example:

```
import scala.util.control.NonLocalReturns.*

extension [T](xs: List[T])
  def has(elem: T): Boolean = returning {
    for x <- xs do
      if x == elem then throwReturn(true)
    false
  }

@main def test(): Unit =
```



```
val xs = List(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
assert(xs.has(2) == xs.contains(2))
```

8.16 Dropped: `private[this]` and `protected[this]`

The `private[this]` and `protected[this]` access modifiers are deprecated and will be phased out.

Previously, these modifiers were needed for

- avoiding the generation of getters and setters
- excluding code under a `private[this]` from variance checks. (Scala 2 also excludes `protected[this]` but this was found to be unsound and was therefore removed).

The compiler now infers for `private` members the fact that they are only accessed via `this`. Such members are treated as if they had been declared `private[this]`. `protected[this]` is dropped without a replacement.

8.17 Dropped: Wildcard Initializer

The syntax

```
var x: A = _
```

that was used to indicate an uninitialized field, has been dropped. At its place there is a special value `uninitialized` in the `scala.compiletime` package. To get an uninitialized field, you now write

```
import scala.compiletime.uninitialized
```

```
var x: A = uninitialized
```

To enable cross-compilation, `_` is still supported, but it will be dropped in a future 3.x version.

9 Experimental Features [↗](#)

9.1 Erased Definitions [↗](#)

`erased` is a modifier that expresses that some definition or expression is erased by the compiler instead of being represented in the compiled output. It is not yet part of the Scala language standard. To enable `erased`, turn on the language feature `experimental.erasedDefinitions`. This can be done with a language import

```
import scala.language.experimental.erasedDefinitions
```

or by setting the command line option `-language:experimental.erasedDefinitions`.

9.1.1 Why erased terms?

Let's describe the motivation behind erased terms with an example. In the following we show a simple state machine which can be in a state `On` or `Off`. The machine can change state from `Off` to `On` with `turnedOn` only if it is currently `Off`. This last constraint is captured with the `IsOff[S]` contextual evidence which only exists for `IsOff[Off]`. For example, not allowing calling `turnedOn` on in an `On` state as we would require an evidence of type `IsOff[On]` that will not be found.

```
sealed trait State
final class On extends State
final class Off extends State

@implicitNotFound("State must be Off")
class IsOff[S <: State]
object IsOff:
  given isOff: IsOff[Off] = new IsOff[Off]

class Machine[S <: State]:
  def turnedOn(using IsOff[S]): Machine[On] = new Machine[On]

val m = new Machine[Off]
m.turnedOn
m.turnedOn.turnedOn // ERROR
//                ^
//                State must be Off
```

Note that in the code above the actual context arguments for `IsOff` are never used at runtime; they serve only to establish the right constraints at compile time. As these terms are never used at runtime there is not real need to have them around, but they still need to be present in some form in the generated code to be able to do separate compilation and retain binary compatibility. We introduce erased terms to overcome this limitation: we are able to enforce the right constraints on terms at compile time. These terms have no run time semantics and they are completely erased.

9.1.2 How to define erased terms?

Parameters of methods and functions can be declared as erased, placing `erased` in front of a parameter list (like `given`).

```
def methodWithErasedEv(erased ev: Ev): Int = 42
```

```
val lambdaWithErasedEv: erased Ev => Int =  
  (erased ev: Ev) => 42
```

erased parameters will not be usable for computations, though they can be used as arguments to other erased parameters.

```
def methodWithErasedInt1(erased i: Int): Int =  
  i + 42 // ERROR: can not use i
```

```
def methodWithErasedInt2(erased i: Int): Int =  
  methodWithErasedInt1(i) // OK
```

Not only parameters can be marked as erased, `val` and `def` can also be marked with `erased`. These will also only be usable as arguments to erased parameters.

```
erased val erasedEvidence: Ev = ...  
methodWithErasedEv(erasedEvidence)
```

9.1.3 What happens with erased values at runtime?

As erased are guaranteed not to be used in computations, they can and will be erased.

```
// becomes def methodWithErasedEv(): Int at runtime  
def methodWithErasedEv(erased ev: Ev): Int = ...  
  
def evidence1: Ev = ...  
erased def erasedEvidence2: Ev = ... // does not exist at runtime  
erased val erasedEvidence3: Ev = ... // does not exist at runtime  
  
// evidence1 is not evaluated and no value is passed to methodWithErasedEv  
methodWithErasedEv(evidence1)
```

9.1.4 State machine with erased evidence example

The following example is an extended implementation of a simple state machine which can be in a state `On` or `Off`. The machine can change state from `Off` to `On` with `turnedOn` only if it is currently `Off`, conversely from `On` to `Off` with `turnedOff` only if it is currently `On`. These last constraint are captured with the `IsOff[S]` and `IsOn[S]` given evidence only exist for `IsOff[Off]` and `IsOn[On]`. For example, not allowing calling `turnedOff` on in an `Off` state as we would require an evidence `IsOn[Off]` that will not be found.

As the given evidences of `turnedOn` and `turnedOff` are not used in the bodies of those functions we can mark them as erased. This will remove the evidence parameters at runtime, but we would still evaluate the `isOn` and `isOff` givens that were found as arguments. As

isOn and isOff are not used except as erased arguments, we can mark them as erased, hence removing the evaluation of the isOn and isOff evidences.

```
import scala.annotation.implicitNotFound

sealed trait State
final class On extends State
final class Off extends State

@implicitNotFound("State must be Off")
class IsOff[S <: State]
object IsOff:
  // will not be called at runtime for turnedOn, the
  // compiler will only require that this evidence exists
  given IsOff[Off] = new IsOff[Off]

@implicitNotFound("State must be On")
class IsOn[S <: State]
object IsOn:
  // will not exist at runtime, the compiler will only
  // require that this evidence exists at compile time
  erased given IsOn[On] = new IsOn[On]

class Machine[S <: State] private ():
  // ev will disappear from both functions
  def turnedOn(using erased ev: IsOff[S]): Machine[On] = new Machine[On]
  def turnedOff(using erased ev: IsOn[S]): Machine[Off] = new Machine[Off]

object Machine:
  def newMachine(): Machine[Off] = new Machine[Off]

@main def test =
  val m = Machine.newMachine()
  m.turnedOn
  m.turnedOn.turnedOff

  // m.turnedOff
  //           ^
  //           State must be On

  // m.turnedOn.turnedOn
  //                   ^
  //                   State must be Off
```

Note that in [Inline](#) we discussed erasedValue and inline matches. erasedValue is implemented with erased, so the state machine above can be encoded as follows:

```
import scala.compiletime.*
```

```
sealed trait State
final class On extends State
final class Off extends State

class Machine[S <: State]:
  transparent inline def turnOn(): Machine[On] =
    inline erasedValue[S] match
      case _: Off => new Machine[On]
      case _: On  => error("Turning on an already turned on machine")

  transparent inline def turnOff(): Machine[Off] =
    inline erasedValue[S] match
      case _: On  => new Machine[Off]
      case _: Off => error("Turning off an already turned off machine")

object Machine:
  def newMachine(): Machine[Off] =
    println("newMachine")
    new Machine[Off]
end Machine

@main def test =
  val m = Machine.newMachine()
  m.turnOn()
  m.turnOn().turnOff()
  m.turnOn().turnOn() // error: Turning on an already turned on machine
```

9.1.5 Erased Classes

erased can also be used as a modifier for a class. An erased class is intended to be used only in erased definitions. If the type of a val definition or parameter is a (possibly aliased, refined, or instantiated) erased class, the definition is assumed to be erased itself. Likewise, a method with an erased class return type is assumed to be erased itself. Since given instances expand to vals and defs, they are also assumed to be erased if the type they produce is an erased class. Finally function types with erased classes as arguments turn into erased function types.

Example:

```
erased class CanRead

val x: CanRead = ...           // `x` is turned into an erased val
val y: CanRead => Int = ...    // the function is turned into an erased function
def f(x: CanRead) = ...       // `f` takes an erased parameter
def g(): CanRead = ...        // `g` is turned into an erased def
given CanRead = ...           // the anonymous given is assumed to be erased
```

The code above expands to

```
erased class CanRead
```

```
erased val x: CanRead = ...
val y: (erased CanRead) => Int = ...
def f(erased x: CanRead) = ...
erased def g(): CanRead = ...
erased given CanRead = ...
```

After erasure, it is checked that no references to values of erased classes remain and that no instances of erased classes are created. So the following would be an error:

```
val err: Any = CanRead() // error: illegal reference to erased class CanRead
```

Here, the type of `err` is `Any`, so `err` is not considered erased. Yet its initializing value is a reference to the erased class `CanRead`.

More Details

9.2 CanThrow Abilities

This page describes experimental support for exception checking in Scala 3. It is enabled by the language import

```
import language.experimental.saferExceptions
```

The reason for publishing this extension now is to get feedback on its usability. We are working on more advanced type systems that build on the general ideas put forward in the extension. Those type systems have application areas beyond checked exceptions. Exception checking is a useful starting point since exceptions are familiar to all Scala programmers and their current treatment leaves room for improvement.

9.2.1 Why Exceptions?

Exceptions are an ideal mechanism for error handling in many situations. They serve the intended purpose of propagating error conditions with a minimum of boilerplate. They cause zero overhead for the “happy path”, which means they are very efficient as long as errors arise infrequently. Exceptions are also debug friendly, since they produce stack traces that can be inspected at the handler site. So one never has to guess where an erroneous condition originated.

9.2.2 Why Not Exceptions?

However, exceptions in current Scala and many other languages are not reflected in the type system. This means that an essential part of the contract of a function - i.e. what exceptions can it produce? - is not statically checked. Most people acknowledge that this is a problem, but that so far the alternative of checked exceptions was just too painful to be considered. A good example are Java checked exceptions, which do the right thing in principle, but are widely regarded as a mistake since they are so difficult to deal with. So far, none of the successor languages that are modeled after Java or that build on the JVM has copied this

feature. See for example Anders Hejlsberg’s [statement on why C# does not have checked exceptions](#).

9.2.3 The Problem With Java’s Checked Exceptions

The main problem with Java’s checked exception model is its inflexibility, which is due to lack of polymorphism. Consider for instance the `map` function which is declared on `List[A]` like this:

```
def map[B](f: A => B): List[B]
```

In the Java model, function `f` is not allowed to throw a checked exception. So the following call would be invalid:

```
xs.map(x => if x < limit then x * x else throw LimitExceeded())
```

The only way around this would be to wrap the checked exception `LimitExceeded` in an unchecked `RuntimeException` that is caught at the callsite and unwrapped again. Something like this:

```
try
  xs.map(x => if x < limit then x * x else throw Wrapper(LimitExceeded()))
catch case Wrapper(ex) => throw ex
```

Ugh! No wonder checked exceptions in Java are not very popular.

9.2.4 Monadic Effects

So the dilemma is that exceptions are easy to use only as long as we forgo static type checking. This has caused many people working with Scala to abandon exceptions altogether and to use an error monad like `Either` instead. This can work in many situations but is not without its downsides either. It makes code a lot more complicated and harder to refactor. It means one is quickly confronted with the problem how to work with several monads. In general, dealing with one monad at a time in Scala is straightforward but dealing with several monads together is much less pleasant since monads don’t compose. A great number of techniques have been proposed, implemented, and promoted to deal with this, from monad transformers, to free monads, to tagless final. But none of these techniques is universally liked; each introduces a complicated DSL that’s hard to understand for non-experts, introduces runtime overheads, and makes debugging difficult. In the end, quite a few developers prefer to work instead with a single “super-monad” like `ZIO` that has error propagation built in alongside other aspects. This one-size fits all approach can work very nicely, even though (or is it because?) it represents an all-encompassing framework.

However, a programming language is not a framework; it has to cater also for those applications that do not fit the framework’s use cases. So there’s still a strong motivation for getting exception checking right.

9.2.5 From Effects To Abilities

Why does `map` work so poorly with Java’s checked exception model? It’s because `map`’s signature limits function arguments to not throw checked exceptions. We could try to come

up with a more polymorphic formulation of `map`. For instance, it could look like this:

```
def map[B, E](f: A => B canThrow E): List[B] canThrow E
```

This assumes a type `A canThrow E` to indicate computations of type `A` that can throw an exception of type `E`. But in practice the overhead of the additional type parameters makes this approach unappealing as well. Note in particular that we'd have to parameterize every method that takes a function argument that way, so the added overhead of declaring all these exception types looks just like a sort of ceremony we would like to avoid.

But there is a way to avoid the ceremony. Instead of concentrating on possible effects such as “this code might throw an exception”, concentrate on capabilities such as “this code needs the capability to throw an exception”. From a standpoint of expressiveness this is quite similar. But capabilities can be expressed as parameters whereas traditionally effects are expressed as some addition to result values. It turns out that this can make a big difference!

