

Generalised recursion and type inference for intersection types

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Pascal Zimmer

INRIA Sophia Antipolis

General motivation

To design a base language with:

- functional core
- objects
- well-defined semantics, that can be realistically implemented
- ML-like inference of principal types

in the goal of adding other paradigms (migration, reactive)...

Outline

First part:

- semantics of object languages
- a type system with degrees
- implementation, abstract machine
- mixins

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- a type system with degrees
- implementation, abstract machine
- mixins

Second part:

- intersection types
- Klop calculus
- type inference
- extensions

First part

Generalised recursion

Semantics of objects

Auto-application semantics

- model initiated by Kamin, 1988;
reference: Abadi and Cardelli, 1996
- object = collection of pre-methods:

$$o = [\dots, l = \zeta(\text{self}) b, \dots]$$

- method call:

$$o.l \Rightarrow b \{\text{self} \leftarrow o\}$$

- specific typing
- inference of principal types impossible

Semantics of objects 2

Recursive record semantics

- Cardelli 1988, Wand 1994, Cook 1994
- class:

$$C = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_n \lambda \text{self} \{l_1 = M_1, \dots, l_p = M_p\}$$

- object: $o = \text{fix} (C N_1 \dots N_n)$
- row variables to extend the object
- no modification of the state, since self is bound to the initial object
- typing model of OCAML

Language proposition

- Wand's recursive record semantics
- ML-like references to hold the state of the object
- examples:

$$\begin{aligned} point &= \lambda x \lambda self \\ &\quad \{ pos = \text{ref } x, \\ &\quad \quad move = \lambda y (self.pos := !self.pos + y) \} \end{aligned}$$
$$p = \text{fix } (point \ 4)$$
$$\begin{aligned} color_point &= \lambda x \lambda c \lambda self \\ &\quad \{ point \ x \ self, color = \text{ref } c \} \end{aligned}$$

Evaluating the fixpoint

- Problem: how can we evaluate the fixpoint ?

$$\text{fix} = \lambda f \text{ (let rec } x = fx \text{ in } x)$$

- In SML, only allowed construct:

$$\text{let rec } x = \lambda y N \text{ in } M$$

- We need a generalised recursion operator
- But some recursions are dangerous:

$$\text{let rec } x = xV \text{ in } M$$

$$\text{let rec } x = x + 1 \text{ in } M$$

Type system with degrees

- Boudol, 2001
- degree = boolean information in function types and in typing contexts

$$\theta^d \rightarrow \tau$$

- 0 = “dangerous”, 1 = “sure”
- intuitively: is the value required or not when evaluating
- (let rec $x = N$ in M) is typable iff N is typable with a degree 1 for x
- (let rec $x = fx$ in M) is typable iff f has type $\theta^1 \rightarrow \tau$ (“protective” function)

Degrees - examples

- example of protective function:

$$point0 = \lambda self$$
$$\{ pos = \text{ref } 0,$$
$$move = \lambda y(\text{self}.pos := !\text{self}.pos + y) \}$$

- $\text{fix} = \lambda f(\text{let rec } x = fx \text{ in } x)$

has type: $(\tau^1 \rightarrow \tau)^0 \rightarrow \tau$

- $\lambda self \{ x = 0, y = self.x \}$

has type: $\{ \rho, x : \tau \}^0 \rightarrow \{ x : int, y : \tau \}$

where ρ is a row variable

with the constraint $\rho :: \{ x \}$

Degrees - results

- subject reduction
- safety: the evaluation of a typable term never leads to an error (recursion, field access, applications...)
- algorithm for inferring principal types, extension of ML's one

Unification and inference algorithms

- more “realistic” and efficient versions
- working on graphs (recursive types)
- unification of degrees, records, types
- polymorphism similar to ML, on degree, row or type variables; generalising for:

let (rec) $x = V$ in M

- constraints on row variables ($\rho :: L$) and degree variables;

example: $\lambda f \lambda x (f x)$ has type

$(\theta^\alpha \rightarrow \tau)^\beta \rightarrow \theta^\gamma \rightarrow \tau$ with $\gamma \leq \alpha$

Abstract machine

- we need to evaluate terms with the shape

$$(\lambda \text{self } M) \ o$$

where o is a still unevaluated variable, knowing that the value of self is not needed to evaluate M

- usual machines for λ -calculus or ML do not allow the evaluation of generalised recursion

