

# GADTs Meet Their Match:

Pattern-Matching Warnings That Account for GADTs, Guards, and Laziness

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

**SLPJ:** Ryan is going to draft. Include a list of contributions

Contributions from our call:

- Things we do that weren't done in GADTs meet their match
  - Strictness, including bang patterns, data structures with strict fields.
  - COMPLETE pragmas
  - Newtype pattern matching
  - ..anything else?
  - Less syntactic; robust to mixing pattern guards and syntax pattern matching and view patterns
- Much simpler and more modular formalism (evidence: compare the Figures; separation of desugaring and clause-tree processing, so that it's easy to add new source-language forms)
- Leading to a simpler, more correct, and much more performant implementation. (Evidence: GHC's bug tracker, perf numbers)
- Maybe the first to handle both strict and lazy languages.

## 2 THE PROBLEM WE WANT TO SOLVE

**SLPJ:** Ryan is going to draft

**SLPJ:** Maybe a Figure with Tricky Examples

## 3 OVERVIEW OVER OUR SOLUTION

**SLPJ:** Add diagram of the main road map here

### 3.1 Desugaring to clause trees

It is customary to define Haskell functions using pattern-matching, possibly with one or more *guarded right-hand sides* (GRHS) per *clause* (see fig. 1). Consider for example this 3am attempt at lifting equality over *Maybe*:

*liftEq Nothing Nothing = True*

*liftEq (Just x) (Just y)*

| *x == y* = *True*

| *otherwise* = *False*

This function will crash for the call site *liftEq (Just 1) Nothing*. To see that, we can follow Haskell's top-to-bottom, left-to-right pattern match semantics. The first clause fails to match *Just 1* against *Nothing*, while the second clause successfully matches 1 with *x*, but then fails trying to match *Nothing* against *Just y*. There is no third clause, and an *uncovered* value vector that falls out at

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| Meta variables     |                   | Pattern Syntax |  |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| $x, y, z, f, g, h$ | Term variables    | $defn$         | $::= \overline{clause}$  |
| $a, b, c$          | Type variables    | $clause$       | $::= f \overline{pat} \overline{match}$  |
| $K$                | Data constructors | $pat$          | $::= x \mid K \overline{pat}$  |
| $P$                | Pattern synonyms  | $match$        | $::= = \overline{expr} \mid \overline{grhss}$  |
| $T$                | Type constructors | $grhss$        | $::= \mid \overline{guard} = \overline{expr}$  |
|                    |                   | $guard$        | $::= pat \leftarrow \overline{expr} \mid \overline{expr} \mid \text{let } x = \overline{expr}$ |

**Fig. 1.** Source syntax

| Guard Syntax                   |   |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                | $n \in \mathbb{N}$  |                                      |  |
| $K \in \text{Con}$             | $\gamma \in \text{TyCt}$  | $::= \tau_1 \sim \tau_2 \mid \dots$  |  |
| $x, y, a, b \in \text{Var}$    | $p \in \text{Pat}$  | $::= \mid \overline{K} \overline{p}$ |  |
| $\tau, \sigma \in \text{Type}$ |   | $\mid \dots$                         |  |
| $e \in \text{Expr}$            | $::= x$   |                                      |  |
|                                | $\mid K \overline{\tau} \overline{\sigma} \overline{\gamma} \overline{e}$   | $g \in \text{Grd}$                   | $::= \text{let } x : \tau = e$   |
|                                | $\mid \dots$  |                                      | $\mid K \overline{a} \overline{\gamma} \overline{y} : \tau \leftarrow x$ |
|                                |   |                                      | $\mid !x$  |
| Constraint Formula Syntax      |   |                                      |  |
| $\Gamma$                       | $::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x : \tau \mid \Gamma, a$  |                                      | Context  |
| $\varphi$                      | $::= \checkmark \mid \times \mid K \overline{a} \overline{\gamma} \overline{y} : \tau \leftarrow x \mid x \not\approx K \mid x \approx \perp \mid x \not\approx \perp \mid \text{let } x = e$ |                                      | Literals   |
| $\Phi$                         | $::= \varphi \mid \Phi \wedge \Phi \mid \Phi \vee \Phi$   |                                      | Formula  |
| $\Theta$                       | $::= \{\Gamma \mid \Phi\}$  |                                      | Refinement Type  |
| $\delta$                       | $::= \gamma \mid x \approx K \overline{a} \overline{\gamma} \mid x \not\approx K \mid x \approx \perp \mid x \not\approx \perp \mid x \approx y$  |                                      | Constraints without scoping  |
| $\Delta$                       | $::= \emptyset \mid \Delta, \delta$   |                                      | Set of constraints   |
| $\nabla$                       | $::= \times \mid \Gamma \triangleright \Delta$  |                                      | Inert Set  |
| Clause Tree Syntax             |   |                                      |  |
| $t_G, u_G \in \text{Gdt}$      | $::= \text{Rhs } n \mid t_G; u_G \mid \text{Guard } g \ t_G$  |                                      |  |
| $t_A, u_A \in \text{Ant}$      | $::= \text{AccessibleRhs } n \mid \text{InaccessibleRhs } n \mid t_A; u_A \mid \text{MayDiverge } t_A$  |                                      |  |