Going to the root of the word capability, it means “being able to do something”, so the “cap” prefix is really just a filler. Following Conor McBride, we will use the name `ability` from now on.

9.2.6 The CanThrow Ability

In the effects as abilities model, an effect is expressed as an (implicit) parameter of a certain type. For exceptions we would expect parameters of type `CanThrow[E]` where `E` stands for the exception that can be thrown. Here is the definition of `CanThrow`:

```
erased class CanThrow[-E <: Exception]
```

This shows another experimental Scala feature: **erased definitions**. Roughly speaking, values of an erased class do not generate runtime code; they are erased before code generation. This means that all `CanThrow` abilities are compile-time only artifacts; they do not have a runtime footprint.

Now, if the compiler sees a `throw Exc()` construct where `Exc` is a checked exception, it will check that there is an ability of type `CanThrow[Exc]` that can be summoned as a given. It's a compile-time error if that's not the case.

How can the ability be produced? There are several possibilities:

Most often, the ability is produced by having a `using` clause (`using CanThrow[Exc]`) in some enclosing scope. This roughly corresponds to a `throws` clause in Java. The analogy is even stronger since alongside `CanThrow` there is also the following type alias defined in the `scala` package:

```
infix type canThrow[R, +E <: Exception] = CanThrow[E] ?=> R
```

That is, `R canThrow E` is a context function type that takes an implicit `CanThrow[E]` parameter and that returns a value of type `R`. Therefore, a method written like this:

```
def m(x: T)(using CanThrow[E]): U
```

can alternatively be expressed like this:


```
def m(x: T): U canThrow E
```

Aside: If we rename `canThrow` to `throws` we would have a perfect analogy with Java but unfortunately `throws` is already taken in Scala 2.13.

The `CanThrow/canThrow` combo essentially propagates the `CanThrow` requirement outwards. But where are these abilities created in the first place? That's in the `try` expression. Given a `try` like this:

```
try
  body
catch
  case ex1: Ex1 => handler1
  ...
  case exN: ExN => handlerN
```

the compiler generates abilities for `CanThrow[Ex1]`, ..., `CanThrow[ExN]` that are in scope as `givens` in `body`. It does this by augmenting the `try` roughly as follows:

```
try
  erased given CanThrow[Ex1] = ???
  ...
  erased given CanThrow[ExN] = ???
  body
catch ...
```

Note that the right-hand side of all `givens` is `???` (undefined). This is OK since these `givens` are erased; they will not be executed at runtime.

9.2.7 An Example

That's it. Let's see it in action in an example. First, add an import

```
import language.experimental.saferExceptions
```

to enable exception checking. Now, define an exception `LimitExceeded` and a function `f` like this:

```
val limit = 10e9
class LimitExceeded extends Exception
def f(x: Double): Double =
  if x < limit then x * x else throw LimitExceeded()
```

You'll get this error message:

```
9 | if x < limit then x * x else throw LimitExceeded()
  |                                     ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
  |The ability to throw exception LimitExceeded is missing.
  |The ability can be provided by one of the following:
  | - A using clause `(using CanThrow[LimitExceeded])`
  | - A `canThrow` clause in a result type such as `X canThrow LimitExceeded`
  | - an enclosing `try` that catches LimitExceeded
```

```
|
|The following import might fix the problem:
|
| import unsafeExceptions.canThrowAny
```

As the error message implies, you have to declare that `f` needs the ability to throw a `LimitExceeded` exception. The most concise way to do so is to add a `canThrow` clause:

```
def f(x: Double): Double canThrow LimitExceeded =
  if x < limit then x * x else throw LimitExceeded()
```

Now put a call to `f` in a `try` that catches `LimitExceeded`:

```
@main def test(xs: Double*) =
  try println(xs.map(f).sum)
  catch case ex: LimitExceeded => println("too large")
```

Run the program with some inputs:

```
> scala test 1 2 3
14.0
> scala test
0.0
> scala test 1 2 3 1000000000000
too large
```

Everything typechecks and works as expected. But wait - we have called `map` without any ceremony! How did that work? Here's how the compiler expands the `test` function:

```
// compiler-generated code
@main def test(xs: Double*) =
  try
    erased given ctl: CanThrow[LimitExceeded] = ???
    println(xs.map(x => f(x)(using ctl)).sum)
  catch case ex: LimitExceeded => println("too large")
```

The `CanThrow[LimitExceeded]` ability is passed in a synthesized `using` clause to `f`, since `f` requires it. Then the resulting closure is passed to `map`. The signature of `map` does not have to account for effects. It takes a closure as always, but that closure may refer to abilities in its free variables. This means that `map` is already effect polymorphic even though we did not change its signature at all. So the takeaway is that the effects as abilities model naturally provides for effect polymorphism whereas this is something that other approaches struggle with.

9.2.8 Gradual Typing Via Imports

Another advantage is that the model allows a gradual migration from current unchecked exceptions to safer exceptions. Imagine for a moment that `experimental.saferExceptions` is turned on everywhere. There would be lots of code that breaks since functions have not yet been properly annotated with `canThrow`. But it's easy to create an escape hatch that lets us ignore the breakages for a while: simply add the import

```
import scala.unsafeExceptions.canThrowAny
```

This will provide the `CanThrow` ability for any exception, and thereby allow all throws and all other calls, no matter what the current state of `canThrow` declarations is. Here's the definition of `canThrowAny`:

```
package scala
object unsafeExceptions:
  given canThrowAny: CanThrow[Exception] = ???
```

Of course, defining a global ability like this amounts to cheating. But the cheating is useful for gradual typing. The import could be used to migrate existing code, or to enable more fluid explorations of code without regard for complete exception safety. At the end of these migrations or explorations the import should be removed.

9.2.9 Scope Of the Extension

To summarize, the extension for safer exception checking consists of the following elements:

- It adds to the standard library the class `scala.CanThrow`, the type `scala.canThrow`, and the `scala.unsafeExceptions` object, as they were described above.
- It augments the type checking of `throw` by demanding a `CanThrow` ability or the thrown exception.
- It augments the type checking of `try` by providing `CanThrow` abilities for every caught exception.

That's all. It's quite remarkable that one can do exception checking in this way without any special additions to the type system. We just need regular givens and context functions. Any runtime overhead is eliminated using `erased`.

9.2.10 Caveats

Our ability model allows to declare and check the thrown exceptions of first-order code. But as it stands, it does not give us enough mechanism to enforce the absence of abilities for arguments to higher-order functions. Consider a variant `pureMap` of `map` that should enforce that its argument does not throw exceptions or have any other effects (maybe because wants to reorder computations transparently). Right now we cannot enforce that since the function argument to `pureMap` can capture arbitrary abilities in its free variables without them showing up in its type. One possible way to address this would be to introduce a pure function type (maybe written `A -> B`). Pure functions are not allowed to close over abilities. Then `pureMap` could be written like this:

```
def pureMap(f: A -> B): List[B]
```

Another area where the lack of purity requirements shows up is when abilities escape from bounded scopes. Consider the following function

```
def escaped(xs: Double*): () => Int =
  try () => xs.map(f).sum
  catch case ex: LimitExceeded => -1
```

With the system presented here, this function typechecks, with expansion

```
// compiler-generated code
def escaped(xs: Double*): () => Int =
  try
    given ctl: CanThrow[LimitExceeded] = ???
    () => xs.map(x => f(x)(using ctl)).sum
  catch case ex: LimitExceeded => -1
```

But if you try to call `escaped` like this

```
val g = escaped(1, 2, 1000000000)
g()
```

the result will be a `LimitExceeded` exception thrown at the second line where `g` is called. What's missing is that `try` should enforce that the abilities it generates do not escape as free variables in the result of its body. It makes sense to describe such scoped effects as ephemeral abilities - they have lifetimes that cannot be extended to delayed code in a lambda.

9.2.11 Outlook

We are working on a new class of type system that supports ephemeral abilities by tracking the free variables of values. Once that research matures, it will hopefully be possible to augment the language so that we can enforce the missing properties.

And it would have many other applications besides: Exceptions are a special case of algebraic effects, which has been a very active research area over the last 20 years and is finding its way into programming languages (e.g. Koka, Eff, Multicore OCaml, Unison). In fact, algebraic effects have been characterized as being equivalent to exceptions with an additional resume operation. The techniques developed here for exceptions can probably be generalized to other classes of algebraic effects.

But even without these additional mechanisms, exception checking is already useful as it is. It gives a clear path forward to make code that uses exceptions safer, better documented, and easier to refactor. The only loophole arises for scoped abilities - here we have to verify manually that these abilities do not escape. Specifically, a `try` always has to be placed in the same computation stage as the throws that it enables.

Put another way: If the status quo is 0% static checking since 100% is too painful, then an alternative that gives you 95% static checking with great ergonomics looks like a win. And we might still get to 100% in the future.

10 Scala 3 Syntax Summary

The following description of Scala tokens uses literal characters ‘c’ when referring to the ASCII fragment \u0000 – \u007F.

Unicode escapes are used to represent the [Unicode character](#) with the given hexadecimal code:

```
UnicodeEscape ::= ‘\’ ‘u’ {‘u’} hexDigit hexDigit hexDigit hexDigit
hexDigit      ::= ‘0’ | ... | ‘9’ | ‘A’ | ... | ‘F’ | ‘a’ | ... | ‘f’
```

Informal descriptions are typeset as “some comment”.

10.0.0.1 Lexical Syntax The lexical syntax of Scala is given by the following grammar in EBNF form.

```
whiteSpace      ::= ‘\u0020’ | ‘\u0009’ | ‘\u000D’ | ‘\u000A’
upper           ::= ‘A’ | ... | ‘Z’ | ‘\_$’ | ‘_’ “... and Unicode category Lu”
lower           ::= ‘a’ | ... | ‘z’ “... and Unicode category Ll”
letter          ::= upper | lower “... and Unicode categories Lo, Lt, Nl”
digit           ::= ‘0’ | ... | ‘9’
paren           ::= ‘(’ | ‘)’ | ‘[’ | ‘]’ | ‘{’ | ‘}’ | ‘‘(’ | ‘‘[’ | ‘‘{’
delim           ::= ‘`’ | ‘’’’ | ‘"""’ | ‘.’ | ‘;’ | ‘,’
opchar          ::= “printableChar not matched by (whiteSpace | upper |
                    lower | letter | digit | paren | delim | opchar |
                    Unicode_Sm | Unicode_So)”
printableChar    ::= “all characters in [\u0020, \u007F] inclusive”
charEscapeSeq    ::= ‘\’ (‘b’ | ‘t’ | ‘n’ | ‘f’ | ‘r’ | ‘"’ | ‘'’ | ‘\’)

op              ::= opchar {opchar}
varid           ::= lower idrest
alphaid         ::= upper idrest
                | varid
plainid         ::= alphaid
                | op
id              ::= plainid
                | ‘`’ { charNoBackQuoteOrNewline | UnicodeEscape | charEscapeSeq }
idrest          ::= {letter | digit} [‘_’ op]
quoteId         ::= ‘’’ alphaid

integerLiteral   ::= (decimalNumeral | hexNumeral) [‘L’ | ‘l’]
decimalNumeral   ::= ‘0’ | nonZeroDigit [{digit | ‘_’} digit]
hexNumeral       ::= ‘0’ (‘x’ | ‘X’) hexDigit [{hexDigit | ‘_’} hexDigit]
nonZeroDigit     ::= ‘1’ | ... | ‘9’

floatingPointLiteral
                ::= [decimalNumeral] ‘.’ digit [{digit | ‘_’} digit] [exponentPart]
                | decimalNumeral exponentPart [floatType]
```

```

      | decimalNumeral floatType
exponentPart ::= ('E' | 'e') ['+' | '-'] digit [{digit | '_' } digit]
floatType    ::= 'F' | 'f' | 'D' | 'd'

booleanLiteral ::= 'true' | 'false'

characterLiteral ::= ''' (printableChar | charEscapeSeq) '''

stringLiteral ::= """ {stringElement} """
               | """" multiLineChars """"
stringElement ::= printableChar \ (""" | '\')
               | UnicodeEscape
               | charEscapeSeq
multiLineChars ::= {['""'] ['""'] char \ ""'} {'''}
processedStringLiteral
               ::= alphaId """ [{'\'} processedStringPart | '\\ ' | '\ " '} """
               | alphaId """" [{['""'] ['""'] char \ (""" | '$') | escape} {'''} ""
processedStringPart
               ::= printableChar \ (""" | '$' | '\') | escape
escape          ::= '$$'
               | '$' letter { letter | digit }
               | '{' Block [';' whiteSpace stringFormat whiteSpace] '}'
stringFormat    ::= {printableChar \ (""" | '}' | ' ' | '\t' | '\n')}

symbolLiteral   ::= ''' plainid // until 2.13

comment         ::= '/*' "any sequence of characters; nested comments are allowed" '
               | '//' "any sequence of characters up to end of line"

nl              ::= "new line character"
semi           ::= ';' | nl {nl}

```

10.0.1 Optional Braces

The lexical analyzer also inserts indent and outdent tokens that represent regions of indented code at certain points.