Abstract machine

$$\mathcal{M} = (S, \sigma, M, \xi)$$

- S : control stack
- σ : environment
- M : term to evaluate
- ξ : memory for recursive values (and references)
- set of 11 transition rules, among which a “magic” rule:

$$\begin{aligned} & (S :: (\sigma \lambda y M []), \rho :: \{x \mapsto \ell\}, x, \xi) \\ \rightarrow & (S, \sigma :: \{y \mapsto \ell\}, M, \xi) \quad \text{if } \xi(\ell) = \bullet \end{aligned}$$

Abstract machine

- operational correspondence
- determinism
- no infinite “silent” reductions
- correction:
if the starting term is typable, then both the machine and the calculus semantics go through the same reductions

MLOBJ

<http://www-sop.inria.fr/mimosa/Pascal.Zimmer/mlobj.html>

OCAML-like interpreter...

Mixins

- goal: use higher-order constructs to build more powerful objects
- generator: $\lambda s \{ \dots \}$
- mixin: generator modifier

$$C = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_n \lambda g \lambda s \{ \dots \text{fields} \dots \text{methods} \dots \}$$

- instance ($\lambda s \{ \}$ is the initial generator):

$$\text{fix } (C N_1 \dots N_n (\lambda s \{ \}))$$

- new operator:

$$\text{new} = \lambda m \text{fix } (m (\lambda s \{ \}))$$

Mixins - definition

Implemented by syntactic sugar rules.

mixin

var $l = N$

non-constant data

cst $l = N$

constant data

meth $l(\text{super}, \text{self}) = N$

method

meth $l(\text{super}, \text{self}) \leftarrow N$

method override

inherit N

inheritance

without l

field suppression

rename l as l'

field renaming

end

Method call: $M\#l$

Mixins - examples

point = λx

mixin

var *pos* = *x*

meth *move* ...

end

coloring = λc

mixin

var *color* = *c*

meth *paint* ...

end

colorPoint = $\lambda x \lambda c$

mixin

inherit *point* *x*

inherit *coloring* *c*

end

⇒ multiple inheritance

Mixins - examples

reset =

mixin

meth *reset*(super, self) = self.*pos* := 0

end

resetPoint = λx

mixin

inherit *point* *x*

inherit *reset*

end

resetColorPoint = $\lambda x \lambda c$

mixin

inherit *colorPoint* *x* *c*

inherit *reset*

end

⇒ code sharing

Mixins - examples

mixin

```
meth reset(super, self) ←  
     $\lambda d$  (super#reset; super#paint d)
```

end

- Typing determines which mixins can be instantiated and which cannot.
- By changing the initial generator, one can get initialisers.
- Mixins = first order values
⇒ a huge expressive power still to be explored !

And after ?

- advanced functionalities: cloning, binary methods... :

meth $eq(\text{super}, \text{self}) = \lambda p (\text{self.pos} == p.pos)$

- operationally, no problem
- typing: not enough polymorphism !
- System F ?
type inference undecidable...
- intersection types ?
finite-rank inference is decidable...

Second part

Inference of intersection types

History

- system \mathcal{D} : Coppo, Dezani, 1980; Pottinger, 1980
- principal typing: Coppo, Dezani and Venneri, 1980; Ronchi della Rocca and Venneri, 1984
- inference: Ronchi della Rocca, 1988
- system \mathbb{I} : Kfoury and Wells, 1999
- system E: Carlier, Kfoury, Polakow and Wells, 2004

Motivation:

to find an algorithm simpler to understand and to prove

Types syntax

$$\tau, \sigma ::= t \mid \tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \longrightarrow \sigma$$

- conjunction only at the left of an arrow
- empty sequence denoted by ω
- $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \longrightarrow \sigma$: type of a function waiting for an argument having *all* types τ_i

Typing rules

$$\frac{}{x : \tau \vdash x : \tau} \text{(Typ Id)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma \setminus x \vdash \lambda x M : \Gamma(x) \rightarrow \tau} \text{(Typ } \lambda \text{)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \rightarrow \sigma \quad \forall i, \Gamma_i \vdash N : \tau_i}{\Gamma, \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_n \vdash MN : \sigma} \text{(Typ Appl Gen)} \quad (n \geq 1)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \omega \rightarrow \sigma \quad \Gamma_1 \vdash N : \tau_1}{\Gamma, \Gamma_1 \vdash MN : \sigma} \text{(Typ Appl } \omega \text{)}$$

