

Discussion Week of 4/01: Scope and Type Unification

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1 Lexical and Dynamic Scope

Consider the following program:

```
x = 161
def add(y)
  return x + y
def f(x)
  return add(3)
```

Recall that a lexically scoped variable is looked up according to the textual arrangement of its definition. By contrast, a dynamically scoped variable is looked up in the call stack that is active at the moment when a name needs to be resolved and found in the most recent stack frame.

1. What does `f(5)` return under lexically scoped rules? What about dynamically scoped rules?

2 Type Unification

1. In this problem, we will perform type inference in order to determine the type of the following `foldl` program.

```
def foldl f z l = if l ≡ [] then z else foldl f (f z (head l)) (tail l)
```

- (a) Derive type constraints for the above program.
- (b) Based on the type constraint equations from the previous part, use the unification algorithm to derive the type of the entire program.
- (c) Suppose we want to count the number of `a`'s in a string. Let the string have type *List* Char. Write an appropriate function involving `foldl` that computes this quantity.

2. What are the types of the empty lists in the following expression?

```
if x = [] then [] else x::y fi
```