In the context-free productions below we use the notation `<<< ts >>>` to indicate a token sequence `ts` that is either enclosed in a pair of braces `{ ts }` or that constitutes an indented region `indent ts outdent`. Analogously, the notation `:<<< ts >>>` indicates a token sequence `ts` that is either enclosed in a pair of braces `{ ts }` or that constitutes an indented region `indent ts outdent` that follows a `:` at the end of a line.

```

<<< ts >>>    ::= '{' ts '}'
               | indent ts outdent
:<<< ts >>>    ::= [nl] '{' ts '}'
               | `:` indent ts outdent

```

10.0.2 Keywords

10.0.2.1 Regular keywords

abstract	case	catch	class	def	do	else
enum	export	extends	false	final	finally	for
given	if	implicit	import	lazy	match	new
null	object	override	package	private	protected	return
sealed	super	then	throw	trait	true	try
type	val	var	while	with	yield	
:	=	<-	=>	<:	:>	#
@	=>>	?=>				

10.0.2.2 Soft keywords

as derives end extension infix inline opaque open transparent using | * +

See the [separate section on soft keywords](#) for additional details on where a soft keyword is recognized.

10.0.3 Context-free Syntax

The context-free syntax of Scala is given by the following EBNF grammar:

10.0.3.1 Literals and Paths

```

SimpleLiteral ::= ['-'] integerLiteral
               | ['-'] floatingPointLiteral
               | booleanLiteral
               | characterLiteral
               | stringLiteral
Literal       ::= SimpleLiteral
               | processedStringLiteral
               | symbolLiteral
               | 'null'

QualId        ::= id {'.' id}
ids           ::= id {',' id}

SimpleRef     ::= id
               | [id '.' ] 'this'
               | [id '.' ] 'super' [ClassQualifier] '.' id

ClassQualifier ::= '[' id ']'

```

10.0.3.2 Types

```

Type ::= FunType
      | HkTypeParamClause '=>>' Type

```

```

      | FunParamClause '=>' Type
      | MatchType
      | InfixType
FunType      ::= FunTypeArgs ('=>' | '?=>') Type
              | HKTypeParamClause '=>' Type
FunTypeArgs ::= InfixType
              | '(' [ FunArgTypes ] ')'
              | FunParamClause
FunParamClause ::= '(' TypedFunParam {',' TypedFunParam } ')'
TypedFunParam  ::= id ':' Type
MatchType      ::= InfixType `match` <<< TypeCaseClauses >>>
InfixType      ::= RefinedType {id [nl] RefinedType}
RefinedType    ::= AnnotType {[nl] Refinement}
AnnotType      ::= SimpleType {Annotation}

SimpleType    ::= SimpleLiteral
              | '?' TypeBounds
              | id
              | Singleton '.' id
              | Singleton '.' 'type'
              | '(' Types ')'
              | Refinement
              | '$' '{' Block '}'
              | SimpleType1 TypeArgs
              | SimpleType1 '#' id
Singleton     ::= SimpleRef
              | SimpleLiteral
              | Singleton '.' id

FunArgType    ::= Type
              | '=>' Type
FunArgTypes   ::= FunArgType { ',' FunArgType }
ParamType     ::= ['=>'] ParamValueType
ParamValueType ::= Type ['*']
TypeArgs      ::= '[' Types ']'
Refinement    ::= '{' [RefineDcl] {semi [RefineDcl]} '}'
TypeBounds    ::= ['>:' Type] ['<:' Type]
TypeParamBounds ::= TypeBounds {':' Type}
Types         ::= Type {',' Type}

```

10.0.3.3 Expressions

```

Expr      ::= FunParams ('=>' | '?=>') Expr
           | Expr1
BlockResult ::= FunParams ('=>' | '?=>') Block
           | Expr1
FunParams  ::= Bindings

```



```

      | id
      | '_'
Expr1 ::= ['inline'] 'if' '(' Expr ')' {nl} Expr [[semi] 'else' Expr]
      | ['inline'] 'if' Expr 'then' Expr [[semi] 'else' Expr]
      | 'while' '(' Expr ')' {nl} Expr
      | 'while' Expr 'do' Expr
      | 'try' Expr Catches ['finally' Expr]
      | 'try' Expr ['finally' Expr]
      | 'throw' Expr
      | 'return' [Expr]
      | ForExpr
      | HkTypeParamClause '=>' Expr
      | [SimpleExpr '.'] id '=' Expr
      | SimpleExpr1 ArgumentExprs '=' Expr
      | PostfixExpr [Ascription]
      | 'inline' InfixExpr MatchClause
Ascription ::= ':' InfixType
           | ':' Annotation {Annotation}
Catches    ::= 'catch' (Expr | ExprCaseClause)
PostfixExpr ::= InfixExpr [id] -- only
InfixExpr  ::= PrefixExpr
           | InfixExpr id [nl] InfixExpr
           | InfixExpr MatchClause
MatchClause ::= 'match' <<< CaseClauses >>>
PrefixExpr  ::= ['- ' | '+ ' | '~ ' | '!'] SimpleExpr
SimpleExpr  ::= SimpleRef
           | Literal
           | '_'
           | BlockExpr
           | '$' '{' Block '}'
           | Quoted
           | quoteId -- only
           | 'new' ConstrApp {'with' ConstrApp} [TemplateBody]
           | 'new' TemplateBody
           | '(' ExprsInParens ')'
           | SimpleExpr '.' id
           | SimpleExpr '.' MatchClause
           | SimpleExpr TypeArgs
           | SimpleExpr ArgumentExprs
Quoted      ::= ''' '{' Block '}'
           | ''' '[' Type ']'
ExprsInParens ::= ExprInParens {' ,' ExprInParens}
ExprInParens  ::= PostfixExpr ':' Type
           | Expr
ParArgumentExprs ::= '(' ['using'] ExprsInParens ')'
                 | '(' [ExprsInParens ','] PostfixExpr '*' ')'

```

```

ArgumentExprs ::= ParArgumentExprs
                | BlockExpr
BlockExpr      ::= <<< (CaseClauses | Block) >>>
Block          ::= {BlockStat semi} [BlockResult]
BlockStat      ::= Import
                | {Annotation {nl}} {LocalModifier} Def
                | Extension
                | Expr1
                | EndMarker

ForExpr        ::= 'for' ((' Enumerators ') | '{' Enumerators '}') {nl} ['yield'
                | 'for' Enumerators ('do' Expr | 'yield' Expr)
Enumerators    ::= Generator {semi Enumerator | Guard}
Enumerator     ::= Generator
                | Guard
                | Pattern1 '=' Expr
Generator      ::= ['case'] Pattern1 '<-' Expr
Guard          ::= 'if' PostfixExpr

CaseClauses    ::= CaseClause { CaseClause }
CaseClause     ::= 'case' Pattern [Guard] '=>' Block
ExprCaseClause ::= 'case' Pattern [Guard] '=>' Expr
TypeCaseClauses ::= TypeCaseClause { TypeCaseClause }
TypeCaseClause ::= 'case' InfixType '=>' Type [nl]

Pattern        ::= Pattern1 { '|' Pattern1 }
Pattern1       ::= Pattern2 [':' RefinedType]
Pattern2       ::= [id '@'] InfixPattern ['*']
InfixPattern   ::= SimplePattern { id [nl] SimplePattern }
SimplePattern  ::= PatVar
                | Literal
                | '(' [Patterns] ')'
                | Quoted
                | SimplePattern1 [TypeArgs] [ArgumentPatterns]
                | 'given' RefinedType
SimplePattern1 ::= SimpleRef
                | SimplePattern1 '.' id
PatVar         ::= varid
                | '_'
Patterns       ::= Pattern {',' Pattern}
ArgumentPatterns ::= '(' [Patterns] ')'
                | '(' [Patterns ',' ] PatVar '*' ')'

```

10.0.3.4 Type and Value Parameters

```

ClsTypeParamClause ::= '[' ClsTypeParam {',' ClsTypeParam} ']'
ClsTypeParam       ::= {Annotation} ['+' | '-'] id [HkTypeParamClause] TypeParamBounds

```

```

DefTypeParamClause ::= '[' DefTypeParam {',' DefTypeParam} ']'
DefTypeParam       ::= {Annotation} id [HkTypeParamClause] TypeParamBounds

TypTypeParamClause ::= '[' TypTypeParam {',' TypTypeParam} ']'
TypTypeParam       ::= {Annotation} id [HkTypeParamClause] TypeBounds

HkTypeParamClause ::= '[' HkTypeParam {',' HkTypeParam} ']'
HkTypeParam       ::= {Annotation} ['+' | '-'] (id [HkTypeParamClause] | '_') TypeBou

ClsParamClauses   ::= {ClsParamClause} [[nl] '(' ['implicit'] ClsParams ')']
ClsParamClause    ::= [nl] '(' ClsParams ')'
                  | [nl] '(' 'using' (ClsParams | FunArgTypes) ')'
ClsParams         ::= ClsParam {',' ClsParam}
ClsParam          ::= {Annotation} [{Modifier} ('val' | 'var') | 'inline'] Param
Param             ::= id ':' ParamType ['=' Expr]

DefParamClauses   ::= {DefParamClause} [[nl] '(' ['implicit'] DefParams ')']
DefParamClause    ::= [nl] '(' DefParams ')' | UsingParamClause
UsingParamClause  ::= [nl] '(' 'using' (DefParams | FunArgTypes) ')'
DefParams         ::= DefParam {',' DefParam}
DefParam          ::= {Annotation} ['inline'] Param

```

10.0.3.5 Bindings and Imports

```

Bindings          ::= '(' [Binding {',' Binding}] ')'
Binding           ::= (id | '_') [':' Type]

Modifier          ::= LocalModifier
                  | AccessModifier
                  | 'override'
                  | 'opaque'
LocalModifier     ::= 'abstract'
                  | 'final'
                  | 'sealed'
                  | 'open'
                  | 'implicit'
                  | 'lazy'
                  | 'inline'
AccessModifier    ::= ('private' | 'protected') [AccessQualifier]
AccessQualifier   ::= '[' id ']'

Annotation        ::= '@' SimpleType1 {ParArgumentExprs}

Import            ::= 'import' ImportExpr {',' ImportExpr}
Export            ::= 'export' ImportExpr {',' ImportExpr}
ImportExpr        ::= SimpleRef { '.' id } '.' ImportSpec

```

```

      | SimpleRef 'as' id
ImportSpec ::= NamedSelector
      | WildcardSelector
      | '{' ImportSelectors '}'
NamedSelector ::= id ['as' (id | '_')]
WildcardSelector ::= '*' | 'given' [InfixType]
ImportSelectors ::= NamedSelector [',' ImportSelectors]
      | WildCardSelector {' ',' WildCardSelector}

EndMarker ::= 'end' EndMarkerTag -- when followed by EOL
EndMarkerTag ::= id | 'if' | 'while' | 'for' | 'match' | 'try'
      | 'new' | 'this' | 'given' | 'extension' | 'val'

```

10.0.3.6 Declarations and Definitions

```

RefinedDcl ::= 'val' ValDcl
      | 'def' DefDcl
      | 'type' {nl} TypeDcl
Dcl ::= RefinedDcl
      | 'var' VarDcl
ValDcl ::= ids ':' Type
VarDcl ::= ids ':' Type
DefDcl ::= DefSig ':' Type
DefSig ::= id [DefTypeParamClause] DefParamClauses
TypeDcl ::= id [TypeParamClause] {FunParamClause} TypeBounds ['=' Type]

Def ::= 'val' PatDef
      | 'var' PatDef
      | 'def' DefDef
      | 'type' {nl} TypeDcl
      | TmplDef
PatDef ::= ids [':' Type] '=' Expr
      | Pattern2 [':' Type] '=' Expr
DefDef ::= DefSig [':' Type] '=' Expr
      | 'this' DefParamClause DefParamClauses '=' ConstrExpr

TmplDef ::= ([ 'case' ] 'class' | 'trait') ClassDef
      | [ 'case' ] 'object' ObjectDef
      | 'enum' EnumDef
      | 'given' GivenDef
ClassDef ::= id ClassConstr [Template]
ClassConstr ::= [ClsTypeParamClause] [ConstrMods] ClsParamClauses
ConstrMods ::= {Annotation} [AccessModifier]
ObjectDef ::= id [Template]
EnumDef ::= id ClassConstr InheritClauses EnumBody
GivenDef ::= [GivenSig] (AnnotType ['=' Expr] | StructuralInstance)
GivenSig ::= [id] [DefTypeParamClause] {UsingParamClause} ':' -- one

