
Types and Type Safety

Types as a way to avoid errors

- We have discussed this before
- Expressions like $1 + \text{true}$ with unspecified behavior are rejected by the type system and are not allowed to execute
- Not every runtime error can be rejected by the type system.
Example: $1/0$

Type checking to avoid errors

- If the goal is to eliminate errors then anything that is guaranteed not to cause an error should be accepted by the type system

- This violates the whole concept of **abstract data types**.

Stack ADT

```
module Stack (Stack, empty, push, pop) where

-- Internal representation type; not exported
data Stack a = Stack [a]

empty = Stack []

push a (Stack as) = Stack (a : as)

pop (Stack []) = error "Empty stack"
pop (Stack (a:as)) = (a, Stack as)
```

Using the ADT

```
module C where
```

```
import Stack
```

```
s1 :: Stack Int
```

```
s1 = push 1 (push 2 (push 3 empty))
```

```
bad :: Int
```

```
bad = let Stack elements = s1 in length elements
```

Types as a programming discipline

- Even if the type system **has** information that the code is safe; it might still **refuse** to propagate the information and **reject** the code
- Modern type systems are all about **controlling** access to information as opposed to avoiding run-time errors.
- This makes type systems relevant to encapsulation, security, proof-carrying code, etc

Type Soundness

A little functional language

- Syntax of expressions

$$e ::= c \mid x \mid \lambda x.e \mid e_1 e_2$$
$$c ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid \text{add1} \mid \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{not}$$

- Syntax of types

$$\tau ::= \text{int} \mid \text{bool} \mid \dots \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

Semantics

- Syntax of values

$$v ::= c \mid x \mid \lambda x.e$$

- Small-step reductions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{add1 } 0 &\rightarrow 1 \\ \text{add1 } 1 &\rightarrow 2 \\ &\vdots \\ \text{not false} &\rightarrow \text{true} \\ \text{not true} &\rightarrow \text{false} \\ (\lambda x.e)v &\rightarrow e[v/x] \end{aligned}$$

Examples

$$(\lambda x.\text{add1 } x) 3 \rightarrow \text{add1 } 3$$
$$\rightarrow 4$$
$$(\lambda x.(\lambda y.\text{add1 } y) x) 3 \rightarrow (\lambda y.\text{add1 } y) 3$$
$$\rightarrow \text{add1 } 3$$
$$\rightarrow 4$$
$$(\lambda x.\text{not } x) \text{ true} \rightarrow \text{not true}$$
$$\rightarrow \text{false}$$

Examples

- $((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6) \rightarrow ???$
- Technically this is not related by \rightarrow to anything
- Need to explain how to search for a place where to apply a reduction

Evaluation contexts

- Syntax of evaluation contexts

$$E ::= [] \mid Ee \mid vE$$

- Small-step evaluation

$$E[e] \mapsto E[e'] \quad \text{iff} \quad e \rightarrow e'$$

- Big-step evaluation

$$\text{eval}(e) = v \quad \text{iff} \quad e \mapsto^* v$$

Decomposition

- $((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6)$
- Can be decomposed into: $E[r]$ where:
 - $E = []$, $r = ((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6)$
 - $E = ([(\text{add1 } 6))$, $r = (\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)$
 - $E = (([(\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6))$, $r = \lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x$
 - $E = ((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) [(\text{add1 } 6))$, $r = (\text{add1 } 3)$

Unique decomposition lemma

- Every e can be **uniquely represented** as either:
 - a value v
 - a decomposition $E[r]$ for some evaluation context E and expression r where:
 - * r is variable x , or
 - * r is a redex, or
 - * r is a faulty expression

- Redexes: **add1** n | **not** b | $(\lambda x.e)v$

- Faulty:

$$\begin{aligned} & n e \mid \mathbf{true} e \mid \mathbf{false} e \mid \\ & \mathbf{add1} b \mid \mathbf{add1} (\lambda x.e) \mid \\ & \mathbf{not} n \mid \mathbf{not} (\lambda x.e) \end{aligned}$$

Examples

- $((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6)$
- Can be decomposed into: $E[r]$ where:
 - $E = []$, $r = ((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6)$
No good
 - $E = ([(\text{add1 } 6))$, $r = (\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)$
No good
 - $E = ([([(\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6))$, $r = \lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x$
No good
 - $E = ((\lambda x.\lambda y.\text{add1 } x) []) (\text{add1 } 6)$, $r = (\text{add1 } 3)$
 $E[r]$ where r is a redex. Good

Examples

- 5 decomposes as the value 5
- x decomposes as x
- `add1 (not 5)` decomposes as `add1 (not 5)` which focuses on a faulty expression
- `add1 (add1 5)` decomposes as `add1 (add1 5)` which focuses on a redex
- `($\lambda y.2$) ($\lambda x.add1 true$)` decomposes as `($\lambda y.2$) ($\lambda x.add1 true$)`.
(It contains a faulty expression though!)

