Second-Order Type Systems
One-Slide Summary

- A **polymorphic** type system is flexible: it allows one functions to be applied to many types of arguments.
- Parametric **impredicative** polymorphism allows any type to be used polymorphically: simple syntax, complicated expressive semantics, type reconstruction is undecidable.
- Parametric **predicative** polymorphism allows only monomorphic types as type variables.
- **Prenex** predicative polymorphism and the value restriction are two constrained, weaker versions of predicative polymorphism.
Upcoming Lectures

• We’re now reaching the point where you have all of the tools and background to understand advanced topics.

• Upcoming Topics:
  - Dependent Types + Data Abstraction
  - Communication and Concurrency
  - Machine Learning + PL
  - Cooperative Bug Isolation
  - Automated Program Repair
Modeling References

• A **heap** is a mapping *from addresses to values*
  \[ h ::= \cdot \mid h, a \leftarrow v : \tau \]
  - \( a \in \text{Addresses} \)  
  (Addresses \( \neq \mathbb{Z} \) ?)
  - We tag the heap cells with their types
  - Types are useful only for static semantics. They are not needed for the evaluation \( \Rightarrow \) are not a part of the implementation

• We call a **program** an expression with a heap
  \[ p ::= \text{heap } h \text{ in } e \]
  - The **initial program** is “heap \( \cdot \text{ in } e \)”
  - Heap addresses act as bound variables in the expression
  - This is a trick that allows easy *reuse of properties of local variables for heap addresses*
    • e.g., we can rename the address and its occurrences at will
Static Semantics of References

- **Typing rules** for expressions:

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma \vdash e : \tau & \quad \Gamma \vdash e : \tau \textrm{ ref} \\
\Gamma \vdash (\text{ref } e : \tau) : \tau \textrm{ ref} & \\
\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \textrm{ ref} & \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau \\
\Gamma \vdash e_1 := e_2 : \text{unit} &
\end{align*}
\]

- and for programs

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma \vdash v_i : \tau_i \ (i = 1 \ldots n) & \quad \Gamma \vdash e : \tau \\
\vdash \text{heap } h \ \text{in } e : \tau &
\end{align*}
\]

where \(\Gamma = a_1 : \tau_1 \textrm{ ref, \ldots, } a_n : \tau_n \textrm{ ref}\)

and \(h = a_1 \leftarrow v_1 : \tau_1, \ldots, a_n \leftarrow v_n : \tau_n\)
Contextual Semantics for References

- Addresses are values: \( v ::= \ldots \mid a \)
- New contexts: \( H ::= \text{ref } H \mid H_1 ::= e_2 \mid a_1 ::= H_2 \mid ! H \)
- **No** new local reduction rules
- But some **new global reduction rules**
  - heap \( h \) in \( H[\text{ref } v : \tau] \rightarrow \) heap \( h, a \leftarrow v : \tau \) in \( H[a] \)
    - where \( a \) is fresh (this models allocation - the heap is extended)
  - heap \( h \) in \( H[! a] \rightarrow \) heap \( h \) in \( H[v] \)
    - where \( a \leftarrow v : \tau \in h \) (heap lookup - can we get stuck?)
  - heap \( h \) in \( H[a ::= v] \rightarrow \) heap \( h[a \leftarrow v] \) in \( H[*] \)
    - where \( h[a \leftarrow v] \) means a heap like \( h \) except that the part “\( a \leftarrow v_1 : \tau \)” in \( h \) is replaced by “\( a \leftarrow v : \tau \)” (memory update)
- Global rules are used to **propagate the effects of a write** to the entire program (eval order matters!)
Example with References

- Consider these (the redex is underlined)
  - heap • in \( (\lambda f: \text{int} \to \text{int} \, \text{ref.} \, \!(f \, 5)) \) \( (\lambda x: \text{int}. \, \text{ref} \, x : \text{int}) \)
  - heap • in \( \!(((\lambda x: \text{int}. \, \text{ref} \, x : \text{int}) \, 5) \)
  - heap • in \( \!(\text{ref} \, 5 : \text{int}) \)
  - heap \( a = 5 : \text{int} \) in \( \!a \)
  - heap \( a = 5 : \text{int} \) in \( 5 \)

- The resulting program has a useless memory cell
- An equivalent result would be
  - heap • in \( 5 \)
- This is a simple way to model garbage collection
The Limitations of $F_1$

- In $F_1$ a function works exactly for one type
- Example: the identity function
  - $id = \lambda x: \tau. \ x : \tau \rightarrow \tau$
  - We need to write one version for each type
  - Worse: $\text{sort} : (\tau \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow \text{bool}) \rightarrow \tau \text{ array} \rightarrow \tau \text{ array}$