```

```

StructuralInstance ::= ConstrApp {'with' ConstrApp} ['with' TemplateBody]
Extension          ::= 'extension' [DefTypeParamClause] '(' DefParam ')'
                  {UsingParamClause} ExtMethods
ExtMethods         ::= ExtMethod | [nl] <<< ExtMethod {semi ExtMethod} >>>
ExtMethod          ::= {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} 'def' DefDef
Template           ::= InheritClauses [TemplateBody]
InheritClauses     ::= ['extends' ConstrApps] ['derives' QualId {' ',' QualId}]
ConstrApps         ::= ConstrApp {' ',' ConstrApp} | {'with' ConstrApp}
ConstrApp          ::= SimpleType1 {Annotation} {ParArgumentExprs}
ConstrExpr         ::= SelfInvocation
                  | <<< SelfInvocation {semi BlockStat} >>>
SelfInvocation     ::= 'this' ArgumentExprs {ArgumentExprs}

TemplateBody       ::= :<<< [SelfType] TemplateStat {semi TemplateStat} >>>
TemplateStat       ::= Import
                  | Export
                  | {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} Def
                  | {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} Dcl
                  | Extension
                  | Expr1
                  | EndMarker
                  |
SelfType           ::= id [':' InfixType] '=>'
                  | 'this' ':' InfixType '=>'

EnumBody           ::= :<<< [SelfType] EnumStat {semi EnumStat} >>>
EnumStat           ::= TemplateStat
                  | {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} EnumCase
EnumCase           ::= 'case' (id ClassConstr ['extends' ConstrApps] | ids)

TopStats           ::= TopStat {semi TopStat}
TopStat            ::= Import
                  | Export
                  | {Annotation [nl]} {Modifier} Def
                  | Extension
                  | Packaging
                  | PackageObject
                  | EndMarker
                  |
Packaging           ::= 'package' QualId :<<< TopStats >>>
PackageObject       ::= 'package' 'object' ObjectDef

CompilationUnit    ::= {'package' QualId semi} TopStats

```

11 Appendix

11.1 Context Functions - More Details

11.1.1 Syntax

```

Type          ::= ...
                | FunArgTypes '?=>' Type
Expr          ::= ...
                | FunParams '?=>' Expr

```

Context function types associate to the right, e.g. $S \Rightarrow T \Rightarrow U$ is the same as $S \Rightarrow (T \Rightarrow U)$.

11.1.2 Implementation

Context function types are shorthands for class types that define `apply` methods with context parameters. Specifically, the N-ary function type

$T_1, \dots, T_N \Rightarrow R$ is a shorthand for the class type `ContextFunctionN[T1, ..., TN, R]`. Such class types are assumed to have the following definitions, for any value of $N \geq 1$:

```

package scala
trait ContextFunctionN[-T1, ..., -TN, +R]:
  def apply(using x1: T1, ..., xN: TN): R

```

Context function types erase to normal function types, so these classes are generated on the fly for typechecking, but not realized in actual code.

Context function literals $(x_1: T_1, \dots, x_n: T_n) \Rightarrow e$ map context parameters x_i of types T_i to the result of evaluating the expression e . The scope of each context parameter x_i is e . The parameters must have pairwise distinct names.

If the expected type of the context function literal is of the form `scala.ContextFunctionN[S1, ..., Sn, R]`, the expected type of e is R and the type T_i of any of the parameters x_i can be omitted, in which case $T_i = S_i$ is assumed. If the expected type of the context function literal is some other type, all context parameter types must be explicitly given, and the expected type of e is undefined. The type of the context function literal is `scala.ContextFunctionN[S1, ..., Sn, T]`, where T is the widened type of e . T must be equivalent to a type which does not refer to any of the context parameters x_i .

The context function literal is evaluated as the instance creation expression

```

new scala.ContextFunctionN[T1, ..., Tn, T]:
  def apply(using x1: T1, ..., xn: Tn): T = e

```

A context parameter may also be a wildcard represented by an underscore `_`. In that case, a fresh name for the parameter is chosen arbitrarily.

Note: The closing paragraph of the [Anonymous Functions section](#) of Scala 2.13 is subsumed by context function types and should be removed.

Context function literals $(x_1: T_1, \dots, x_n: T_n) \Rightarrow e$ are automatically created for any expression e whose expected type is `scala.ContextFunctionN[T1, ..., Tn, R]`, unless e is itself a context function literal. This is analogous to the automatic insertion of `scala.Function0` around expressions in by-name argument position.

Context function types generalize to $N > 22$ in the same way that function types do, see [the corresponding documentation](#).

11.1.3 Examples

See the section on Expressiveness from [Simplicity: foundations and applications of implicit function types](#).

11.1.3.1 Type Checking After desugaring no additional typing rules are required for context function types.

11.2 Opaque Type Aliases: More Details

11.2.0.1 Syntax

```
Modifier ::= ...
          | 'opaque'
```

`opaque` is a **soft modifier**. It can still be used as a normal identifier when it is not in front of a definition keyword.

Opaque type aliases must be members of classes, traits, or objects, or they are defined at the top-level. They cannot be defined in local blocks.

11.2.0.2 Type Checking The general form of a (monomorphic) opaque type alias is

```
opaque type T >: L <: U = R
```

where the lower bound L and the upper bound U may be missing, in which case they are assumed to be `scala.Nothing` and `scala.Any`, respectively. If bounds are given, it is checked that the right-hand side R conforms to them, i.e. $L <: R$ and $R <: U$. F-bounds are not supported for opaque type aliases: T is not allowed to appear in L or U .

Inside the scope of the alias definition, the alias is transparent: T is treated as a normal alias of R . Outside its scope, the alias is treated as the abstract type

```
type T >: L <: U
```

A special case arises if the opaque type alias is defined in an object. Example:

```
object o:
  opaque type T = R
```

In this case we have inside the object (also for non-opaque types) that `o.T` is equal to T or its expanded form `o.this.T`. Equality is understood here as mutual subtyping, i.e. $o.T <: o.this.T$ and $o.this.T <: T$. Furthermore, we have by the rules of opaque type aliases

that `o.this.T` equals `R`. The two equalities compose. That is, inside `o`, it is also known that `o.T` is equal to `R`. This means the following code type-checks:

```
object o:
  opaque type T = Int
  val x: Int = id(2)
def id(x: o.T): o.T = x
```

11.2.0.3 Type Parameters of Opaque Types Opaque type aliases can have a single type parameter list. The following aliases are well-formed

```
opaque type F[T] = (T, T)
opaque type G = [T] =>> List[T]
```

but the following are not:

```
opaque type BadF[T] = [U] =>> (T, U)
opaque type BadG = [T] =>> [U] => (T, U)
```

11.2.0.4 Translation of Equality Comparing two values of opaque type with `==` or `!=` normally uses universal equality, unless another overloaded `==` or `!=` operator is defined for the type. To avoid boxing, the operation is mapped after type checking to the (in-)equality operator defined on the underlying type. For instance,

```
opaque type T = Int

...
val x: T
val y: T
x == y    // uses Int equality for the comparison.
```

11.2.0.5 Top-level Opaque Types An opaque type alias on the top-level is transparent in all other top-level definitions in the sourcefile where it appears, but is opaque in nested objects and classes and in all other source files. Example:

```
// in test1.scala
opaque type A = String
val x: A = "abc"

object obj:
  val y: A = "abc" // error: found: "abc", required: A

// in test2.scala
def z: String = x // error: found: A, required: String
```

This behavior becomes clear if one recalls that top-level definitions are placed in their own synthetic object. For instance, the code in `test1.scala` would expand to

```
object test1$package:
  opaque type A = String
```



```
val x: A = "abc"

object obj:
  val y: A = "abc" // error: cannot assign "abc" to opaque type alias A
```

The opaque type alias `A` is transparent in its scope, which includes the definition of `x`, but not the definitions of `obj` and `y`.

11.2.0.6 Relationship to SIP 35 Opaque types in Scala 3 are an evolution from what is described in [Scala SIP 35](#).

The differences compared to the state described in this SIP are:

1. Opaque type aliases cannot be defined anymore in local statement sequences.
2. The scope where an opaque type alias is visible is now the whole scope where it is defined, instead of just a companion object.
3. The notion of a companion object for opaque type aliases has been dropped.
4. Opaque type aliases can have bounds.
5. The notion of type equality involving opaque type aliases has been clarified. It was strengthened with respect to the previous implementation of SIP 35.

11.3 Named Type Arguments - More Details

11.3.1 Syntax

The addition to the grammar is:

```
SimpleExpr1      ::= ...
                  | SimpleExpr (TypeArgs | NamedTypeArgs)
NamedTypeArgs    ::= '[' NamedTypeArg {',' NamedTypeArg} ']'
NamedTypeArg     ::= id '=' Type
```

Note in particular that named arguments cannot be passed to type constructors:

```
class C[T]

val x: C[T = Int] = // error
  new C[T = Int] // error

class E extends C[T = Int] // error
```

11.3.2 Compatibility considerations

Named type arguments do not have an impact on binary compatibility, but they have an impact on source compatibility: if the name of a method type parameter is changed, any existing named reference to this parameter will break. This means that the names of method type parameters are now part of the public API of a library.

(Unimplemented proposal: to mitigate this, [scala.deprecatedName](#) could be extended to also be applicable on method type parameters.)

11.4 Parameter Untupling - More Details [↗](#)

11.4.1 Motivation

Say you have a list of pairs

```
val xs: List[(Int, Int)]
```

and you want to map `xs` to a list of `Int`s so that each pair of numbers is mapped to their sum. Previously, the best way to do this was with a pattern-matching decomposition:

```
xs.map {
  case (x, y) => x + y
}
```

While correct, this is inconvenient. Instead, we propose to write it the following way:

```
xs.map {
  (x, y) => x + y
}
```

or, equivalently:

```
xs.map(_ + _)
```

Generally, a function value with $n > 1$ parameters can be converted to a function with tupled arguments if the expected type is a unary function type of the form $((T_1, \dots, T_n)) \Rightarrow U$.

11.4.2 Type Checking

The type checking happens in two steps:

1. Check whether parameter untupling is feasible
2. Adapt the function and type check it

11.4.2.1 Feasibility Check Suppose a function `f` of the form $(p_1, \dots, p_n) \Rightarrow e$ (where $n > 1$), with p_1, \dots, p_n as parameters and `e` as function body.

If the expected type for checking `f` is a fully defined function type of the form $\text{TupleN}[T_1, \dots, T_n] \Rightarrow R$ (or an equivalent SAM-type), where each type T_i fits the corresponding parameter p_i . Then `f` is feasible for parameter untupling with the expected type $\text{TupleN}[T_1, \dots, T_n] \Rightarrow R$.

A type T_i fits a parameter p_i if one of the following two cases is true:

- p_i comes without a type, i.e. it is a simple identifier or `_`.
- p_i is of the form $x: U_i$ or $_: U_i$ and $T_i <: U_i$.

Parameter untupling composes with eta-expansion. That is, an n -ary function generated by eta-expansion can in turn be adapted to the expected type with parameter untupling.

11.4.2.2 Term adaptation If the function

`(p1, ..., pn) => e`

is feasible for parameter untupling with the expected type `TupleN[T1, ..., Tn] => Te`, then continue to type check the following adapted function

```
(x: TupleN[T1, ..., Tn]) =>
  def p1: T1 = x._1
  ...
  def pn: Tn = x._n
  e
```

with the same expected type. `## Migration`

Code like this could not be written before, hence the new notation would not be ambiguous after adoption.

Though it is possible that someone has written an implicit conversion from `(T1, ..., Tn) => R` to `TupleN[T1, ..., Tn] => R` for some `n`. This change could be detected and fixed by [Scalafix](#). Furthermore, such conversion would probably be doing the same translation (semantically) but in a less efficient way.

11.4.3 Reference

For more information, see [Issue #897](#).

11.5 Right-Associative Extension Methods: Details

The most general form of leading parameters of an extension method is as follows:

- A possibly empty list of using clauses `leadingUsing`
- A single parameter `extensionParam`
- A possibly empty list of using clauses `trailingUsing`

This is then followed by `def`, the method name, and possibly further parameters `otherParams`. An example is:

```
extension (using a: A, b: B)(using c: C)    // <-- leadingUsing
  (x: X)                                   // <-- extensionParam
  (using d: D)                             // <-- trailingUsing
  def +:: (y: Y)(using e: E)(z: Z)        // <-- otherParams
```

An extension method is treated as a right-associative operator (as in [SLS §6.12.3](#)) if it has a name ending in `:` and is immediately followed by a single parameter. In the example above, that parameter is `(y: Y)`.