Examples

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \equiv & ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{add1 } x) (\text{add1 } 3)) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \mapsto & ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{add1 } x) 4) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \equiv & ((\lambda x. \lambda y. \text{add1 } x) 4) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \mapsto & (\lambda y. \text{add1 } 4) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \equiv & (\lambda y. \text{add1 } 4) (\text{add1 } 6) \\ \mapsto & (\lambda y. \text{add1 } 4) 7 \\ \equiv & (\lambda y. \text{add1 } 4) 7 \\ \mapsto & \text{add1 } 4 \\ \equiv & \text{add1 } 4 \\ \mapsto & 5 \end{aligned}$$

Big picture

- At every step, if we have not reached a final answer, we attempt a decomposition of the current term
- The lemma says the decomposition can give us focus on a free variable, a redex, or a faulty expression
- If the source program is closed, we should never encounter free variables
- If the source program is well-typed, we should never encounter faulty expressions
- If the source program is closed and well-typed, we can always make progress until we reach a value (or diverge)

Relate typing to evaluation

- Must define what it means for an expression to typecheck
- Must show that typing is preserved by reduction
- Must also show that faulty expressions are not typable

Type system

$$\overline{\Gamma, x: \tau \vdash x: \tau} \text{ } A_{xv}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash n: \text{int}} \text{ } A_{xi}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \text{true}: \text{bool}} \text{ } A_{xt}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \text{false}: \text{bool}} \text{ } A_{xf}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \text{add1}: \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}} \text{ } A_{xa}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \text{not}: \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{bool}} \text{ } A_{xn}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x: \tau \vdash e: \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e: \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \rightarrow_i$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1: \tau' \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2: \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2: \tau} \rightarrow_e$$

Typing detour

- Can we typecheck $(\lambda x.x x) (\lambda x.x x)$?
- If it does typecheck then every subterm must also typecheck!
- Let's try to typecheck $x x$:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x: \tau' \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash x: \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash x x: \tau}$$

- So we must have $\tau' \rightarrow \tau = \tau'$ which is impossible in our system

Typing recursion

- Many approaches: Add recursive type definitions, or polymorphism, or references, etc
- Add a construct **fix** with the following reduction rule:

$$\mathbf{fix} \ f.e \rightarrow e[(\lambda x.(\mathbf{fix} \ f.e) \ x)/f]$$

- Intuition. The reduction is almost:

$$\mathbf{fix} \ f.e \rightarrow e[\mathbf{fix} \ f.e/f]$$

- The λ delays the unfolding of the recursion until it is needed

Example

Let $fact = (\mathbf{fix} \ f.\lambda n.\mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ n * (f \ (n - 1)))$:

$fact \ 2$
→ $(\lambda n.\mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ n * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (n - 1))) \ 2$
→ $\mathbf{if} \ 2 = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ 2 * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (2 - 1))$
→ $2 * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ 1)$
→ $2 * (fact \ 1)$
→ $2 * ((\lambda n.\mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ n * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (n - 1))) \ 1)$
→ $2 * (\mathbf{if} \ 1 = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ 1 * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (1 - 1)))$
→ $2 * (1 * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ 0))$
→ $2 * (1 * (fact \ 0))$
→ $2 * (1 * ((\lambda n.\mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ n * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (n - 1))) \ 0))$
→ $2 * (1 * (\mathbf{if} \ 0 = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ 1 \ \mathbf{else} \ 0 * ((\lambda x.fact \ x) \ (0 - 1))))$
→ $2 * (1 * 1)$

Type rule for **fix**

- Look at the reduction

$$\mathbf{fix} \ f.e \rightarrow e[(\lambda x.(\mathbf{fix} \ f.e) \ x)/f]$$

- In the RHS, **fix** $f.e$ is applied so it must have type: $\tau \rightarrow \tau'$ for some τ and τ' ; we must also have $x:\tau$.
- In the RHS, f is substituted by something of type $\tau \rightarrow \tau'$
- The variable f may occur free in e with type $\tau \rightarrow \tau'$
- If evaluation is to preserve types, the types of the LHS and RHS must be the same:

$$\frac{\Gamma, f:\tau \rightarrow \tau' \vdash e:\tau \rightarrow \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{fix} \ f.e:\tau \rightarrow \tau'}$$

Example

- The general rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma, f: \tau \rightarrow \tau' \vdash e: \tau \rightarrow \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{fix} f.e: \tau \rightarrow \tau'}$$

