G54FOP: Lecture 13

Types and Type Systems II

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This Lecture

Extensions:

- typing let-expressions
- typing functions

Much of this lecture follows parts of the first few chapters of B. C. Pierce 2002 *Types and Programming Languages* closely.

Recap: Example Language (1)

Abstract syntax:

t	$\rightarrow$	*terms:*
	`true`	*constant true*
	$\mid$ `false`	*constant false*
	$\mid$ `if` t `then` t `else` t	*conditional*
	$\mid$ `0`	*constant zero*
	$\mid$ `succ` t	*successor*
	$\mid$ `pred` t	*predecessor*
	$\mid$ `iszero` t	*zero test*

Recap: Example Language (2)

Values:

v	$\rightarrow$	*values:*
	`true`	*true value*
	$\mid$ `false`	*false value*
	$\mid$ nv	*numeric value*
nv	$\rightarrow$	*numeric values:*
	`0`	*zero value*
	$\mid$ `succ` nv	*successor value*

Recap: Example Language (3)

Dynamic semantics:

$t \longrightarrow t'$ Read: t evaluates to t' in one step

$$\texttt{if true then } t_2 \texttt{ else } t_3 \longrightarrow t_2 \quad \text{(E-IFTRUE)}$$

$$\texttt{if false then } t_2 \texttt{ else } t_3 \longrightarrow t_3 \quad \text{(E-IFFALSE)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{\texttt{if } t_1 \texttt{ then } t_2 \texttt{ else } t_3 \longrightarrow \texttt{if } t_1' \texttt{ then } t_2 \texttt{ else } t_3} \quad \text{(E-IF)}$$

Recap: Example Language (4)

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{\texttt{succ } t_1 \longrightarrow \texttt{succ } t_1'} \quad \text{(E-SUCC)}$$

$$\texttt{pred 0} \longrightarrow \texttt{0} \quad \text{(E-PREDZERO)}$$

$$\texttt{pred (succ } nv_1\texttt{)} \longrightarrow nv_1 \quad \text{(E-PREDSUCC)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{\texttt{pred } t_1 \longrightarrow \texttt{pred } t_1'} \quad \text{(E-PRED)}$$

Recap: Example Language (5)

$$\texttt{iszero 0} \longrightarrow \texttt{true} \quad \text{(E-ISZEROZERO)}$$

$$\texttt{iszero (succ } nv_1\texttt{)} \longrightarrow \texttt{false} \quad \text{(E-ISZEROSUCC)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{\texttt{iszero } t_1 \longrightarrow \texttt{iszero } t_1'} \quad \text{(E-ISZERO)}$$

Recap: Example Language (6)

Types and typing rules::

T	$\rightarrow$	*types:*
	`Bool`	*type of booleans*
	$\mid$ `Nat`	*type of natural numbers*

Recap: Example Language (7)

$$\texttt{true} : \texttt{Bool} \quad \text{(T-TRUE)}$$

$$\texttt{false} : \texttt{Bool} \quad \text{(T-FALSE)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 : \texttt{Bool} \quad t_2 : T \quad t_3 : T}{\texttt{if } t_1 \texttt{ then } t_2 \texttt{ else } t_3 : T} \quad \text{(T-IF)}$$

$$\texttt{0} : \texttt{Nat} \quad \text{(T-ZERO)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\texttt{succ } t_1 : \texttt{Nat}} \quad \text{(T-SUCC)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\texttt{pred } t_1 : \texttt{Nat}} \quad \text{(T-PRED)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\texttt{iszero } t_1 : \texttt{Bool}} \quad \text{(T-ISZERO)}$$

Extension: Let Bindings (1)

Syntactic extension:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} t & \to & \ldots & \textit{terms:} \\ & | & x & \textit{variable} \\ & | & \texttt{let}\ x = t\ \texttt{in}\ t & \textit{let binding} \end{array}$$

New evaluation rules:

$$\texttt{let}\ x = v_1\ \texttt{in}\ t_2 \longrightarrow [x \mapsto v_1]\, t_2 \qquad \text{(E-LETV)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{\texttt{let}\ x = t_1\ \texttt{in}\ t_2 \longrightarrow \texttt{let}\ x = t_1'\ \texttt{in}\ t_2} \qquad \text{(E-LET)}$$

Extension: Let Bindings (2)

We now need a ***typing context*** or ***type environment*** to keep track of types of variables.

The typing relation thus become a ***ternary relation***:

$$\Gamma \vdash t : T$$

Read: term t has type T in type environment Γ.

Extension: Let Bindings (3)

Context-related notation:

- Empty context:

$$\emptyset$$

- Extending a context:

$$\Gamma, x : T$$

  New declaration understood to replace any earlier declaration for variable with same name.