The Scala compiler pre-processes a right-associative infix operation such as `x +:: xs` to `xs.+::(x)` if `x` is a pure expression or a call-by-name parameter and to `val y = x; xs.+::(y)` otherwise. This is necessary since a regular right-associative infix method is defined in the class of its right operand. To make up for this swap, the expansion of right-associative extension methods performs an analogous parameter swap. More precisely,

if `otherParams` consists of a single parameter `rightParam` followed by remaining, the total parameter sequence of the extension method's expansion is:

```
leadingUsing rightParam trailingUsing extensionParam remaining
```

For instance, the `+::` method above would become

```
<extension> def +:: (using a: A, b: B)(using c: C)
    (y: Y)
    (using d: D)
    (x: X)
    (using e: E)(z: Z)
```

This expansion has to be kept in mind when writing right-associative extension methods with inter-parameter dependencies.

An overall simpler design could be obtained if right-associative operators could only be defined as extension methods, and would be disallowed as normal methods. In that case neither arguments nor parameters would have to be swapped. Future versions of Scala should strive to achieve this simplification.

11.6 Dropped: Class Shadowing - More Details

Spec diff: in section [5.1.4 Overriding](#), add M' must not be a class.

Why do we want to make this change to the language?

Class shadowing is irregular compared to other types of overrides. Indeed, inner classes are not actually overridden but simply shadowed.

How much existing code is going to be affected?

From all the code compiled so far with Scala 3 the only instance of this I could find is in the `stdlib`. Looking at [this commit](#) it seems like the usage of class shadowing was accidental.

How exactly is existing code going to be affected?

Code that relies on overridden inner classes will stop compiling.

Is this change going to be migratable automatically?

No.

11.7 Dropped: Weak Conformance - More Details

To simplify the underlying type theory, Scala 3 drops the notion of [weak conformance](#) altogether. Instead, it provides more flexibility when assigning a type to a constant expression. The new rule is:

- If a list of expressions `Es` appears as one of
 - the elements of a `vararg` parameter, or
 - the alternatives of an if-then-else or match expression, or
 - the body and catch results of a try expression,

- and all expressions have primitive numeric types, but they do not all have the same type,
- then the following is attempted:
 - the expressions *Es* are partitioned into *Int* constants on the one hand, and all other expressions on the other hand,
 - if all the other expressions have the same numeric type *T* (which can be one of *Byte*, *Short*, *Char*, *Int*, *Long*, *Float*, *Double*), possibly after widening, and if none of the *Int* literals would incur a loss of precision when converted to *T*, then they are thus converted (the other expressions are left unchanged regardless),
 - otherwise, the expressions *Es* are used unchanged.

A loss of precision occurs for

- an *Int* -> *Float* conversion of a constant *c* if *c.toFloat.toInt != c*
- an *Int* -> *Byte* conversion of a constant *c* if *c.toByte.toInt != c*,
- an *Int* -> *Short* conversion of a constant *c* if *c.toShort.toInt != c*.

11.7.0.1 Examples

```
inline val b = 33
def f(): Int = b + 1
Array(b, 33, 5.5)      : Array[Double] // b is an inline val
Array(f(), 33, 5.5)    : Array[AnyVal] // f() is not a constant
Array(5, 11L)          : Array[Long]
Array(5, 11L, 5.5)     : Array[AnyVal] // Long and Double found
Array(1.0f, 2)         : Array[Float]
Array(1.0f, 1234567890): Array[AnyVal] // loss of precision
Array(b, 33, 'a')      : Array[Char]
Array(5.toByte, 11)    : Array[Byte]
```

11.8 Automatic Eta Expansion - More Details

11.8.1 Motivation

Scala maintains a convenient distinction between methods and functions. Methods are part of the definition of a class that can be invoked in objects while functions are complete objects themselves, making them first-class entities. For example, they can be assigned to variables. These two mechanisms are bridged in Scala by a mechanism called [eta-expansion](#) (also called eta-abstraction), which converts a reference to a method into a function. Intuitively, a method *m* can be passed around by turning it into an object: the function *x => m(x)*.

In this snippet which assigns a method to a *val*, the compiler will perform automatic eta-expansion, as shown in the comment:

```
def m(x: Int, y: String) = ???
val f = m // becomes: val f = (x: Int, y: String) => m(x, y)
```

In Scala 2, a method reference *m* is converted to a function value only if the expected type is a function type, which means the conversion in the example above would not have been

triggered, because `val f` does not have a type ascription. To still get eta-expansion, a shortcut `m _` would force the conversion.

For methods with one or more parameters like in the example above, this restriction has now been dropped. The syntax `m _` is no longer needed and will be deprecated in the future.

11.8.2 Automatic eta-expansion and partial application

In the following example `m` can be partially applied to the first two parameters. Assigning `m` to `f1` will automatically eta-expand.

```
def m(x: Boolean, y: String)(z: Int): List[Int]
val f1 = m
val f2 = m(true, "abc")
```

This creates two function values:

```
f1: (Boolean, String) => Int => List[Int]
f2: Int => List[Int]
```

11.8.3 Automatic eta-expansion and implicit parameter lists

Methods with implicit parameter lists will always get applied to implicit arguments.

```
def foo(x: Int)(implicit p: Double): Float = ???
implicit val bla: Double = 1.0

val bar = foo // val bar: Int => Float = ...
```

11.8.4 Automatic Eta-Expansion and query types

A method with context parameters can be expanded to a value of a context type by writing the expected context type explicitly.

```
def foo(x: Int)(using p: Double): Float = ???
val bar: Double ?=> Float = foo(3)
```

11.8.5 Rules

- If `m` has an argument list with one or more parameters, we always eta-expand
- If `m` has an empty argument list (i.e. has type `()R`):
 1. If the expected type is of the form `() => T`, we eta expand.
 2. If `m` is defined by Java, or overrides a Java defined method, we insert `()`.
 3. Otherwise we issue an error of the form:

Thus, an unapplied method with an empty argument list is only converted to a function when a function type is expected. It is considered best practice to either explicitly apply the method to `()`, or convert it to a function with `() => m()`.

The method value syntax `m _` is deprecated.

11.8.6 Reference

For more information, see [PR #2701](#).

11.9 Implicit Conversions - More Details

11.9.1 Implementation

An implicit conversion, or view, from type *S* to type *T* is defined by either:

- An `implicit def` which has type *S* => *T* or (*=>* *S*) => *T*
- An implicit value which has type `Conversion[S, T]`

The standard library defines an abstract class `Conversion`:

```
package scala
@java.lang.FunctionalInterface
abstract class Conversion[-T, +U] extends Function1[T, U]:
  def apply(x: T): U
```

Function literals are automatically converted to `Conversion` values.

Views are applied in three situations:

1. If an expression *e* is of type *T*, and *T* does not conform to the expression's expected type *pt*. In this case, an implicit *v* which is applicable to *e* and whose result type conforms to *pt* is searched. The search proceeds as in the case of implicit parameters, where the implicit scope is the one of *T* => *pt*. If such a view is found, the expression *e* is converted to *v*(*e*).
2. In a selection *e.m* with *e* of type *T*, if the selector *m* does not denote an accessible member of *T*. In this case, a view *v* which is applicable to *e* and whose result contains an accessible member named *m* is searched. The search proceeds as in the case of implicit parameters, where the implicit scope is the one of *T*. If such a view is found, the selection *e.m* is converted to *v*(*e*).*m*.
3. In an application *e.m*(*args*) with *e* of type *T*, if the selector *m* denotes some accessible member(s) of *T*, but none of these members is applicable to the arguments *args*. In this case, a view *v* which is applicable to *e* and whose result contains a method *m* which is applicable to *args* is searched. The search proceeds as in the case of implicit parameters, where the implicit scope is the one of *T*. If such a view is found, the application *e.m*(*args*) is converted to *v*(*e*).*m*(*args*).

11.10 Differences with Scala 2 implicit conversions

In Scala 2, views whose parameters are passed by-value take precedence over views whose parameters are passed by-name. This is no longer the case in Scala 3. A type error reporting the ambiguous conversions will be emitted in cases where this rule would be applied in Scala 2:

```
implicit def conv1(x: Int): String = x.toString
implicit def conv2(x: => Int): String = x.toString
```

```
val x: String = 0 // Compiles in Scala2 (uses `conv1`),
                  // type error in Scala 3 because of ambiguity.
```

In Scala 2, implicit values of a function type would be considered as potential views. In Scala 3, these implicit value need to have type `Conversion`:

```
// Scala 2:
def foo(x: Int)(implicit conv: Int => String): String = x

// Becomes with Scala 3:
def foo(x: Int)(implicit conv: Conversion[Int, String]): String = x

// Call site is unchanged:
foo(4)(_.toString)

// Scala 2:
implicit val myConverter: Int => String = _.toString

// Becomes with Scala 3:
implicit val myConverter: Conversion[Int, String] = _.toString
```

Note that implicit conversions are also affected by the [changes to implicit resolution](#) between Scala 2 and Scala 3.

11.10.1 Motivation for the changes

The introduction of `scala.Conversion` in Scala 3 and the decision to restrict implicit values of this type to be considered as potential views comes from the desire to remove surprising behavior from the language:

```
implicit val m: Map[Int, String] = Map(1 -> "abc")

val x: String = 1 // Scala 2: assigns "abc" to x
                  // Scala 3: type error
```

This snippet contains a type error. The right-hand side of `val x` does not conform to type `String`. In Scala 2, the compiler will use `m` as an implicit conversion from `Int` to `String`, whereas Scala 3 will report a type error, because `Map` isn't an instance of `Conversion`.

11.10.2 Migration path

Implicit values that are used as views should see their type changed to `Conversion`.

For the migration of implicit conversions that are affected by the changes to implicit resolution, refer to the [Changes in Implicit Resolution](#) for more information.

11.10.3 Reference

For more information about implicit resolution, see [Changes in Implicit Resolution](#). Other details are available in [PR #2065](#).

11.11 Programmatic Structural Types - More Details

11.11.1 Syntax

```
SimpleType    ::= ... | Refinement
Refinement    ::= '{' RefineStatSeq '}'
RefineStatSeq ::= RefineStat {semi RefineStat}
RefineStat    ::= 'val' VarDcl | 'def' DefDcl | 'type' {nl} TypeDcl
```

11.11.2 Implementation of structural types

The standard library defines a universal marker trait `scala.Selectable`:

```
trait Selectable extends Any
```

An implementation of `Selectable` that relies on [Java reflection](#) is available in the standard library: `scala.reflect.Selectable`. Other implementations can be envisioned for platforms where Java reflection is not available.

Implementations of `Selectable` have to make available one or both of the methods `selectDynamic` and `applyDynamic`. The methods could be members of the `Selectable` implementation or they could be extension methods.

The `selectDynamic` method takes a field name and returns the value associated with that name in the `Selectable`. It should have a signature of the form:

```
def selectDynamic(name: String): T
```

Often, the return type `T` is `Any`.

Unlike `scala.Dynamic`, there is no special meaning for an `updateDynamic` method. However, we reserve the right to give it meaning in the future. Consequently, it is recommended not to define any member called `updateDynamic` in `Selectables`.

The `applyDynamic` method is used for selections that are applied to arguments. It takes a method name and possibly `Classes` representing its parameters types as well as the arguments to pass to the function. Its signature should be of one of the two following forms:

```
def applyDynamic(name: String)(args: Any*): T
def applyDynamic(name: String, ctags: Class[?]*)(args: Any*): T
```

Both versions are passed the actual arguments in the `args` parameter. The second version takes in addition a vararg argument of `java.lang.Classes` that identify the method's parameter classes. Such an argument is needed if `applyDynamic` is implemented using Java reflection, but it could be useful in other cases as well. `selectDynamic` and `applyDynamic` can also take additional context parameters in using clauses. These are resolved in the normal way at the callsite.

Given a value `v` of type `C { Rs }`, where `C` is a class reference and `Rs` are structural refinement declarations, and given `v.a` of type `U`, we consider three distinct cases:

- If `U` is a value type, we map `v.a` to:

```
v.selectDynamic("a").asInstanceOf[U]
```

- If U is a method type $(T_{11}, \dots, T_{1n}) \dots (T_{N1}, \dots, T_{Nn}) : R$ and it is not a dependent method type, we map $v.a(a_{11}, \dots, a_{1n}) \dots (a_{N1}, \dots, a_{Nn})$ to:

```
v.applyDynamic("a")(a11, ..., a1n, ..., aN1, ..., aNn)
  .asInstanceOf[R]
```

If this call resolves to an `applyDynamic` method of the second form that takes a `Class[?]*` argument, we further rewrite this call to

```
v.applyDynamic("a", c11, ..., c1n, ..., cN1, ... cNn)(
  a11, ..., a1n, ..., aN1, ..., aNn)
  .asInstanceOf[R]
```

where each c_{ij} is the literal `java.lang.Class[?]` of the type of the formal parameter T_{ij} , i.e., `classOf[Tij]`.