**Fig. 2.** IR Syntax

|   |   |   |                                 |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} t_G \\ \text{---} u_G \end{array}$ | $::= t_G; u_G$  | $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} t_A \\ \text{---} u_A \end{array}$ | $::= t_A; u_A$                  |
| $g_1, \dots, g_n \text{---} t_G$                                | $::= \text{Guard } g_1 \dots (\text{Guard } g_n \ t_G)$ | $\text{---} t_A$  | $::= \text{MayDiverge } t_A$    |
| $\text{---} n$  | $::= \text{Rhs } n$                                     | $\text{---} \checkmark_n$                                       | $::= \text{AccessibleRhs } n$   |
|   |   | $\text{---} \times_n$   | $::= \text{InaccessibleRhs } n$ |

**Fig. 3.** Graphical notation

the bottom of this process will lead to a crash. **SLPJ: We have not talked about value vectors yet!**  
**Rephrase**

Compare that to matching on (*Just* 1) (*Just* 2): While matching against the first clause fails, the second matches  $x$  to 1 and  $y$  to 2. Since there are multiple guarded right-hand sides (GRHSs), each of them in turn has to be tried in a top-to-bottom fashion. The first GRHS consists of a single boolean guard (in general we have to consider each of them in a left-to-right fashion!) **SG: Maybe an example with more guards would be helpful** that will fail because  $1 \neq 2$ . So the second GRHS is tried successfully, because *otherwise* is a boolean guard that never fails.

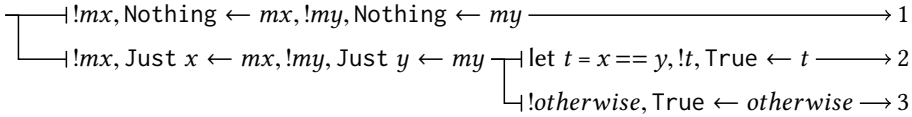
Note how both the pattern matching per clause and the guard checking within a syntactic *match* share top-to-bottom and left-to-right semantics. Having to make sense of both pattern and guard semantics seems like a waste of energy. Perhaps we can express all pattern matching by (nested) pattern guards, thus:

```
liftEq mx my
| Nothing ← mx, Nothing ← my      = True
| Just x ← mx, Just y ← my | x == y = True
| otherwise = False
```

Transforming the first clause with its single GRHS easy. But the second clause already had two GRHSs, so we need to use *nested* pattern guards. This is not a feature that Haskell offers (yet), but it allows a very convenient uniformity for our purposes: after the successful match on the first two guards left-to-right, we try to match each of the GRHSs in turn, top-to-bottom (and their individual guards left-to-right).

Hence our algorithm desugars the source syntax to the following *guard tree* (see fig. 2 for the full syntax and fig. 3 the corresponding graphical notation):

**SG: TODO: Make the connection between textual syntax and graphic representation. SG: The bangs are distracting. Also the otherwise. Also binding the temporary.**

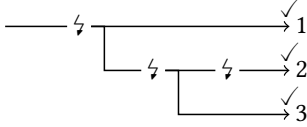


This representation is quite a bit more explicit than the original program. For one thing, every source-level pattern guard is strict in its scrutinee, whereas the pattern guards in our tree language are not, so we had to insert bang patterns. **SG: This makes me question again if making pattern guards "lazy" was the right choice. But I like to keep the logic of bang patterns orthogonal to pattern guards in our checking function.** For another thing, the pattern guards in Grd only scrutinise variables (and only one level deep), so the comparison in the boolean guard's scrutinee had to be bound to an auxiliary variable in a let binding.

Pattern guards in Grd are the only guards that can possibly fail to match, in which case the value of the scrutinee was not of the shape of the constructor application it was matched against. The Gdt tree language determines how to cope with a failed guard. Left-to-right matching semantics is captured by Guard , whereas top-to-bottom backtracking is expressed by sequence (;). The leaves in this tree each correspond to a GRHS. **SG: The preceding and following paragraph would benefit from illustrations. It's hard to come up with something concrete that doesn't go into too much detail. GMTM just shows a top-to-bottom pipeline. But why should we leave out left-to-right composition? Also we produce an annotated syntax tree Ant instead of a covered set.**

### 3.2 Checking Guard Trees

Pattern match checking works by gradually refining the set of uncovered values as they flow through the tree and produces two values: The uncovered set that wasn't covered by any clause and an annotated guard tree skeleton  $\text{Ant}$  with the same shape as the guard tree to check, capturing redundancy and divergence information. Pattern match checking our guard tree from above should yield an empty uncovered set and an annotated guard tree skeleton like



A GRHS is deemed accessible (✓) whenever there's a non-empty set of values reaching it. For the first GRHS, the set that reaches it looks like  $\{(mx, my) \mid mx \neq \perp, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow mx, my \neq \perp, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow my\}$ , which is inhabited by  $(\text{Nothing}, \text{Nothing})$ . Similarly, we can find inhabitants for the other two clauses.

A  $\zeta$  denotes possible divergence in one of the bang patterns and involves testing the set of reaching values for compatibility with i.e.  $mx \approx \perp$ . We don't know for  $mx, my$  and  $t$  (hence insert a  $\zeta$ ), but can certainly rule out *otherwise*  $\approx \perp$  simply by knowing that it is defined as *True*. But since all GRHSs are accessible, there's nothing to report in terms of redundancy and the  $\zeta$  decorators are irrelevant.

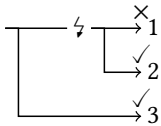
Perhaps surprisingly and most importantly, Grd with its three primitive guards, combined with left-to-right or top-to-bottom semantics in Gdt, is expressive enough to express all pattern matching in Haskell (cf. fig. **SG: TODO: desugaring function**)! We have yet to find a language extension that doesn't fit into this framework.