Examples

- $\vdash I : t \rightarrow t$
($I = \lambda x x$)
- $\vdash \mathbf{2} : (t_1 \rightarrow t_2), (t_2 \rightarrow t_3) \rightarrow t_1 \rightarrow t_3$
($\mathbf{2} = \lambda f \lambda x f(fx)$)
- $\vdash \Delta : t_1, (t_1 \rightarrow t_2) \rightarrow t_2$
($\Delta = \lambda x (xx)$)
- $\vdash K : t \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow t$
($K = \lambda x \lambda y x$)
- $\not\vdash \Omega : ?$ $\not\vdash Kx\Omega : ?$
($\Omega = \Delta\Delta$)

Properties

- Subject reduction: If $M \rightarrow M'$, then

$$\Gamma \vdash M : \tau \implies \Gamma \vdash M' : \tau$$

- Theorem: A term M is typable in \mathcal{D} if and only if M is strongly normalising (i.e. iff it has no diverging reduction).

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- Theorem: A term M is typable in \mathcal{D} if and only if M is strongly normalising (i.e. iff it has no diverging reduction).
- Trivial algorithm: try to strongly normalise, then type.
- Problem: does not work for an extended calculus (recursion...)
- We have the type, but not the typing tree...

Example

$$M = F(\lambda u \Delta(uu))$$

with $F = \lambda x \lambda y y$ and $\Delta = \lambda x (xx)$

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- First step:
annotate every variable and application with a fresh type variable.

$$M^t = (F^t (\lambda u (\Delta^t (u : t_4 u : t_5) : t_6) : t_7)) : t_8$$

where $F^t = \lambda x \lambda y (y : t_0)$

and $\Delta^t = \lambda x (x : t_1 x : t_2) : t_3$

Example - $F(\lambda u \Delta(uu))$

- Second step:
for every application $(M^t N^t) : t$, build the constraint:

$$\text{Typ}(N^t) \rightarrow t \perp \text{Typ}(M^t) [\text{ftv}(N^t)]$$

Example - $F(\lambda u \Delta(uu))$

- Second step:
for every application $(M^t N^t) : t$, build the constraint:

$$\text{Typ}(N^t) \rightarrow t \perp \text{Typ}(M^t) [\text{ftv}(N^t)]$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (t_4, t_5 \rightarrow t_7) \rightarrow t_8 & \perp \quad \omega \rightarrow t_0 \rightarrow t_0 & [t_1, \dots, t_7], \\ t_6 \rightarrow t_7 & \perp \quad t_1, t_2 \rightarrow t_3 & [t_4, t_5, t_6], \\ t_5 \rightarrow t_6 & \perp \quad t_4 & [t_5], \\ t_2 \rightarrow t_3 & \perp \quad t_1 & [t_2] \end{array} \right\}$$

(In ML, we would add $t_4 \perp t_5$ and $t_1 \perp t_2$).

Example - $F(\lambda u \Delta(uu))$

Decomposition of:

$$t_6 \rightarrow t_7 \perp t_1, t_2 \rightarrow t_3 [t_4, t_5, t_6]$$

Updated system:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (t_4^1, t_4^2, t_5^1, t_5^2 \rightarrow t_3) \rightarrow t_8 \perp \omega \rightarrow t_0 \rightarrow t_0 [T], \\ t_6^2 \rightarrow t_3 \perp t_6^1 [t_4^2, t_5^2, t_6^2] \\ t_5^1 \rightarrow t_6^1 \perp t_4^1 [t_5^1], \\ t_5^2 \rightarrow t_6^2 \perp t_4^2 [t_5^2] \end{array} \right.$$

where $T = \{t_3, t_4^1, t_4^2, t_5^1, t_5^2, t_6^1, t_6^2\}$

Those equations correspond to the term:

$$F(\lambda u (uu)(uu))$$

Example - $F(\lambda u \Delta(uu))$

Decomposition of:

$$(t_4^1, t_4^2, t_5^1, t_5^2 \rightarrow t_3) \rightarrow t_8 \perp \omega \rightarrow t_0 \rightarrow t_0 [T]$$

We should not “erase” the argument, since it must be typable ! Updated system:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} t_6^2 \rightarrow t_3 \quad \perp \quad t_6^1 \quad [t_4^2, t_5^2, t_6^2], \\ t_5^1 \rightarrow t_6^1 \quad \perp \quad t_4^1 \quad [t_5^1], \\ t_5^2 \rightarrow t_6^2 \quad \perp \quad t_4^2 \quad [t_5^2] \end{array} \right\}$$