- If U is neither a value nor a method type, or a dependent method type, an error is emitted.

Note that v 's static type does not necessarily have to conform to `Selectable`, nor does it need to have `selectDynamic` and `applyDynamic` as members. It suffices that there is an implicit conversion that can turn v into a `Selectable`, and the selection methods could also be available as **extension methods**.

11.11.3 Limitations of structural types

- Dependent methods cannot be called via structural call.
- Overloaded methods cannot be called via structural call.
- Refinements do not handle polymorphic methods.

11.11.4 Differences with Scala 2 structural types

- Scala 2 supports structural types by means of Java reflection. Unlike Scala 3, structural calls do not rely on a mechanism such as `Selectable`, and reflection cannot be avoided.
- In Scala 2, structural calls to overloaded methods are possible.
- In Scala 2, mutable vars are allowed in refinements. In Scala 3, they are no longer allowed.

11.11.5 Context

For more information, see [Rethink Structural Types](#).

11.12 Dependent Function Types - More Details

Initial implementation in [PR #3464](#).

11.12.1 Syntax

```
FunArgTypes ::= InfixType
              | '(' [ FunArgType {' ',' FunArgType } ] ')'
```

```

      | '(' TypedFunParam {',' TypedFunParam } ')'
TypedFunParam ::= id ':' Type

```

Dependent function types associate to the right, e.g. $(s: S) \Rightarrow (t: T) \Rightarrow U$ is the same as $(s: S) \Rightarrow ((t: T) \Rightarrow U)$.

11.12.2 Implementation

Dependent function types are shorthands for class types that define apply methods with a dependent result type. Dependent function types desugar to refinement types of `scala.FunctionN`. A dependent function type $(x_1: K_1, \dots, x_N: K_N) \Rightarrow R$ of arity N translates to:

```

FunctionN[K1, ..., Kn, R']:
  def apply(x1: K1, ..., xN: KN): R

```

where the result type parameter R' is the least upper approximation of the precise result type R without any reference to value parameters x_1, \dots, x_N .

The syntax and semantics of anonymous dependent functions is identical to the one of regular functions. Eta expansion is naturally generalized to produce dependent function types for methods with dependent result types.

Dependent functions can be implicit, and generalize to arity $N > 22$ in the same way that other functions do, see [the corresponding documentation](#).

11.12.3 Examples

The example below defines a trait `C` and the two dependent function types `DF` and `IDF` and prints the results of the respective function applications:

```

trait C { type M; val m: M }

type DF = (x: C) => x.M

type IDF = (x: C) ?=> x.M

@main def test =
  val c = new C { type M = Int; val m = 3 }

  val depfun: DF = (x: C) => x.m
  val t = depfun(c)
  println(s"t=$t")    // prints "t=3"

  val idepfun: IDF = summon[C].m
  val u = idepfun(using c)
  println(s"u=$u")    // prints "u=3"

```

In the following example the depend type `f.Eff` refers to the effect type `CanThrow`:

```

trait Effect

// Type X => Y
abstract class Fun[-X, +Y]:
  type Eff <: Effect
  def apply(x: X): Eff ?=> Y

class CanThrow extends Effect
class CanIO extends Effect

given ct: CanThrow = new CanThrow
given ci: CanIO = new CanIO

class I2S extends Fun[Int, String]:
  type Eff = CanThrow
  def apply(x: Int) = x.toString

class S2I extends Fun[String, Int]:
  type Eff = CanIO
  def apply(x: String) = x.length

// def map(f: A => B)(xs: List[A]): List[B]
def map[A, B](f: Fun[A, B])(xs: List[A]): f.Eff ?=> List[B] =
  xs.map(f.apply)

// def mapFn[A, B]: (A => B) -> List[A] -> List[B]
def mapFn[A, B]: (f: Fun[A, B]) => List[A] => f.Eff ?=> List[B] =
  f => xs => map(f)(xs)

// def compose(f: A => B)(g: B => C)(x: A): C
def compose[A, B, C](f: Fun[A, B])(g: Fun[B, C])(x: A):
  f.Eff ?=> g.Eff ?=> C =
  g(f(x))

// def composeFn: (A => B) -> (B => C) -> A -> C
def composeFn[A, B, C]:
  (f: Fun[A, B]) => (g: Fun[B, C]) => A => f.Eff ?=> g.Eff ?=> C =
  f => g => x => compose(f)(g)(x)

@main def test =
  val i2s = new I2S
  val s2i = new S2I

  assert(mapFn(i2s)(List(1, 2, 3)).mkString == "123")
  assert(composeFn(i2s)(s2i)(22) == 2)

```

11.12.3.1 Type Checking After desugaring no additional typing rules are required for dependent function types.

11.13 Intersection Types - More Details

11.13.1 Syntax

Syntactically, the type $S \ \& \ T$ is an infix type, where the infix operator is $\&$. The operator $\&$ is a normal identifier with the usual precedence and subject to usual resolving rules. Unless shadowed by another definition, it resolves to the type `scala.&`, which acts as a type alias to an internal representation of intersection types.

```
Type          ::= ... | InfixType
InfixType      ::= RefinedType {id [nl] RefinedType}
```

11.13.2 Subtyping Rules

$$\frac{T <: A \quad T <: B}{T <: A \ \& \ B}$$

$$\frac{A <: T}{A \ \& \ B <: T}$$

$$\frac{B <: T}{A \ \& \ B <: T}$$

From the rules above, we can show that $\&$ is commutative: $A \ \& \ B <: B \ \& \ A$ for any type A and B .

$$\frac{\frac{B <: B}{A \ \& \ B <: B} \quad \frac{A <: A}{A \ \& \ B <: A}}{A \ \& \ B <: B \ \& \ A}$$

In another word, $A \ \& \ B$ is the same type as $B \ \& \ A$, in the sense that the two types have the same values and are subtypes of each other.

If C is a type constructor, then $C[A] \ \& \ C[B]$ can be simplified using the following three rules:

- If C is covariant, $C[A] \ \& \ C[B] \rightsquigarrow C[A \ \& \ B]$
- If C is contravariant, $C[A] \ \& \ C[B] \rightsquigarrow C[A \ | \ B]$
- If C is non-variant, emit a compile error

When C is covariant, $C[A \ \& \ B] <: C[A] \ \& \ C[B]$ can be derived:

$$A <: A \qquad B <: B$$

$\frac{}{A \& B <: A}$	$\frac{}{A \& B <: B}$
$\frac{}{C[A \& B] <: C[A]}$	$\frac{}{C[A \& B] <: C[B]}$
$\frac{}{C[A \& B] <: C[A] \& C[B]}$	

When C is contravariant, $C[A \mid B] <: C[A] \& C[B]$ can be derived:

$\frac{}{A <: A}$	$\frac{}{B <: B}$
$\frac{}{A <: A \mid B}$	$\frac{}{B <: A \mid B}$
$\frac{}{C[A \mid B] <: C[A]}$	$\frac{}{C[A \mid B] <: C[B]}$
$\frac{}{C[A \mid B] <: C[A] \& C[B]}$	

11.13.3 Erasure

The erased type for $S \& T$ is the erased glb (greatest lower bound) of the erased type of S and T. The rules for erasure of intersection types are given below in pseudocode:

$|S \& T| = \text{glb}(|S|, |T|)$

```

glb(JArray(A), JArray(B)) = JArray(glb(A, B))
glb(JArray(T), _)         = JArray(T)
glb(_, JArray(T))         = JArray(T)
glb(A, B)                  = A                if A extends B
glb(A, B)                  = B                if B extends A
glb(A, _)                  = A                if A is not a trait
glb(_, B)                  = B                if B is not a trait
glb(A, _)                  = A                // use first

```

In the above, $|T|$ means the erased type of T, JArray refers to the type of Java Array.

See also: [TypeErasure#erasedGlb](#).

11.13.4 Relationship with Compound Type (with)

Intersection types $A \& B$ replace compound types $A \text{ with } B$ in Scala 2. For the moment, the syntax $A \text{ with } B$ is still allowed and interpreted as $A \& B$, but its usage as a type (as opposed to in a new or extends clause) will be deprecated and removed in the future.

11.14 Type Lambdas - More Details

11.14.1 Syntax

```

Type          ::= ... | TypeParamClause '=>' Type
TypeParamClause ::= '[' TypeParam {',' TypeParam} ']'
TypeParam      ::= {Annotation} (id [HkTypeParamClause] | '_' ) TypeBounds

```

TypeBounds ::= ['>:' Type] ['<:' Type]

11.14.1.1 Type Checking A type lambda such as $[X] \Rightarrow F[X]$ defines a function from types to types. The parameter(s) may carry bounds. If a parameter is bounded, as in $[X >: L <: U] \Rightarrow F[X]$ it is checked that arguments to the parameters conform to the bounds L and U . Only the upper bound U can be F -bounded, i.e. X can appear in it.

11.14.2 Subtyping Rules

Assume two type lambdas

type TL1 = $[X >: L1 <: U1] \Rightarrow R1$

type TL2 = $[X >: L2 <: U2] \Rightarrow R2$

Then $TL1 <: TL2$, if

- the type interval $L2 . . U2$ is contained in the type interval $L1 . . U1$ (i.e. $L1 <: L2$ and $U2 <: U1$),
- $R1 <: R2$

Here we have relied on [alpha renaming](#) to match the two bound types X .

A partially applied type constructor such as `List` is assumed to be equivalent to its eta expansion. I.e. $List = [X] \Rightarrow List[X]$. This allows type constructors to be compared with type lambdas.

11.14.3 Relationship with Parameterized Type Definitions

A parameterized type definition

type T[X] = R

is regarded as a shorthand for an unparameterized definition with a type lambda as right-hand side:

type T = $[X] \Rightarrow R$

If the type definition carries + or - variance annotations, it is checked that the variance annotations are satisfied by the type lambda. For instance,

type F2[A, +B] = $A \Rightarrow B$

expands to

type F2 = $[A, B] \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow B$

and at the same time it is checked that the parameter B appears covariantly in $A \Rightarrow B$.

A parameterized abstract type

type T[X] >: L <: U

is regarded as shorthand for an unparameterized abstract type with type lambdas as bounds.

type T >: ($[X] \Rightarrow L$) <: ($[X] \Rightarrow U$)

However, if `L` is `Nothing` it is not parameterized, since `Nothing` is treated as a bottom type for all kinds. For instance,

```
type T[X] <: X => X
```

is expanded to

```
type T >: Nothing <: ([X] ==> X => X)
```

instead of

```
type T >: ([X] ==> Nothing) <: ([X] ==> X => X)
```

The same expansions apply to type parameters. For instance,

```
[F[X] <: Coll[X]]
```

is treated as a shorthand for

```
[F >: Nothing <: [X] ==> Coll[X]]
```

Abstract types and opaque type aliases remember the variances they were created with. So the type

```
type F2[-A, +B]
```

is known to be contravariant in `A` and covariant in `B` and can be instantiated only with types that satisfy these constraints. Likewise

```
opaque type O[X] = List[X]
```

`O` is known to be invariant (and not covariant, as its right-hand side would suggest). On the other hand, a transparent alias

```
type O2[X] = List[X]
```

would be treated as covariant, `X` is used covariantly on its right-hand side.

Note: The decision to treat `Nothing` as universal bottom type is provisional, and might be changed after further discussion.

Note: Scala 2 and 3 differ in that Scala 2 also treats `Any` as universal top-type. This is not done in Scala 3. See also the discussion on [kind polymorphism](#)

11.14.4 Curried Type Parameters

The body of a type lambda can again be a type lambda. Example:

```
type TL = [X] ==> [Y] ==> (X, Y)
```

Currently, no special provision is made to infer type arguments to such curried type lambdas. This is left for future work.

11.15 Union Types - More Details

11.15.1 Syntax

Syntactically, unions follow the same rules as intersections, but have a lower precedence, see [Intersection Types - More Details](#).

11.15.1.1 Interaction with pattern matching syntax `|` is also used in pattern matching to separate pattern alternatives and has lower precedence than `:` as used in typed patterns, this means that:

```
case _: A | B => ...
```

is still equivalent to:

```
case (_: A) | B => ...
```

and not to:

```
case _: (A | B) => ...
```

11.15.2 Subtyping Rules

- `A` is always a subtype of `A | B` for all `A, B`.
- If `A <: C` and `B <: C` then `A | B <: C`
- Like `&`, `|` is commutative and associative:

$$A | B ::= B | A$$

$$A | (B | C) ::= (A | B) | C$$

- `&` is distributive over `|`:

$$A \& (B | C) ::= A \& B | A \& C$$

From these rules it follows that the least upper bound (LUB) of a set of types is the union of these types. This replaces the [definition of least upper bound in the Scala 2 specification](#).