- Stating that type of a variable is given by context:

$$x : T \in \Gamma \quad \text{or} \quad \Gamma(x) = T$$

Extension: Let Bindings (4)

Updated typing rules:

$$\Gamma \vdash \texttt{true} : \texttt{Bool} \qquad \text{(T-TRUE)}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \texttt{false} : \texttt{Bool} \qquad \text{(T-FALSE)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \texttt{Bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T \quad \Gamma \vdash t_3 : T}{\Gamma \vdash \texttt{if}\ t_1\ \texttt{then}\ t_2\ \texttt{else}\ t_3 : T} \qquad \text{(T-IF)}$$

Extension: Let Bindings (5)

Updated typing rules:

$$\Gamma \vdash \texttt{0} : \texttt{Nat} \qquad \text{(T-ZERO)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \texttt{succ}\ t_1 : \texttt{Nat}} \qquad \text{(T-SUCC)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \texttt{pred}\ t_1 : \texttt{Nat}} \qquad \text{(T-PRED)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \texttt{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \texttt{iszero}\ t_1 : \texttt{Bool}} \qquad \text{(T-ISZERO)}$$

Extension: Let Bindings (6)

New typing rules:

$$\frac{x : T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : T} \qquad \text{(T-VAR)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : T_1 \quad \Gamma, x : T_1 \vdash t_2 : T_2}{\Gamma \vdash \texttt{let}\ x = t_1\ \texttt{in}\ t_2 : T_2} \qquad \text{(T-LET)}$$

Exercise

Derive:

$$\emptyset \vdash \texttt{let x = (let y = 0 in y) in succ x} : \texttt{Nat}$$

Extension: Functions (1)

Syntactic extension:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} t & \to & \ldots & \textit{terms:} \\ & | & \lambda x{:}T.\, t & \textit{abstraction} \\ & | & t\ t & \textit{application} \\ \\ v & \to & \ldots & \textit{values:} \\ & | & \lambda x{:}T.\, t & \textit{abstraction value} \\ \\ T & \to & \ldots & \textit{types:} \\ & | & T \to T & \textit{type of functions} \end{array}$$

Extension: Functions (2)

New evaluation rules:

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t_1'}{t_1\ t_2 \longrightarrow t_1'\ t_2} \qquad \text{(E-APP1)}$$

$$\frac{t_2 \longrightarrow t_2'}{v_1\ t_2 \longrightarrow v_1\ t_2'} \qquad \text{(E-APP2)}$$

$$(\lambda x{:}T_{11}.\, t_{12})\ v_2 \longrightarrow [x \mapsto v_2]\, t_{12} \qquad \text{(E-APPABS)}$$

Note:

- left to right evaluation order: first the function (E-APP1), then the argument (E-APP2)
- ***call-by-value***: the argument fully evaluated before function “invoked” (E-APPABS).

Extension: Functions (3)

New typing rules:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : T_1 \vdash t_2 : T_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x{:}T_1 . t_2 : T_1 \to T_2} \quad \text{(T-ABS)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : T_{11} \to T_{12} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T_{11}}{\Gamma \vdash t_1\ t_2 : T_{12}} \quad \text{(T-APP)}$$

Homework

Derive:

$$\Gamma_1 \vdash (\lambda \texttt{f:Nat}\to\texttt{Nat.f 0})\ \texttt{double} : \texttt{Nat}$$

given

$$\Gamma_1 = \emptyset, \texttt{double} : \texttt{Nat}\to\texttt{Nat}$$

The Simply Typed λ-Calculus (1)

The "function fragment" of our language is known as the (pure) ***simply typed λ-Calculus ($\lambda_{\to}$)***:

T	$\to$		*types:*
	$\mid$	B	*fixed set of base types*
	$\mid$	$T \to T$	*type of functions*
t	$\to$		*terms:*
	$\mid$	x	*variable*
	$\mid$	c	*constant (optional)*
	$\mid$	$\lambda x{:}T . t$	*abstraction*
	$\mid$	$t\ t$	*application*

The Simply Typed λ-Calculus (2)

$$\frac{x : T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : T} \quad \text{(T-VAR)}$$

$$\frac{c \text{ is a constant of type } T}{\Gamma \vdash c : T} \quad \text{(T-CONST-c)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : T_1 \vdash t_2 : T_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x{:}T_1 . t_2 : T_1 \to T_2} \quad \text{(T-ABS)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : T_{11} \to T_{12} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T_{11}}{\Gamma \vdash t_1\ t_2 : T_{12}} \quad \text{(T-APP)}$$

The Simply Typed λ-Calculus (3)

- At least ***one*** base type needed, or not possible to construct finite types.
- Frequently, B is taken to consist of only one type, o, "the type of propositions", without ***any*** term constants.
- The simply typed lambda calculus is ***strongly normalizing***: well-typed terms ***always*** reduce to a value (regardless of reduction order).
- Why? Because ***self application*** as used in the definition of e.g. Y or $\omega \equiv \lambda x . x\ x$ cannot be typed. Thus no way to express recursion.

The Simply Typed λ-Calculus (3)

- To see this, note that to type $x\ x$, we need both

$$x : T_1 \to T_2$$
$$x : T_1$$

for some types T_1 and T_2; i.e., $T_1 = T_1 \to T_2$. But there is no (finite) solution to this equation.

- However, general recursion can be regained by adding a special fixed-point operator (parametrised on type α):

$$\text{fix}_\alpha : (\alpha \to \alpha) \to \alpha$$

Aside: Strong and Weak Normalization

- ***Strong normalization:*** Reduction always terminates for all terms, regardless of reduction order.
- ***Weak normalization:*** There is at least one terminating reduction sequence for each term.

The Simply Typed λ-Calculus (4)

Q: Why are the constants "optional"?

A: As we have seen, constants like `true`, `false`, `0`, and associated functions can be ***encoded*** in the base calculus. However:

- It is often ***convenient*** to add constants explicitly, even if λ-definable, along with ***δ-reduction rules*** that describe their behaviour.
- It is sometimes ***necessary*** to add constants that cannot be encoded, e.g. fixed-point combinators.