**3.2.1 Why do we not report redundant GRHSs directly?** Why not compute the redundant GRHSs directly instead of building up a whole new tree? Because determining inaccessibility vs. redundancy is a non-local problem. Consider this example: **SG: I think this kind of detail should be motivated in a prior section and then referenced here for its solution.**

```
g :: () -> Int
g () | False = 1
      | True  = 2
g _      = 3
```

Is the first clause inaccessible or even redundant? Although the match on  $()$  forces the argument, we can delete the first clause without changing program semantics, so clearly it's redundant. But that wouldn't be true if the second clause wasn't there to "keep alive" the  $()$  pattern!

Here is the corresponding annotated tree after checking:



In general, at least one GRHS under a  $\zeta$  may not be flagged as redundant. Thus the checking algorithm can't decide which GRHSs are redundant (vs. just inaccessible) when it reaches a particular GRHS.

### 3.3 Testing for Emptiness

The informal style of pattern match checking above represents the set of values reaching a particular node of the guard tree as a *refinement type* (which is the  $\Theta$  from fig. 2). Each guard encountered in the tree traversal refines this set with its own constraints.

Apart from generating inhabitants of the final uncovered set for missing equation warnings, there are two points at which we have to check whether such a refinement type has become empty: To determine whether a right-hand side is inaccessible and whether a particular bang pattern may lead to divergence and requires us to wrap a  $\zeta$ .

Take the the final uncovered set  $\{(mx : \text{Maybe } a, my : \text{Maybe } a) \mid \Phi\}$  after checking *liftEq* above as an example, where the predicate  $\Phi$  is: **SG: This doesn't even pick up the trivially empty clauses ending in  $\times$ , but is already quite complex.**

$$\begin{aligned} & (mx \neq \perp \wedge (mx \neq \text{Nothing} \vee (\text{Nothing} \leftarrow mx \wedge my \neq \perp \wedge my \neq \text{Nothing}))) \\ \wedge & (mx \neq \perp \wedge (mx \neq \text{Just} \vee (\text{Just } x \leftarrow mx \wedge my \neq \perp \wedge (my \neq \text{Just})))) \end{aligned}$$

A bit of eyeballing *liftEq*'s definition finds *Nothing* (*Just*  $\_$ ) as an uncovered pattern, but eyeballing the constraint formula above seems impossible in comparison. A more systematic approach is to adopt a generate-and-test scheme: Enumerate possible values of the data types for each variable involved (the pattern variables *mx* and *my*, but also possibly the guard-bound *x*, *y* and *t*) and test them for compatibility with the recorded constraints.

Starting from *mx my*, we enumerate all possibilities for the shape of *mx*, and similarly for *my*. The obvious first candidate in a lazy language is  $\perp$ ! But that is a contradicting assignment for both *mx* and *my* independently. Refining to *Nothing Nothing* contradicts with the left part of the top-level  $\wedge$ . Trying *Just y* (*y* fresh) instead as the shape for *my* yields our first inhabitant! Note that *y* is unconstrained, so  $\perp$  is a trivial inhabitant. Similarly for (*Just*  $\_$ ) *Nothing* and (*Just*  $\_$ ) (*Just*  $\_$ ).

Why do we have to test guard-bound variables in addition to the pattern variables? It's because of empty data types and strict fields: **SG: This example will probably move to an earlier section**

```
data Void    -- No data constructors
data SMaybe a = SJust ! a | SNothing
v :: SMaybe Void → Int
v x@SNothing = 0
```

*v* does not have any uncovered patterns. And our approach better should see that by looking at its uncovered set  $\{x : \text{Maybe } \text{Void} \mid x \neq \perp \wedge x \neq \text{Nothing}\}$ .

Specifically, the candidate *SJust y* (for fresh *y*) for *x* should be rejected, because there is no inhabitant for *y*!  $\perp$  is ruled out by the strict field and *Void* means there is no data constructor to instantiate. Hence it is important to test guard-bound variables for inhabitants, too.

**SG: GMTM goes into detail about type constraints, term constraints and worst-case complexity here. That feels a bit out of place.**

## 4 FORMALISM

The previous section gave insights into how we represent pattern match checking problems as clause trees and provided an intuition for how to check them for exhaustiveness and redundancy. This section formalises these intuitions in terms of the syntax (cf. fig. 2) we introduced earlier.

As in the previous section, this comes in two main parts: Pattern match checking and finding inhabitants of the arising refinement types. **SG: Maybe we'll split that last part in two: 1. Converting  $\Theta$  into a bunch of inhabited  $\nabla$ s 2. Make sure that each  $\nabla$  is inhabited.**

### Operations on $\Theta$

$$\begin{aligned}\{\Gamma \mid \Phi\} \dot{\wedge} \varphi &= \{\Gamma \mid \Phi \wedge \varphi\} \\ \{\Gamma \mid \Phi_1\} \cup \{\Gamma \mid \Phi_2\} &= \{\Gamma \mid \Phi_1 \vee \Phi_2\}\end{aligned}$$