11.15.3 Motivation

The primary reason for introducing union types in Scala is that they allow us to guarantee that for every set of types, we can always form a finite LUB. This is both useful in practice (infinite LUBs in Scala 2 were approximated in an ad-hoc way, resulting in imprecise and sometimes incredibly long types) and in theory (the type system of Scala 3 is based on the [DOT calculus](#), which has union types).

Additionally, union types are a useful construct when trying to give types to existing dynamically typed APIs, this is why they're [an integral part of TypeScript](#) and have even been [partially implemented in Scala.js](#).

11.15.4 Join of a union type

In some situation described below, a union type might need to be widened to a non-union type, for this purpose we define the join of a union type $T_1 \mid \dots \mid T_n$ as the smallest intersection type of base class instances of T_1, \dots, T_n . Note that union types might still appear as type arguments in the resulting type, this guarantees that the join is always finite.

11.15.4.1 Example Given

```
trait C[+T]
trait D
trait E
class A extends C[A] with D
class B extends C[B] with D with E
```

The join of $A \mid B$ is $C[A \mid B] \& D$

11.15.5 Type inference

When inferring the result type of a definition (`val`, `var`, or `def`) and the type we are about to infer is a union type, then we replace it by its join. Similarly, when instantiating a type argument, if the corresponding type parameter is not upper-bounded by a union type and the type we are about to instantiate is a union type, we replace it by its join. This mirrors the treatment of singleton types which are also widened to their underlying type unless explicitly specified. The motivation is the same: inferring types which are “too precise” can lead to unintuitive typechecking issues later on.

Note: Since this behavior limits the usability of union types, it might be changed in the future. For example by not widening unions that have been explicitly written down by the user and not inferred, or by not widening a type argument when the corresponding type parameter is covariant.

See [PR #2330](#) and [Issue #4867](#) for further discussions.

11.15.5.1 Example

```
import scala.collection.mutable.ListBuffer
val x = ListBuffer(Right("foo"), Left(0))
val y: ListBuffer[Either[Int, String]] = x
```

This code typechecks because the inferred type argument to `ListBuffer` in the right-hand side of `x` was `Left[Int, Nothing] | Right[Nothing, String]` which was widened to `Either[Int, String]`. If the compiler hadn’t done this widening, the last line wouldn’t typecheck because `ListBuffer` is invariant in its argument.

11.15.6 Members

The members of a union type are the members of its join.

11.15.6.1 Example The following code does not typecheck, because method `hello` is not a member of `AnyRef` which is the join of `A | B`.

```
trait A { def hello: String }
trait B { def hello: String }
```

```
def test(x: A | B) = x.hello // error: value `hello` is not a member of A | B
```

On the other hand, the following would be allowed

```
trait C { def hello: String }
trait A extends C with D
trait B extends C with E
```

```
def test(x: A | B) = x.hello // ok as `hello` is a member of the join of A | B which i
```

11.15.7 Exhaustivity checking

If the selector of a pattern match is a union type, the match is considered exhaustive if all parts of the union are covered.

11.15.8 Erasure

The erased type for `A | B` is the erased least upper bound of the erased types of `A` and `B`. Quoting from the documentation of `TypeErasure#erasedLub`, the erased LUB is computed as follows:

- if both argument are arrays of objects, an array of the erased LUB of the element types
- if both arguments are arrays of same primitives, an array of this primitive
- if one argument is array of primitives and the other is array of objects, `Object`
- if one argument is an array, `Object`
- otherwise a common superclass or trait `S` of the argument classes, with the following two properties:
 - `S` is minimal: no other common superclass or trait derives from `S`
 - `S` is last : in the linearization of the first argument type `|A|` there are no minimal common superclasses or traits that come after `S`. The reason to pick last is that we prefer classes over traits that way, which leads to more predictable bytecode and (?) faster dynamic dispatch.

11.16 Erased Definitions Spec

TODO: complete `## Rules`

1. `erased` is a soft modifier. It can appear:

- At the start of a parameter block of a method, function or class
- In a method definition
- In a `val` definition (but not lazy `val` or `var`)
- In a class or trait definition

```

erased val x = ...
erased def f = ...

def g(erased x: Int) = ...

(erased x: Int) => ...
def h(x: (erased Int) => Int) = ...

class K(erased x: Int) { ... }
erased class E {}

```

2. A reference to an erased val or def can only be used

- Inside the expression of argument to an erased parameter
- Inside the body of an erased val or def

3. Functions

- $(\text{erased } x1: T1, x2: T2, \dots, xN: TN) \Rightarrow y : (\text{erased } T1, T2, \dots, TN) \Rightarrow R$
- $(\text{given erased } x1: T1, x2: T2, \dots, xN: TN) \Rightarrow y: (\text{given erased } T1, T2, \dots, TN) \Rightarrow R$
- $(\text{given erased } T1) \Rightarrow R \quad <: < \quad \text{erased } T1 \Rightarrow R$
- $(\text{given erased } T1, T2) \Rightarrow R \quad <: < \quad (\text{erased } T1, T2) \Rightarrow R$
- ...

Note that there is no subtype relation between $(\text{erased } T) \Rightarrow R$ and $T \Rightarrow R$ (or $(\text{given erased } T) \Rightarrow R$ and $(\text{given } T) \Rightarrow R$)

4. Eta expansion

if `def f(erased x: T): U` then `f: (erased T) => U`.

5. Erasure semantics

- All erased parameters are removed from the function
- All argument to erased parameters are not passed to the function
- All erased definitions are removed
- All $(\text{erased } T1, T2, \dots, TN) \Rightarrow R$ and $(\text{given erased } T1, T2, \dots, TN) \Rightarrow R$ become $() \Rightarrow R$

6. Overloading

Method with erased parameters will follow the normal overloading constraints after erasure.

7. Overriding

- Member definitions overriding each other must both be erased or not be erased
- `def foo(x: T): U` cannot be overridden by `def foo(erased x: T): U` and vice-versa

11.17 Macros Spec

11.17.1 Implementation

11.17.1.1 Syntax Compared to the [Scala 3 reference grammar](#) there are the following syntax changes:

```
SimpleExpr      ::= ...
                  | ''' '{' Block '}'
                  | ''' '[' Type ']'
                  | '$' '{' Block '}'
SimpleType      ::= ...
                  | '$' '{' Block '}'
```

In addition, an identifier `$x` starting with a `$` that appears inside a quoted expression or type is treated as a splice `${x}` and a quoted identifier `'x` that appears inside a splice is treated as a quote `'{x}`

11.17.1.2 Implementation in `scalac` Quotes and splices are primitive forms in the generated abstract syntax trees. Top-level splices are eliminated during macro expansion while typing. On the other hand, top-level quotes are eliminated in an expansion phase `PickleQuotes` phase (after typing and pickling). PCP checking occurs while preparing the RHS of an inline method for top-level splices and in the `Staging` phase (after typing and before pickling).

Macro-expansion works outside-in. If the outermost scope is a splice, the spliced AST will be evaluated in an interpreter. A call to a previously compiled method can be implemented as a reflective call to that method. With the restrictions on splices that are currently in place that's all that's needed. We might allow more interpretation in splices in the future, which would allow us to loosen the restriction. Quotes in spliced, interpreted code are kept as they are, after splices nested in the quotes are expanded.

If the outermost scope is a quote, we need to generate code that constructs the quoted tree at run-time. We implement this by serializing the tree as a `TASTy` structure, which is stored in a string literal. At runtime, an unpickler method is called to deserialize the string into a tree.

Splices inside quoted code insert the spliced tree as is, after expanding any quotes in the spliced code recursively.

11.17.2 Formalization

The phase consistency principle can be formalized in a calculus that extends simply-typed lambda calculus with quotes and splices.

11.17.2.1 Syntax The syntax of terms, values, and types is given as follows:

Terms	$t ::= x$	variable
	$(x: T) \Rightarrow t$	lambda
	$t \ t$	application
	$'t$	quote
	$\$t$	splice

Values	$v ::= (x: T) \Rightarrow t$ $'u$	lambda quote
Simple terms	$u ::= x \mid (x: T) \Rightarrow u \mid u u \mid 't$	
Types	$T ::= A$ $T \rightarrow T$ $\text{expr } T$	base type function type quoted
Environment	$E ::= ()$ $E, x: T$	empty
Env. stack	$Es ::= ()$ E $Es * Es$	empty simple combined
Separator	$* ::= ' \mid \$$	

The two environment combinators are both associative with left and right identity ().

11.17.2.2 Operational semantics We define a small step reduction relation \rightarrow with the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned}
 ((x: T) \Rightarrow t) v &\rightarrow [x := v]t \\
 \$\{ 'u \} &\rightarrow u \\
 t_1 &\rightarrow t_2 \\
 \hline
 e[t_1] &\rightarrow e[t_2]
 \end{aligned}$$

The first rule is standard call-by-value beta-reduction. The second rule says that splice and quotes cancel each other out. The third rule is a context rule; it says that reduction is allowed in the hole $[]$ position of an evaluation context. Evaluation contexts e and splice evaluation context e_s are defined syntactically as follows:

Eval context	$e ::= [] \mid e t \mid v e \mid 'e_s[\{e\}]$
Splice context	$e_s ::= [] \mid (x: T) \Rightarrow e_s \mid e_s t \mid u e_s$

11.17.2.3 Typing rules Typing judgments are of the form $Es \mid - t: T$. There are two substructural rules which express the fact that quotes and splices cancel each other out:

$$Es_1 * Es_2 \mid - t: T$$

$$\frac{}{Es1 \$ E1 ' E2 * Es2 \mid - t: T}$$

$$\frac{Es1 * Es2 \mid - t: T}{Es1 ' E1 \$ E2 * Es2 \mid - t: T}$$

The lambda calculus fragment of the rules is standard, except that we use a stack of environments. The rules only interact with the topmost environment of the stack.

$$\frac{x: T \text{ in } E}{Es * E \mid - x: T}$$

$$\frac{Es * E, x: T1 \mid - t: T2}{Es * E \mid - (x: T1) \Rightarrow t: T \rightarrow T2}$$

$$\frac{Es \mid - t1: T2 \rightarrow T \quad Es \mid - t2: T2}{Es \mid - t1 t2: T}$$

The rules for quotes and splices map between `expr T` and `T` by trading `'` and `$` between environments and terms.

$$\frac{Es \$ () \mid - t: \text{expr } T}{Es \mid - \$t: T}$$

$$\frac{Es ' () \mid - t: T}{Es \mid - 't: \text{expr } T}$$

The meta theory of a slightly simplified 2-stage variant of this calculus is studied [separately](#).

11.17.3 Going Further

The metaprogramming framework as presented and currently implemented is quite restrictive in that it does not allow for the inspection of quoted expressions and types. It's possible to work around this by providing all necessary information as normal, unquoted inline parameters. But we would gain more flexibility by allowing for the inspection of quoted code with pattern matching. This opens new possibilities.

For instance, here is a version of `power` that generates the multiplications directly if the exponent is statically known and falls back to the dynamic implementation of `power` otherwise.

```

import scala.quoted.*

inline def power(x: Double, n: Int): Double =
  ${ powerExpr('x, 'n) }

private def powerExpr(x: Expr[Double], n: Expr[Int])
  (using Quotes): Expr[Double] =
  n.value match
    case Some(m) => powerExpr(x, m)
    case _ => '{ dynamicPower($x, $n) }

private def powerExpr(x: Expr[Double], n: Int)
  (using Quotes): Expr[Double] =
  if n == 0 then '{ 1.0 }
  else if n == 1 then x
  else if n % 2 == 0 then '{ val y = $x * $x; ${ powerExpr('y, n / 2) } }
  else '{ $x * ${ powerExpr(x, n - 1) } }

private def dynamicPower(x: Double, n: Int): Double =
  if n == 0 then 1.0
  else if n % 2 == 0 then dynamicPower(x * x, n / 2)
  else x * dynamicPower(x, n - 1)

```

In the above, the method `.value` maps a constant expression of the type `Expr[T]` to its value of the type `T`.