- $fact = (\mathbf{fix} f.\lambda n.\mathbf{if} n = 0 \mathbf{then} 1 \mathbf{else} n * (f (n - 1)))$

$$\frac{\dots \quad \frac{\vdots}{f: \mathbf{int} \rightarrow \mathbf{int}, n: \mathbf{int} \vdash n * (f (n - 1)): \mathbf{int}}{f: \mathbf{int} \rightarrow \mathbf{int}, n: \mathbf{int} \vdash \mathbf{if} n = 0 \mathbf{then} 1 \mathbf{else} n * (f (n - 1)): \mathbf{int}}}{f: \mathbf{int} \rightarrow \mathbf{int} \vdash \lambda n.\mathbf{if} n = 0 \mathbf{then} 1 \mathbf{else} n * (f (n - 1)): \mathbf{int} \rightarrow \mathbf{int}}{\vdash (\mathbf{fix} f.\lambda n.\mathbf{if} n = 0 \mathbf{then} 1 \mathbf{else} n * (f (n - 1))): \mathbf{int} \rightarrow \mathbf{int}}$$

Infinite loop

- Can we type an infinite loop now?
- Consider **fix** $x.x$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x: \tau \rightarrow \tau' \vdash x: \tau \rightarrow \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{fix} \ x.x: \tau \rightarrow \tau'}$$

- Running $(\mathbf{fix} \ x.x) \ 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{fix} \ x.x) \ 0 \\ \rightarrow & (x[(\lambda y.(\mathbf{fix} \ x.x) \ y)/x]) \ 0 \\ \equiv & (\lambda y.(\mathbf{fix} \ x.x) \ y) \ 0 \\ \rightarrow & (\mathbf{fix} \ x.x) \ 0 \\ \rightarrow & \dots \end{aligned}$$

- The type of the infinite loop is τ' for any type you want!
- You can use it in any context you want $1 + []$, **not** $[]$, etc

A little functional language (revisited)

- Syntax of expressions

$$e ::= c \mid x \mid \lambda x.e \mid e_1e_2 \mid \text{fix } f.e$$
$$c ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots \mid \text{add1} \mid \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{not}$$

- Syntax of types

$$\tau ::= \text{int} \mid \text{bool} \mid \dots \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

Type safety

- The goal is to prove:

If $\vdash e: \tau$ then either the evaluation of e diverges or $eval(e) = v$ and $\vdash v: \tau$

- Two fundamental lemmas needed
- **Progress:** (Well-typed terms do not get stuck or do not encounter configurations whose behavior is not specified by the semantics)

If $\vdash e: \tau$ then either e is a value or there exists an e' such that $e \mapsto e'$

- **Subject Reduction:** (Every step of evaluation preserves the above property)

If $\vdash e: \tau$ and $e \mapsto e'$ then $\vdash e': \tau$

Subject reduction

- The heart of the proof really
- We look at each reduction in turn; assume the LHS typechecks; use that knowledge to show that some type derivations must exist and use them to construct a type derivation for the RHS
- Very similar to the proofs we have done for operational semantics (Assignment 2).

Example

- Consider a simple instance of our evaluation rules:

$$(\lambda x.e) (\text{add1 } 3) \rightarrow (\lambda x.e) 4$$

- Assume the LHS typechecks:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x.e): \text{int} \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash (\text{add1 } 3): \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x.e) (\text{add1 } 3): \tau}$$

We know that we have a derivation of $\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x.e): \text{int} \rightarrow \tau$

- Use the derivation above, we can construct a derivation for the RHS:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x.e): \text{int} \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash 4: \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x.e) 4: \tau}$$

Proof of subject reduction

- Recall the definition of evaluation contexts:

$$E ::= [] \mid Ee \mid vE$$

- Our reductions are:

$$E[\text{add1 } 0] \mapsto E[1]$$

$$E[\text{add1 } 1] \mapsto E[2]$$

⋮

$$E[\text{not false}] \mapsto E[\text{true}]$$

$$E[\text{not true}] \mapsto E[\text{false}]$$

$$E[(\lambda x.e)v] \mapsto E[e[v/x]]$$

$$E[\text{fix } f.e] \mapsto E[e[(\lambda x.(\text{fix } f.e) x)/f]]$$

Case I

- Assume $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{add1 } 0]:\tau$. Show that $\Gamma \vdash E[1]:\tau$
- What do we know about the type derivation $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{add1 } 0]:\tau$
- Not much unless we look at cases for E
- Definition of E is recursive; proof goes by induction on the definition of E

Case I (continued)

- Prove by induction on E that:

If $\Gamma \vdash E[\mathbf{add1}\ 0]:\tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[1]:\tau$

- $E = []$. We have $\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{add1}\ 0:\tau$ and we want to show $\Gamma \vdash 1:\tau$.
- The only way we could possibly derive $\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{add1}\ 0:\tau$ is for $\tau = \mathbf{int}$. In that case, we can clearly derive a typing for the RHS.