### Checking Guard Trees

$$\boxed{\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t_G) = \Theta}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{U}(\{\Gamma \mid \Phi\}, \text{Rhs } n) &= \{\Gamma \mid \times\} \\ \mathcal{U}(\Theta, t; u) &= \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t), u) \\ \mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (!x) t) &= \mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \neq \perp), t) \\ \mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (\text{let } x = e) t) &= \mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \approx e), t) \\ \mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x) t) &= (\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \neq K)) \cup \mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x), t)\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{A}(\Delta, t_G) = t_A}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Rhs } n) &= \begin{cases} \text{InaccessibleRhs } n, & \mathcal{G}(\Theta) = \emptyset \\ \text{AccessibleRhs } n, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \mathcal{A}(\Theta, (t; u)) &= \mathcal{A}(\Theta, t); \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t), u) \\ \mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (!x) t) &= \begin{cases} \mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \neq \perp), t), & \mathcal{G}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \approx \perp)) = \emptyset \\ \text{MayDiverge } \mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \neq \perp), t) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (\text{let } x = e) t) &= \mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \approx e), t) \\ \mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x) t) &= \mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x), t)\end{aligned}$$

### Putting it all together

- (0) Input: Context with match vars  $\Gamma$  and desugared Gdt  $t$
  - (1) Report  $n$  pattern vectors of  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{U}(\{\Gamma \mid \checkmark\}, t))$  as uncovered
  - (2) Report the collected redundant and not-redundant-but-inaccessible clauses in  $\mathcal{A}(\{\Gamma \mid \checkmark\}, t)$
- (TODO: Write a function that collects the RHSs).

**Fig. 4.** Pattern-match checking

## 4.1 Desugaring to Guard Trees

**SLPJ:** Write a desugaring function (in a Figure) and describe it here. Give one example that illustrates; e.g. the one from my talk.

## 4.2 Checking Guard Trees

Figure 4 shows the two main functions for checking guard trees.  $\mathcal{U}$  carries out exhaustiveness checking by computing the set of uncovered values for a particular guard tree, whereas  $\mathcal{A}$  computes the corresponding annotated tree, capturing redundancy information.

Both functions take as input the set of values *reaching* the particular guard tree node passed in as second parameter. The definition of  $\mathcal{U}$  follows the intuition we built up earlier: It refines the set of reaching values as a subset of it falls through from one clause to the next. This is most visible in the ; case (top-to-bottom composition), where the set of values reaching the right (or bottom) child is exactly the set of values that were uncovered by the left (or top) child on the set of values reaching the whole node. A GRHS covers every reaching value. The left-to-right semantics of Guard are respected by refining the set of values reaching the wrapped subtree, depending on the particular

guard. Bang patterns and let bindings don't do anything beyond that refinement, whereas pattern guards additionally account for the possibility of a failed pattern match. Note that ultimately, a failing pattern guard is the only way in which the uncovered set can become non-empty!

When  $\mathcal{A}$  hits a GRHS, it asks  $\mathcal{G}$  for inhabitants of  $\Theta$  to decide whether the GRHS is accessible or not. Since  $\mathcal{A}$  needs to compute and maintain the set of reaching values just the same as  $\mathcal{U}$ , it has to call out to  $\mathcal{U}$  for the  $;$  case. Out of the three guard cases, the one handling bang patterns is the only one doing more than just refining the set of reaching values for the subtree (thus respecting left-to-right semantics). A bang pattern  $!x$  is handled by testing whether the set of reaching values  $\Theta$  is compatible with the assignment  $x \approx \perp$ , which again is done by asking  $\mathcal{G}$  for concrete inhabitants of the resulting refinement type. If it is inhabited, then the bang pattern might diverge and we need to wrap the annotated subtree in a  $\zeta$ .

Pattern guard semantics are important for  $\mathcal{U}$  and bang pattern semantics are important for  $\mathcal{A}$ . But what about let bindings? They are in fact completely uninteresting to the checking process, but making sense of them is important for the precision of the emptiness check involving  $\mathcal{G}$ , as we'll see later on **SG: TODO: cref**.