Those equations correspond to the terms:

$$I \text{ et } \lambda u (uu)(uu)$$

and not I alone

Λ_{κ} -calculus

- Inspired by Klop, 1980.
- Syntax:

$$M, N ::= x \mid MN \mid \lambda x M \mid [M, N]$$

- Semantics:

For $x \in fv(M)$:

$$[\lambda x M, N_1, \dots, N_n] N \longrightarrow_{\kappa} [M\{x \mapsto N\}, N_1, \dots, N_n]$$

For $x \notin fv(M)$:

$$[\lambda x M, N_1, \dots, N_n] N \longrightarrow_{\kappa} [M, N_1, \dots, N_n, N]$$

$\Lambda_{\mathcal{K}}$ -calculus

- $\mathcal{WN}_{\mathcal{K}} = \mathcal{SN}_{\mathcal{K}}$: normalising terms are strongly normalising
- $\mathcal{SN}_{\Lambda} = \Lambda \cap \mathcal{SN}_{\mathcal{K}}$: they correspond to strongly normalising terms in λ -calculus
- We add the typing rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash M_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma_2 \vdash M_2 : \sigma}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash [M_1, M_2] : \tau} \text{(Typ Forget)}$$

Reduction rules

System state: (\mathcal{E}, Π) where

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Rule for $n \geq 1$:

$$(\{\tau \rightarrow t \perp t_1, \dots, t_n \rightarrow \sigma [T]\} \cup \mathcal{E}, \Pi) \longrightarrow (S(\mathcal{E}), S(\Pi))$$

$$\text{with } S = \{t_i \mapsto \langle \tau \rangle^i, \langle T \rangle^i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n} :: \{t \mapsto \sigma, \emptyset\} :: D(n, T)$$

(R_n)

Reduction rules

Rule for $n = 0$:

$$\left(\{ \tau \rightarrow t \perp \omega \rightarrow \sigma [T] \} \cup \mathcal{E}, \Pi \right) \longrightarrow (S(\mathcal{E}), S(\Pi))$$

with $S = \{ t \mapsto \sigma, \emptyset \}$

(R_0)

Final rule:

$$\left(\{ \tau \perp t \} \cup \mathcal{E}, \Pi \right) \longrightarrow_f (S(\mathcal{E}), S(\Pi)) \quad \text{with } S = \{ t \mapsto \tau \}$$

(R_f)

Results

- Theorem: A term M is typable if and only if the initial system corresponding to M converges.

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- Theorem: If M is typable, then the final proof skeleton is a valid typing tree for M .
- Theorem: This typing tree is *principal*.
- Rank: Syntactic definition on types; to evaluate the “level” of polymorphism.

Property: The finite-rank algorithm *always stops*.

Consequence: Finite-rank inference is *decidable*.

Other results

- Implementation of the algorithm: TYPI

<http://www-sop.inria.fr/mimoso/Pascal.Zimmer/typi.html>

- Variant: by replacing the rule (R_0) with the general rule (R_n); equivalent to the type system $\mathcal{D}\Omega$, with the rule:

$$\frac{}{\vdash M : \omega} (\text{Typ } \omega)$$

- Extension to references (introducing conjunction only for values, as in ML; less liberty on the order of resolution)
- Extension to recursion $\mu x M$ (additional unification at the end of the algorithm)
in order to type MLOBJ ...

Future

- integrate intersection types in the language MLOBJ
- polymorphic methods in MLOBJ
- study the expressivity of mixins more closely
- extend the language with other paradigms

The end

TYPI

<http://www-sop.inria.fr/mimosa/Pascal.Zimmer/typi.html>

Direct implementation of the algorithm...

Rank

$$\mathit{inc}(0) = 0$$

$$\mathit{inc}(n) = n + 1 \quad \text{for } n > 0$$

$$\mathit{rank}(t) = 0$$

$$\mathit{rank}(\tau \rightarrow \sigma) = \max(\mathit{inc}(\mathit{rank}(\tau)), \mathit{rank}(\sigma))$$

$$\mathit{rank}(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_n \rightarrow \sigma) =$$
$$\max(\mathit{inc}(\max(1, \mathit{rank}(\tau_1), \dots, \mathit{rank}(\tau_n))), \mathit{rank}(\sigma))$$

for $n \neq 1$

Rank

Syntactic definition on types...