With the right extractors, the “AsFunction” conversion that maps expressions over functions to functions over expressions can be implemented in user code:

```

given AsFunction1[T, U]: Conversion[Expr[T => U], Expr[T] => Expr[U]] with
  def apply(f: Expr[T => U]): Expr[T] => Expr[U] =
    (x: Expr[T]) => f match
      case Lambda(g) => g(x)
      case _ => '{ ($f)($x) }

```

This assumes an extractor

```

object Lambda:
  def unapply[T, U](x: Expr[T => U]): Option[Expr[T] => Expr[U]]

```

Once we allow inspection of code via extractors, it’s tempting to also add constructors that create typed trees directly without going through quotes. Most likely, those constructors would work over `Expr` types which lack a known type argument. For instance, an `Apply` constructor could be typed as follows:

```

def Apply(fn: Expr[Any], args: List[Expr[Any]]): Expr[Any]

```

This would allow constructing applications from lists of arguments without having to match the arguments one-by-one with the corresponding formal parameter types of the function. We then need “at the end” a method to convert an `Expr[Any]` to an `Expr[T]` where `T` is

given from the outside. For instance, if `code` yields a `Expr[Any]`, then `code.atType[T]` yields an `Expr[T]`. The `atType` method has to be implemented as a primitive; it would check that the computed type structure of `Expr` is a subtype of the type structure representing `T`.

Before going down that route, we should evaluate in detail the tradeoffs it presents. Constructing trees that are only verified a posteriori to be type correct loses a lot of guidance for constructing the right trees. So we should wait with this addition until we have more use-cases that help us decide whether the loss in type-safety is worth the gain in flexibility. In this context, it seems that deconstructing types is less error-prone than deconstructing terms, so one might also envisage a solution that allows the former but not the latter.

11.17.4 Conclusion

Metaprogramming has a reputation of being difficult and confusing. But with explicit `Expr/Type` types and quotes and splices it can become downright pleasant. A simple strategy first defines the underlying quoted or unquoted values using `Expr` and `Type` and then inserts quotes and splices to make the types line up. Phase consistency is at the same time a great guideline where to insert a splice or a quote and a vital sanity check that the result makes sense.

11.18 A Classification of Proposed Language Features

This document provides an overview of the constructs proposed for Scala 3 with the aim to facilitate the discussion what to include and when to include it. It classifies features into eight groups: (1) essential foundations, (2) simplifications, (3) restrictions, (4) dropped features, (5) changed features, (6) new features, (7) features oriented towards metaprogramming with the aim to replace existing macros, and (8) changes to type checking and inference.

Each group contains sections classifying the status (i.e. relative importance to be a part of Scala 3, and relative urgency when to decide this) and the migration cost of the constructs in it.

The current document reflects the state of things as of April, 2019. It will be updated to reflect any future changes in that status.

11.18.1 Essential Foundations

These new constructs directly model core features of [DOT](#), higher-kinded types, and the [SI calculus for implicit resolution](#).

- **Intersection types**, replacing compound types,
- **Union types**,
- **Type lambdas**, replacing encodings using structural types and type projection.
- **Context functions** offering abstraction over given parameters.

Status: essential

These are essential core features of Scala 3. Without them, Scala 3 would be a completely different language, with different foundations.

Migration cost: none to low

Since these are additions, there's generally no migration cost for old code. An exception are intersection types which replace compound types with slightly cleaned-up semantics. But few programs would be affected by this change.

11.18.2 Simplifications

These constructs replace existing constructs with the aim of making the language safer and simpler to use, and to promote uniformity in code style.

- **Trait parameters** replace **early initializers** with a more generally useful construct.
- **Given instances** replace implicit objects and defs, focussing on intent over mechanism.
- **Using clauses** replace implicit parameters, avoiding their ambiguities.
- **Extension methods** replace implicit classes with a clearer and simpler mechanism.
- **Opaque type aliases** replace most uses of value classes while guaranteeing absence of boxing.
- **Top-level definitions** replace package objects, dropping syntactic boilerplate.
- **Export clauses** provide a simple and general way to express aggregation, which can replace the previous facade pattern of package objects inheriting from classes.
- **Vararg splices** now use the form `* instead of @ _*, mirroring vararg expressions,`
- **Creator applications** allow using simple function call syntax instead of new expressions. new expressions stay around as a fallback for the cases where creator applications cannot be used.

With the exception of early initializers and old-style vararg splices, all superseded constructs continue to be available in Scala 3.0. The plan is to deprecate and phase them out later.

Value classes (superseded by opaque type aliases) are a special case. There are currently no deprecation plans for value classes, since we might bring them back in a more general form if they are supported natively by the JVM as is planned by project Valhalla.

Status: bimodal: now or never / can delay

These are essential simplifications. If we decide to adopt them, we should do it for 3.0. Otherwise we are faced with the awkward situation that the Scala 3 documentation has to describe an old feature that will be replaced or superseded by a simpler one in the future.

On the other hand, we need to decide now only about the new features in this list. The decision to drop the superseded features can be delayed. Of course, adopting a new feature without deciding to drop the superseded feature will make the language larger.

Migration cost: moderate

For the next several versions, old features will remain available and deprecation and rewrite techniques can make any migration effort low and gradual.

11.18.3 Restrictions

These constructs are restricted to make the language safer.

- **Implicit Conversions**: there is only one way to define implicit conversions instead of many, and potentially surprising implicit conversions require a language import.
- **Given Imports**: implicits now require a special form of import, to make the import clearly visible.
- **Type Projection**: only classes can be used as prefix C of a type projection C#A. Type projection on abstract types is no longer supported since it is unsound.
- **Multiversal equality** implements an “opt-in” scheme to rule out nonsensical comparisons with == and !=.
- **infix** makes method application syntax uniform across code bases.

Unrestricted implicit conversions continue to be available in Scala 3.0, but will be deprecated and removed later. Unrestricted versions of the other constructs in the list above are available only under `-source 3.0-migration`.

Status: now or never

These are essential restrictions. If we decide to adopt them, we should do it for 3.0. Otherwise we are faced with the awkward situation that the Scala 3 documentation has to describe a feature that will be restricted in the future.

Migration cost: low to high

- low: multiversal equality rules out code that is nonsensical, so any rewrites required by its adoption should be classified as bug fixes.
- moderate: Restrictions to implicits can be accommodated by straightforward rewriting.
- high: Unrestricted type projection cannot always be rewritten directly since it is unsound in general.

11.18.4 Dropped Constructs

These constructs are proposed to be dropped without a new construct replacing them. The motivation for dropping these constructs is to simplify the language and its implementation.

- **DelayedInit**,
- **Existential types**,
- **Procedure syntax**,
- **Class shadowing**,
- **XML literals**,
- **Symbol literals**,
- **Auto application**,
- **Weak conformance**,
- **Compound types**,
- **Auto tupling** (implemented, but not merged).

The date when these constructs are dropped varies. The current status is:

- Not implemented at all:
 - DelayedInit, existential types, weak conformance.
- Supported under `-source 3.0-migration`:

- procedure syntax, class shadowing, symbol literals, auto application, auto tupling in a restricted form.
- Supported in 3.0, to be deprecated and phased out later:
 - XML literals, compound types.

Status: mixed

Currently unimplemented features would require considerable implementation effort which would in most cases make the compiler more buggy and fragile and harder to understand. If we do not decide to drop them, they will probably show up as “not yet implemented” in the Scala 3.0 release.

Currently implemented features could stay around indefinitely. Updated docs may simply ignore them, in the expectation that they might go away eventually. So the decision about their removal can be delayed.

Migration cost: moderate to high

Dropped features require rewrites to avoid their use in programs. These rewrites can sometimes be automatic (e.g. for procedure syntax, symbol literals, auto application) and sometimes need to be manual (e.g. class shadowing, auto tupling). Sometimes the rewrites would have to be non-local, affecting use sites as well as definition sites (e.g., in the case of `DelayedInit`, unless we find a solution).

11.18.5 Changes

These constructs have undergone changes to make them more regular and useful.

- **Structural Types**: They now allow pluggable implementations, which greatly increases their usefulness. Some usage patterns are restricted compared to the status quo.
- **Name-based pattern matching**: The existing undocumented Scala 2 implementation has been codified in a slightly simplified form.
- **Eta expansion** is now performed universally also in the absence of an expected type. The postfix `_` operator is thus made redundant. It will be deprecated and dropped after Scala 3.0.
- **Implicit Resolution**: The implicit resolution rules have been cleaned up to make them more useful and less surprising. Implicit scope is restricted to no longer include package prefixes.

Most aspects of old-style implicit resolution are still available under `-source 3.0-migration`. The other changes in this list are applied unconditionally.

Status: strongly advisable

The features have been implemented in their new form in Scala 3.0’s compiler. They provide clear improvements in simplicity and functionality compared to the status quo. Going back would require significant implementation effort for a net loss of functionality.

Migration cost: low to high

Only a few programs should require changes, but some necessary changes might be non-local (as in the case of restrictions to implicit scope).

11.18.6 New Constructs

These are additions to the language that make it more powerful or pleasant to use.

- **Enums** provide concise syntax for enumerations and **algebraic data types**.
- **Parameter untupling** avoids having to use case for tupled parameter destructuring.
- **Dependent function types** generalize dependent methods to dependent function values and types.
- **Polymorphic function types** generalize polymorphic methods to dependent function values and types. Current status: There is a proposal, and a prototype implementation, but the implementation has not been finalized or merged yet.
- **Kind polymorphism** allows the definition of operators working equally on types and type constructors.

Status: mixed

Enums offer an essential simplification of fundamental use patterns, so they should be adopted for Scala 3.0. Auto-parameter tupling is a very small change that removes some awkwardness, so it might as well be adopted now. The other features constitute more specialized functionality which could be introduced in later versions. On the other hand, except for polymorphic function types they are all fully implemented, so if the Scala 3.0 spec does not include them, they might be still made available under a language flag.

Migration cost: none

Being new features, existing code migrates without changes. To be sure, sometimes it would be attractive to rewrite code to make use of the new features in order to increase clarity and conciseness.

11.18.7 Metaprogramming

The following constructs together aim to put metaprogramming in Scala on a new basis. So far, metaprogramming was achieved by a combination of macros and libraries such as [Shapeless](#) that were in turn based on some key macros. Current Scala 2 macro mechanisms are a thin veneer on top the current Scala 2 compiler, which makes them fragile and in many cases impossible to port to Scala 3.

It's worth noting that macros were never included in the [Scala 2 language specification](#) and were so far made available only under an `-experimental` flag. This has not prevented their widespread usage.

To enable porting most uses of macros, we are experimenting with the advanced language constructs listed below. These designs are more provisional than the rest of the proposed language constructs for Scala 3.0. There might still be some changes until the final release. Stabilizing the feature set needed for metaprogramming is our first priority.

- **Match types** allow computation on types.
- **Inline** provides by itself a straightforward implementation of some simple macros and is at the same time an essential building block for the implementation of complex macros.

- **Quotes and splices** provide a principled way to express macros and staging with a unified set of abstractions.
- **Type class derivation** provides an in-language implementation of the Gen macro in Shapeless and other foundational libraries. The new implementation is more robust, efficient and easier to use than the macro.
- **Implicit by-name parameters** provide a more robust in-language implementation of the Lazy macro in Shapeless.

Status: not yet settled

We know we need a practical replacement for current macros. The features listed above are very promising in that respect, but we need more complete implementations and more use cases to reach a final verdict.

Migration cost: very high

Existing macro libraries will have to be rewritten from the ground up. In many cases the rewritten libraries will turn out to be simpler and more robust than the old ones, but that does not relieve one of the cost of the rewrites. It's currently unclear to what degree users of macro libraries will be affected. We aim to provide sufficient functionality so that core macros can be re-implemented fully, but given the vast feature set of the various macro extensions to Scala 2 it is difficult to arrive at a workable limitation of scope.

11.18.8 Changes to Type Checking and Inference

The Scala 3 compiler uses a new algorithm for type inference, which relies on a general subtype constraint solver. The new algorithm often **works better than the old**, but there are inevitably situations where the results of both algorithms differ, leading to errors diagnosed by Scala 3 for programs that the Scala 2 compiler accepts.

Status: essential

The new type-checking and inference algorithms are the essential core of the new compiler. They cannot be reverted without dropping the whole implementation of Scala 3.

Migration cost: high

Some existing programs will break and, given the complex nature of type inference, it will not always be clear what change caused the breakage and how to fix it.

In our experience, macros and changes in type and implicit argument inference together cause the large majority of problems encountered when porting existing code to Scala 3. The latter source of problems could be addressed systematically by a tool that added all inferred types and implicit arguments to a Scala 2 source code file. Most likely such a tool would be implemented as a **Scala 2 compiler plugin**. The resulting code would have a greatly increased likelihood to compile under Scala 3, but would often be bulky to the point of being unreadable. A second part of the rewriting tool should then selectively and iteratively remove type and implicit annotations that were synthesized by the first part as long as they compile under Scala 3. This second part could be implemented as a program that invokes the Scala 3 compiler `scalac` programmatically.

Several people have proposed such a tool for some time now. I believe it is time we find the will and the resources to actually implement it.