### 4.3 Testing for Emptiness

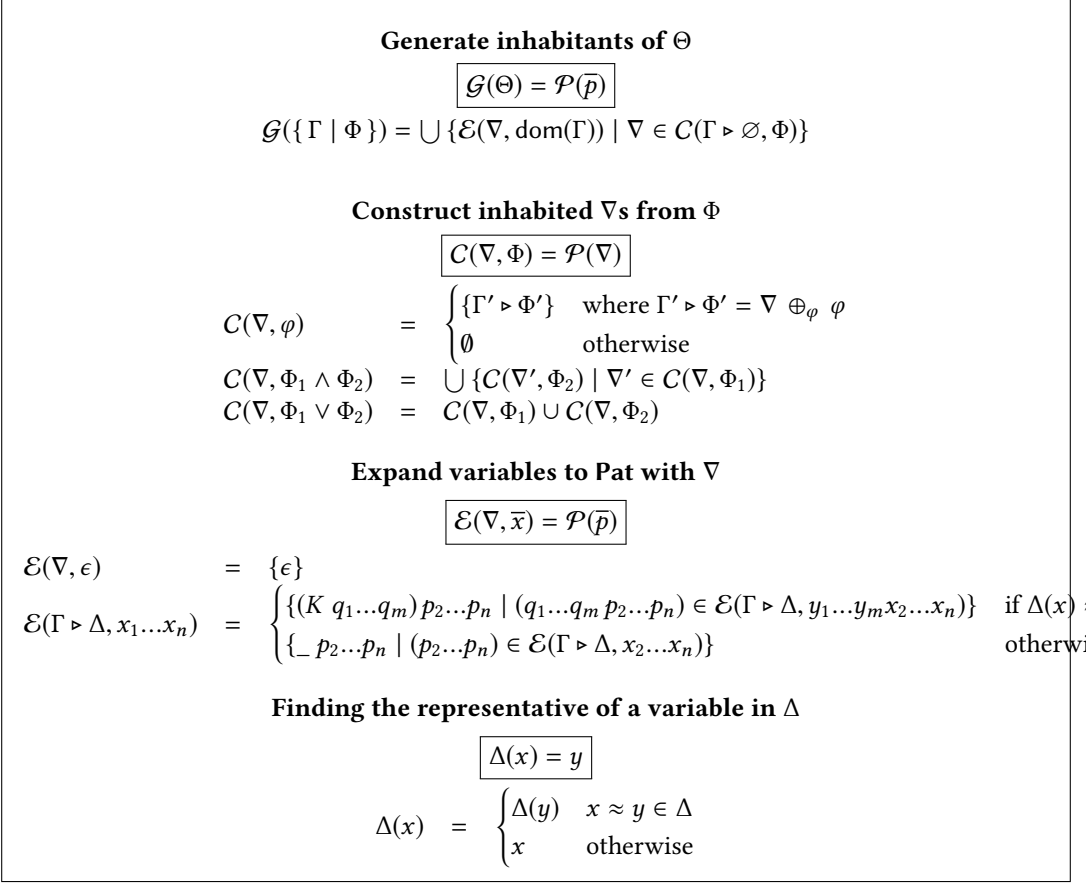
**SG: Maybe the this paragraph should somewhere else, possibly earlier.** The predicate literals  $\varphi$  of refinement types looks quite similar to the original Grd language, so how is checking them for emptiness an improvement over reasoning about guard trees directly? To appreciate the translation step we just described, it is important to realise that semantics of Grds are *highly non-local*! Left-to-right and top-to-bottom match semantics means that it's hard to view Grds in isolation, we always have to reason about whole Gdts. By contrast, refinement types are self-contained, which means the emptiness test can be treated in separation from the whole pattern match checking problem.

The key function for the emptiness test is  $\mathcal{G}$  in fig. 5, which generates a set of patterns which inhabit a given refinement type  $\Theta$ . There might be multiple inhabitants, and  $C$  will construct multiple  $\nabla$ s, each representing at least one inhabiting assignment of the refinement predicate  $\Phi$ . Each such assignment corresponds to a pattern vector, so  $\mathcal{E}$  expands the assignments in a  $\nabla$  into multiple pattern vectors. **SG: Currently,  $\mathcal{E}$  will only expand positive constraints and not produce multiple pattern vectors for a  $\nabla$  with negative info (see the TODO comment attached to  $\mathcal{E}$ 's definition)**

But what is  $\nabla$ ? To a first approximation, it is a set of mutually compatible constraints  $\delta$  (or a proven incompatibility  $\times$  between them). It is also a unifier to the particular  $\Phi$  it is constructed for, in that the recorded constraints are valid assignments for the variables occurring in the original predicate **SG: This is not true of  $\times$** . Each  $\nabla$  is the trace of commitments to a left or right disjunct in a  $\Phi$  **SG: Not sure how to say this more accurately**, which are checked in isolation. So in contrast to  $\Phi$ , there is no disjunction in  $\Delta$ . Which makes it easy to check if a new constraint is compatible with the existing ones without any backtracking. Another fundamental difference is that  $\delta$  has no binding construts (so every variable has to be bound in the  $\Gamma$  part of  $\nabla$ ), whereas pattern bindings in  $\varphi$  bind constructor arguments.

$C$  is the function that breaks down a  $\Phi$  into multiple  $\nabla$ s. At the heart of  $C$  is adding a  $\varphi$  literal to the  $\nabla$  under construction via  $\oplus_\varphi$  and filtering out any unsuccessful attempts (via intercepting the  $\times$  failure mode) to do so. Conjunction is handled by the equivalent of a *concatMap*, whereas a disjunction corresponds to a plain union.

Expanding a  $\nabla$  to a pattern vector in  $\mathcal{E}$  is syntactically heavy, but straightforward: When there is a positive constraint like  $x \approx \text{Just } y$  in  $\Delta$  for the head  $x$  of the variable vector of interest, expand  $y$  in addition to the other variables and wrap it in a *Just*. Only that it's not plain  $x \approx \text{Just } y$ , but



**Fig. 5.** Generating inhabitants of  $\Theta$  via  $\nabla$

$\Delta(x) \approx \textit{Just } y$ . That's because  $\Delta$  is in *triangular form* (alluding to *triangular substitutions* **SG: TODO cite something**): We have to follow  $x \approx y$  constraints in  $\Delta$  until we find the representative of its equality class, to which all constraints apply. Note that a  $x \approx y$  constraint implies absence of any other constraints mentioning  $x$  in its left-hand side ( $x \approx y \in \Delta \Rightarrow (\Delta \cap x = x \approx y)$ ), foreshadowing notation from fig. 6). For  $\mathcal{E}$  to be well-defined, there needs to be at most one positive constraint in  $\Delta$ .

Thus, constraints within  $\nabla$ s constructed by  $\oplus_{\varphi}$  satisfy a number of well-formedness constraints, like mutual compatibility, triangular form and the fact that there is at most one positive constraint  $x \approx \_$  per variable  $x$ . We refer to such  $\nabla$ s as an *inert set*, in the sense that constraints inside it satisfy it are of canonical form and already checked for mutual compatibility, in analogy to a typechecker's implementation **SG: Feel free to flesh out or correct this analogy**.