Case I (continued)

- Still proving by induction on E that:

If $\Gamma \vdash E[\mathbf{add1}\ 0]:\tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[1]:\tau$

- $E = E'e$. We have $\Gamma \vdash E'[\mathbf{add1}\ 0] e:\tau$. Show that $\Gamma \vdash E'[1] e:\tau$.
- The derivation we are given must look like:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash E'[\mathbf{add1}\ 0]:\tau' \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e:\tau'}{\Gamma \vdash E'[\mathbf{add1}\ 0] e:\tau}$$

- We want to build a derivation:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash E'[1]:\tau' \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e:\tau'}{\Gamma \vdash E'[1] e:\tau}$$

- Induction hypothesis tells us that $\Gamma \vdash E'[1]:\tau' \rightarrow \tau$ because $\Gamma \vdash E'[\mathbf{add1}\ 0]:\tau' \rightarrow \tau$.

Other cases

- We can finish the proof of this case easily
- The proof of this case $E[\text{not false}] \mapsto E[\text{true}]$ would be almost identical.
- Should have generalized the previous proof.
- What's the general statement that would allow us to conclude:

If $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{add1 } 0]: \tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[1]: \tau$

If $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{not false}]: \tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{true}]: \tau$

If $\Gamma \vdash E[(\lambda x.e)v]: \tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[e[v/x]]: \tau$

If $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{fix } f.e]: \tau$ then $\Gamma \vdash E[e[(\lambda x.(\text{fix } f.e) x)/f]]: \tau$

Replacement lemma

- In general we are given $\Gamma \vdash E[e]: \tau$
- This implies that e must typecheck but **not necessarily in the same environment**
- In general all we know is that for some Γ' and τ' we can prove $\Gamma' \vdash e: \tau'$
- In general we want to replace e by some expression e' **of the same type**. In other words an expression e' such that we can independently prove that $\Gamma' \vdash e': \tau'$
- We want a general lemma that says that this is always ok.

Replacement lemma

$$\frac{\Gamma' \vdash e : \tau' \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \Gamma' \vdash e : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash E[e] : \tau}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma' \vdash e' : \tau' \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \Gamma' \vdash e' : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash E[e'] : \tau}$$

Seems obvious

- What's the big deal?
- Consider a language with exceptions: for example a language where division by zero throws an exception: **err**

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{div} \ 6 \ 2 \ \rightarrow \ 3 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{div} \ n \ 0 \ \rightarrow \ \mathbf{err} \\ \vdots \end{array}$$

- Assume that x and y are of type **int**. It is reasonable to assume that all of the following expressions typecheck:

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{add1} \ (\mathbf{div} \ x \ y) \\ \mathbf{not} \ (\mathbf{div} \ x \ y = 3) \\ (\mathbf{if} \ (\mathbf{div} \ x \ y = 3) \ \mathbf{then} \ (\lambda a.a) \ \mathbf{else} \ (\lambda a.a)) \ 5 \end{array}$$

Propagating exceptions

- Consider what happens at runtime if $x = 1$ and $y = 0$.
- The first expression evaluates as follows:

add1 (**div** 1 0) \mapsto **add1 err**

- The second expression evaluates as follows:

not (**div** 1 0 = 3) \mapsto **not** (**err** = 3)
 \mapsto **not err**

Propagating exceptions

- The third expression evaluates as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{if } (\text{div } 1 \ 0 = 3) \text{ then } (\lambda a.a) \text{ else } (\lambda a.a)) \ 5 \\ \mapsto & (\text{if } (\text{err} = 3) \text{ then } (\lambda a.a) \text{ else } (\lambda a.a)) \ 5 \\ \mapsto & (\text{if } \text{err} \text{ then } (\lambda a.a) \text{ else } (\lambda a.a)) \ 5 \\ \mapsto & \text{err } 5 \end{aligned}$$

- So at runtime, **err** might appear in a context expecting an **int**, a **bool**, or even a function
- For any τ we have:

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \text{err} : \tau}$$

Replacement lemma again

- We are given:
 - $\Gamma \vdash E[\text{err}]: \text{bool}$
 - $\Gamma' \vdash \text{err}: \text{int}$
 - $\Gamma' \vdash 5: \text{int}$
- By the replacement lemma conclude $\Gamma \vdash E[5]: \text{bool}$
- Our conclusion is **wrong!**
- Take $E = []$. The assumptions are:
 - $\Gamma \vdash \text{err}: \text{bool}$
 - $\Gamma' \vdash \text{err}: \text{int}$
 - $\Gamma' \vdash 5: \text{int}$

We have concluded: $\Gamma \vdash 5: \text{bool}$ which is bogus.