- rank 0: usual types without intersection
- rank 1: empty
- rank $r \geq 2$: there is a non-trivial conjunction under $r - 1$ arrows

Example:

$(t_1 \rightarrow t_2), (\omega \rightarrow t_3) \rightarrow t_1 \rightarrow t_3$ has rank 3

Finite-rank algorithm

- Choose a maximal allowed rank r .
- For every intermediate step (\mathcal{E}, Π) , check that $\text{rank}(\Pi) \leq r$.
- Otherwise, the term is not typable at rank r .

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Consequence: Finite-rank inference is *decidable*.

Variant

What happens if we use the general rule also for $n = 0$?

$$(\{\tau \rightarrow t \perp t_1, \dots, t_n \rightarrow \sigma [T]\} \cup \mathcal{E}, \Pi) \longrightarrow (S(\mathcal{E}), S(\Pi))$$

$$\text{with } S = \{t_i \mapsto \langle \tau \rangle^i, \langle T \rangle^i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n} :: \{t \mapsto \sigma, \emptyset\} :: D(n, T)$$

(R_n)

- Leads to “erase” constraints or sub-trees by $D(0, T)$
- Correspondence with the type system $\mathcal{D}\Omega$ (Krivine) or $\lambda\cap$ (Barendregt)

$$\frac{}{\vdash M : \omega} \text{(Typ } \omega)$$

Variant

- Property: The variant of the algorithm converges iff the term is normalising.
- Proposition: A term is typable in $\mathcal{D}\Omega$ with a non-trivial type iff it has a head-normal form.
- Characterisation of normalising terms.
- Corollary: If the algorithm converges, then the term is typable.
- Reciprocal property: not true (example: $x\Omega$)

System II

- System proposed by Kfoury and Wells (variant: System E with Carlier)
- Types contain *expansion variables*:

$$\psi ::= \alpha \mid (\psi \rightarrow \psi)$$

$$\psi ::= \psi \mid (\psi \wedge \psi') \mid (F\psi)$$

- Algorithm for solving similar constraints and returning a typing tree

System II

- Correspondence expansion variables / territory:

$$F_T \longleftrightarrow T = \{v \mid F_T \in \text{E-path}(v, \Gamma_{\text{II}}(M))\}$$

- Both algorithms perform the same operations, not necessarily in the same order, if we ignore expansion variables
→ operational correspondence
- Used to avoid redoing the proofs of some results (principality, finite rank)

References

The expression

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Solution similar to the one for polymorphism in ML: introducing conjunction only for *values* (Davies and Pfenning).

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : A \quad \Gamma \vdash V : B}{\Gamma \vdash V : A \wedge B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \vdash MN : B}$$

References

- Distinguish the types of terms-variables and applications: t_v and $t_@$
- Extended syntax for types:

$$t_b ::= t_v \mid t_b \textit{ ref} \mid \textit{cte} \mid t_b \textit{ list}$$

$$\tau, \sigma ::= t_v \mid \tau \textit{ ref} \mid \textit{cte} \mid \tau \textit{ list} \mid t_@ \mid t_b, \dots, t_b \rightarrow \tau$$

- Decomposable equations:

$$\tau \rightarrow t_@ \perp t_{b_1}, \dots, t_{b_n} \rightarrow \sigma \quad [T]$$

References

$$(\{\tau \rightarrow t_{@} \stackrel{\perp}{=} t_{b_1}, \dots, t_{b_n} \rightarrow \sigma [T]\} \cup \mathcal{E}, \Pi) \longrightarrow (S(\mathcal{E}), S(\Pi))$$

$$\text{with } S = \begin{cases} mgu(t_{b_i}, \langle \tau \rangle^i, \langle T \rangle^i)_{1 \leq i \leq n} :: \{t_{@} \mapsto \sigma, \emptyset\} :: D(n, T) & \text{if } \text{ValueType}(\tau) \\ mgu(t_{b_i}, \tau, T)_{1 \leq i \leq n} :: \{t_{@} \mapsto \sigma, \emptyset\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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but we also need to impose an order for solving the constraints, corresponding more or less to call-by-value...

Recursion

- We add an operator $\mu x M$
- Solution: infer types as for M , then additional unification algorithm
- Modify the type system:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \sigma_1, \dots, x : \sigma_n \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \mu x M : \tau} \text{(REC)} \quad \text{with } \forall i \sigma_i \equiv \tau$$

- Equality modulo commutativity and contraction:

$$\dots, \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots \rightarrow \sigma \equiv \dots, \tau_2, \tau_1, \dots \rightarrow \sigma$$

$$\dots, \tau, \tau, \dots \rightarrow \sigma \equiv \dots, \tau, \dots \rightarrow \sigma$$