#### 4.4 Extending the inert set

After tearing down abstraction after abstraction in the previous sections we nearly hit rock bottom: Figure 6 depicts how to add a  $\varphi$  constraint to an inert set  $\nabla$ .

It does so by expressing a  $\varphi$  in terms of once again simpler constraints  $\delta$  and calling out to  $\oplus_{\delta}$ . Specifically, for a lack of binding constructs in  $\delta$ , pattern bindings extend the context and disperse



into separate type constraints and a positive constructor constraint arising from the binding. The fourth case of  $\oplus_\delta$  makes sense of let bindings: In case the right-hand side was a constructor application (which is not to be confused with a pattern binding, if only for the difference in binding semantics!), we add appropriate positive constructor and type constraints, as well as recurse into the field expressions, which might in turn contain nested constructor applications. The last case of  $\oplus_\varphi$  turns the syntactically and semantically identical subset of  $\varphi$  into  $\delta$  and adds that constraint via  $\oplus_\delta$ .

Which brings us to the prime unification procedure,  $\oplus_\delta$ . Consider adding a positive constructor constraint like  $x \approx \text{Just } y$ : The unification procedure will first look for any positive constructor constraint involving the representative of  $x$  with *that same constructor*. Let's say there is  $\Delta(x) = z$  and  $z \approx \text{Just } u \in \Delta$ . Then  $\oplus_\delta$  decomposes the new constraint just like a classic unification algorithm, by equating type and term variables with new constraints. If there was no such

Adding a type constraint entails calling out to the type-checker (the logic of which we do not and would not replicate in this paper or our implementation) a

## 5 END TO END EXAMPLE

**SG:** This section is completely out of date and goes into so much detail that it is barely comprehensible. I think we might be able to recycle some of the examples later on.

We'll start from the following source Haskell program and see how each of the steps (translation to guard trees, checking guard trees and ultimately generating inhabitants of the occurring  $\Delta$ s) work.

```
f :: Maybe Int → Int
f Nothing      = 0  -- RHS 1
f x | Just y ← x = y -- RHS 2
```

### 5.1 Translation to guard trees

The program (by a function we probably only give in the appendix?) corresponds to the following guard tree  $t_f$ :

```
Guard (!x) Guard (Nothing ← x) Rhs 1;
Guard (!x) Guard (Just y ← x) Rhs 2
```

Data constructor matches are strict, so we add a bang for each match.

### 5.2 Checking

**5.2.1 Uncovered values.** First compute the uncovered  $\Delta$ s, after the first and the second clause respectively.

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_1 &:= \mathcal{U}\text{Guard} (!x) \text{Guard} (\text{Nothing} \leftarrow x) \text{Rhs } 1 \\ &= x \neq \perp \wedge (x \neq \text{Nothing} \vee \times) \end{aligned}$$

(2)

$$\Delta_2 := \mathcal{U}t_f = \Delta_1 \wedge x \neq \perp \wedge (x \neq \text{Just} \vee \times)$$

The right operands of  $\vee$  are vacuous, but the purely syntactical transformation doesn't see that.

We can see that  $\Delta_2$  is in fact uninhabited, because the three constraints  $x \neq \perp$ ,  $x \neq \text{Nothing}$  and  $x \neq \text{Just}$  cover all possible data constructors of the `Maybe` data type. And indeed  $\mathcal{G}x : \text{Maybe } \text{Int} \Delta_2 = \emptyset$ , as we'll see later.

**Add a formula literal to the inert set**

$$\boxed{\nabla \oplus_{\varphi} \varphi = \nabla}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla \oplus_{\varphi} \times &= \times \\
 \nabla \oplus_{\varphi} \checkmark &= \nabla \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\varphi} K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x &= \Gamma, \bar{a}, \bar{y} : \tau \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} \bar{y} \oplus_{\delta} x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\varphi} \text{let } x : \tau = K \bar{\sigma}' \bar{\sigma} \bar{y} \bar{e} &= \Gamma, x : \tau, \bar{a}, \bar{y} : \tau' \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} \bar{a} \sim \tau' \oplus_{\delta} x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \oplus_{\varphi} \overline{\text{let } y = e} \text{ where } \bar{a} \# \Gamma, \bar{y} \# \bar{e} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\varphi} \text{let } x : \tau = e &= \Gamma, x : \tau \triangleright \Delta \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\varphi} \varphi &= \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} \varphi
 \end{aligned}$$

**Add a constraint to the inert set**

$$\boxed{\nabla \oplus_{\delta} \delta = \nabla}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \times \oplus_{\delta} \delta &= \times \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} \gamma &= \begin{cases} \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \gamma) & \text{if type checker deems } \gamma \text{ compatible with } \Delta \\ & \text{and } \forall x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma) : \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \gamma) \vdash \Delta(x) \\ \times & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} &= \begin{cases} \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} \bar{a} \sim \bar{b} \oplus_{\delta} \bar{y} \approx \bar{z} & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K' \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \\ \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}) & \text{where } \Delta(x) \not\approx K \notin \Delta \text{ and } \overline{\Gamma \triangleright \Delta \vdash y} \\ \times & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} x \not\approx K &= \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if not } \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx K) \vdash \Delta(x) \\ \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx K) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} x \approx \perp &= \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp \in \Delta \\ \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx \perp) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} x \not\approx \perp &= \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx \perp \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if not } \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp) \vdash \Delta(x) \\ \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
 \Gamma \triangleright \Delta \oplus_{\delta} x \approx y &= \begin{cases} \Gamma \triangleright \Delta & \text{if } \Delta(x) = \Delta(y) \\ \Gamma \triangleright (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx \Delta(y)) \oplus_{\delta} ((\Delta \cap \Delta(x))[\Delta(y)/\Delta(x)]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta \cap x = \Delta}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \emptyset \cap x &= \emptyset \\
 (\Delta, x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}) \cap x &= (\Delta \cap x), x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \\
 (\Delta, x \not\approx K) \cap x &= (\Delta \cap x), x \not\approx K \\
 (\Delta, x \approx \perp) \cap x &= (\Delta \cap x), x \approx \perp \\
 (\Delta, x \not\approx \perp) \cap x &= (\Delta \cap x), x \not\approx \perp \\
 (\Delta, \varphi) \cap x &= \Delta \cap x
 \end{aligned}$$

**Fig. 6.** Adding a constraint to the inert set  $\nabla$

**5.2.2 Redundancy.** In order to compute the annotated clause tree  $\mathcal{A}/t_f$ , we need to perform the following four inhabitation checks, one for each bang (for knowing whether we need to

**Test if  $x$  is inhabited considering  $\nabla$**

$$\begin{array}{c}
\boxed{\nabla \vdash x} \\
x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad K \in \text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi, \tau) \\
\frac{(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi \oplus_\delta x \approx \perp) \neq \times}{\Gamma \triangleright \Phi \vdash x} \quad \frac{\text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, K) = \bar{\varphi} \quad (\Gamma, y : \tau' \triangleright \Phi \oplus_\delta \bar{\varphi}) \neq \times}{\Gamma \triangleright \Phi \vdash x} \\
\\
\frac{x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad \text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi, \tau) = \perp}{\Gamma \triangleright \Phi \vdash x} \quad \frac{x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad K \in \text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi, \tau) \quad \text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, K) = \perp}{\Gamma \triangleright \Phi \vdash x}
\end{array}$$

**Find data constructors of  $\tau$**

$$\begin{array}{c}
\boxed{\text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi, \tau) = \bar{K}} \\
\text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright \Phi, \tau) = \begin{cases} \bar{K} & \tau = T \bar{\sigma} \text{ and } T \text{ data type with constructors } \bar{K} \\ & \text{(after normalisation according to the type constraints in } \Phi) \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{array}$$

**Instantiate  $x$  to data constructor  $K$**

$$\begin{array}{c}
\boxed{\text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, K) = \bar{\varphi}} \\
\text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, K) = \begin{cases} \tau_x \sim \tau, \bar{y}, x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}, \bar{y}' \not\approx \perp & K : \forall \bar{a}. \bar{y} \Rightarrow \bar{\sigma} \rightarrow \tau, \bar{y} \# \Gamma, \bar{a} \# \Gamma, x : \tau_x \in \Gamma, \bar{y}' \text{ bind strict fields} \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{array}$$

**Fig. 7.** Inhabitation test

wrap a `MayDiverge` and one for each RHS (where we have to decide for `InaccessibleRhs` or `AccessibleRhs`):

- (1) The first divergence check:  $\Delta_3 := \checkmark \wedge x \approx \perp$
- (2) Upon reaching the first RHS:  $\Delta_4 := \checkmark \wedge x \not\approx \perp \wedge \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$
- (3) The second divergence check:  $\Delta_5 := \checkmark \wedge \Delta_1 \wedge x \approx \perp$
- (4) Upon reaching the second RHS:  $\Delta_6 := \checkmark \wedge \Delta_1 \wedge x \not\approx \perp \wedge \text{Just } y \leftarrow x$

Except for  $\Delta_5$ , these are all inhabited, i.e.  $\mathcal{G}x : \text{Maybe } \text{Int} \Delta_i \neq \emptyset$  (as we'll see in the next section). Thus, we will get the following annotated tree:

MayDiverge AccessibleRhs 1; AccessibleRhs 2

### 5.3 Generating inhabitants

The last section left open how  $\mathcal{G}$  works, which was used to establish or refute vacuity of a  $\Delta$ .

$\mathcal{G}$  proceeds in two steps: First it constructs zero, one or many *inert sets*  $\nabla$  with  $C$  (each of them representing a set of mutually compatible constraints) and then expands each of the returned inert sets into one or more pattern vectors  $\bar{p}$  with  $\mathcal{E}$ , which is the preferred representation to show to the user.

The interesting bit happens in  $C$ , where a  $\Delta$  is basically transformed into disjunctive normal form, represented by a set of independently inhabited  $\nabla$ . This ultimately happens in the base case of  $C$ , by gradually adding individual constraints to the incoming inert set with  $\oplus_\delta$ , which starts

out empty in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Conjunction is handled by performing the equivalent of a *concatMap*, whereas disjunction simply translates to set union.

Let's see how that works for  $\Delta_3$  above. Recall that  $\Gamma = x : \text{Maybe Int}$  and  $\Delta_3 = \checkmark \wedge x \approx \perp$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& C(\Gamma, \checkmark \wedge x \approx \perp) \\
= & \{ \text{Conjunction} \} \\
& \bigcup \{ C(\Gamma' \triangleright \nabla', x \approx \perp) \mid \Gamma' \triangleright \nabla' \in C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \checkmark) \} \\
= & \{ \text{Single constraint} \} \\
& \begin{cases} C(\Gamma' \triangleright \nabla', x \approx \perp) & \text{where } \Gamma' \triangleright \nabla' = \oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright \emptyset \checkmark \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
= & \{ \checkmark \text{ case of } \oplus_\delta \} \\
& C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, x \approx \perp) \\
= & \{ \text{Single constraint} \} \\
& \begin{cases} \{ \Gamma' \triangleright \nabla' \} & \text{where } \Gamma' \triangleright \nabla' = \oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright \emptyset x \approx \perp \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\
= & \{ x \approx \perp \text{ case of } \oplus_\delta \} \\
& \{ \Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp \}
\end{aligned}$$

Let's start with  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma\Delta_3$ , where  $\Gamma = x : \text{Maybe Int}$  and recall that  $\Delta_3 = \checkmark \wedge x \approx \perp$ . The first constraint  $\checkmark$  is added very easily to the initial nabla by discarding it, the second one ( $x \approx \perp$ ) is not conflicting with any  $x \not\approx \perp$  constraint in the incoming, still empty ( $\emptyset$ ) nabla, so we end up with  $\Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp$  as proof that  $\Delta_3$  is in fact inhabited. Indeed,  $\mathcal{E}(\Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x)$  generate  $\_$  as the inhabitant (which is rather unhelpful, but correct).

The result of  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma\Delta_3$  is thus  $\{ \_ \}$ , which is not empty. Thus,  $\mathcal{A}\Delta t$  will wrap a `MayDiverge` around the first RHS.

Similarly,  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma\Delta_4$  needs  $C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \Delta_4)$ , which in turn will add  $x \not\approx \perp$  to an initially empty  $\nabla$ . That entails an inhabitation check to see if  $x$  might take on any values besides  $\perp$ .

This is one possible derivation of the  $\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \vdash x$  predicate:

$$\frac{
\begin{array}{l}
x : \text{Maybe Int} \in \Gamma \quad \text{Nothing} \in \text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp, \text{Maybe Int}) \\
\text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, \text{Nothing}) = \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x \\
(\oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x) \neq \perp
\end{array}
}{\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \vdash x}$$

The subgoal  $\oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$  is handled by the second case of the match on constructor pattern constraints, because there are no other constructor pattern constraints yet in the incoming  $\nabla$ . Since there are no type constraints carried by `Nothing`, no fields and no constraints of the form  $x \not\approx K$  in  $\nabla$ , we end up with  $\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$ . Which is not  $\perp$ , thus we conclude our proof of  $\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \vdash x$ .

Next, we have to add  $\text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$  to our  $\nabla = x \not\approx \perp$ , which amounts to computing  $\oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$ . Conveniently, we just did that! So the result of  $C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \Delta_4)$  is  $\Gamma \triangleright x \not\approx \perp, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$ .

Now, we see that  $\mathcal{E}(\Gamma \triangleright (x \not\approx \perp, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x), x) = \{ \text{Nothing} \}$ , which is also the result of  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma\Delta_4$ .

The checks for  $\Delta_5$  and  $\Delta_6$  are quite similar, only that we start from  $C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \Delta_1)$  (which occur syntactically in  $\Delta_5$  and  $\Delta_6$ ) as the initial  $\nabla$ . So, we first compute that.

Fast forward to computing  $\oplus_\delta \Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing}$ . Ultimately, this entails a proof of  $\Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing} \vdash x$ , for which we need to instantiate the Just constructor:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} x : \text{Maybe Int} \in \Gamma \quad \text{Just} \in \text{Cons}(\Gamma \triangleright (x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing}), \text{Maybe Int}) \\ \text{Inst}(\Gamma, x, \text{Just}) = \text{Just } y \leftarrow x \\ (\oplus_\delta \Gamma, y : \text{Int} \triangleright (x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing})) \text{Just } y \leftarrow x \neq \perp \end{array}}{\Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing} \vdash x}$$

$\oplus_\delta \Gamma, y : \text{Int} \triangleright (x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing}) \text{Just } y \leftarrow x$  is in fact not  $\perp$ , which is enough to conclude  $\Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing} \vdash x$ .

The second operand of  $\vee$  in  $\Delta_1$  is similar, but ultimately ends in  $\times$ , so will never produce a  $\nabla$ , so  $C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \Delta_1) = \Gamma \triangleright x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing}$ .

$C\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset \Delta_5$  will then just add  $x \approx \perp$  to that  $\nabla$ , which immediately refutes with  $x \approx \perp$ . So no `MayDiverge` around the second RHS.

$C(\Gamma \triangleright \emptyset, \Delta_6)$  is very similar to the situation with  $\Delta_4$ , just with more (non-conflicting) constraints in the incoming  $\nabla$  and with  $\text{Just } y \leftarrow x$  instead of  $\text{Nothing} \leftarrow x$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma \Delta_6 = \{\text{Just } \_ \}$ .

The last bit concerns  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma \Delta_2$ , which is empty because we ultimately would add  $x \approx \text{Just}$  to the inert set  $x \approx \perp, x \approx \text{Nothing}$ , which refutes by the second case of  $\oplus_\delta \_$ . (The  $\vee$  operand with  $\times$  in it is empty, as usual).

So we have  $\mathcal{G}\Gamma \Delta_2 = \emptyset$  and the pattern-match is exhaustive.

The result of  $\mathcal{A}\Gamma t$  is thus `MayDiverge AccessibleRhs 1; AccessibleRhs 2`.