- The various sorting functions differ only in typing
  - At runtime they perform exactly the same operations
  - We need different versions only to keep the type checker happy

- Two alternatives:
  - Circumvent the type system (see C, Java, ...), or
  - Use a more flexible type system that lets us write only one sorting function (but use it on many types of objs)
Cunning Plan

- Introduce **Polymorphism** (much vocab)
- It’s Strong: Encode Stuff
- It’s Too Strong: Restrict
  - Still too strong ... restrict more
- Final Answer:
  - Polymorphism works “as expect”
  - All the good stuff is handled
  - No tricky decideability problems
- Done early?
Polymorphism

• Informal definition
  A function is polymorphic if it can be applied to “many” types of arguments

• Various kinds of polymorphism depending on the definition of “many”
  - subtype polymorphism (aka bounded polymorphism)
    • “many” = all subtypes of a given type
  - ad-hoc polymorphism
    • “many” = depends on the function
      • choose behavior at runtime (depending on types, e.g. sizeof)
  - parametric predicative polymorphism
    • “many” = all monomorphic types
  - parametric impredicative polymorphism
    • “many” = all types
Parametric Polymorphism: Types as Parameters

- We introduce **type variables** and allow expressions to have variable types

- We introduce **polymorphic types**

  \[ \tau ::= b \mid \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \mid t \mid \forall t. \tau \]

  \[ e ::= x \mid \lambda x: \tau. e \mid e_1 e_2 \mid \forall t. e \mid e[\tau] \]

  \(\forall t. e\) is type abstraction (or generalization, “for all t”)
  
  - \(e[\tau]\) is type application (or instantiation)

- Examples:
  - \(id = \forall t. \lambda x: t. x\) : \(\forall t. t \to t\)
  - \(id[int] = \lambda x: \text{int}. x\) : \(\text{int} \to \text{int}\)
  - \(id[bool] = \lambda x: \text{bool}. x\) : \(\text{bool} \to \text{bool}\)
  - “id 5” is invalid. Use “id[int] 5” instead
Impredicative Typing Rules

• The typing rules:

\[ \frac{x : \tau \text{ in } \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau} \]

\[ \frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau. e : \tau \to \tau'} \]

\[ \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \to \tau' \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \, e_2 : \tau'} \]

\[ \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \forall t. e : \forall t. \tau} \quad t \text{ does not occur in } \Gamma \]

\[ \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash e[\tau] : [\tau/t] \tau'} \]
Impredicative Polymorphism

- Verify that “id[int] 5” has type int
- Note the side-condition in the rule for type abstraction
  - Prevents ill-formed terms like: $\lambda x: t. \Lambda t. x$
- The evaluation rules are just like those of $F_1$
  - This means that type abstraction and application are all performed at compile time (no run-time cost)
  - We do not evaluate under $\Lambda$ ($\Lambda t. e$ is a value)
  - We do not have to operate on types at run-time
  - This is called phase separation: type checking is separate from execution
(Aside:) Parametricity or “Theorems for Free” (P. Wadler)

- Can prove properties of a term *just from its type*
- There is **only one value** of type $\forall t. t \to t$
  - The identity function
- There is **no value** of type $\forall t. t$
- Take the function $\text{reverse} : \forall t. t \text{ List} \to t \text{ List}$
  - This function **cannot inspect** the elements of the list
  - It can only return a list of “original list elements”
  - If $L_1$ and $L_2$ have the same length and let “match” be a function that compares two lists element-wise according to an arbitrary predicate
  - then “match $L_1$ $L_2$” $\Rightarrow$ “match (reverse $L_1$) (reverse $L_2$)”!
Expressiveness of Impredicative Polymorphism

• This calculus is called
  - $F_2$
  - system F
  - second-order $\lambda$-calculus
  - polymorphic $\lambda$-calculus

• Polymorphism is *extremely expressive*
• We can encode many base and structured types in $F_2$
Encoding Base Types in \( F_2 \)

- **Booleans**
  - \( \text{bool} = \forall t. t \rightarrow t \rightarrow t \) (given any two things, select one)
  - There are exactly two values of this type!
  - \( \text{true} = \Lambda t. \lambda x:t. \lambda y:t. \ x \)
  - \( \text{false} = \Lambda t. \lambda x:t. \lambda y:t. \ y \)
  - \( \text{not} = \lambda b:\text{bool}. \Lambda t. \lambda x:t. \lambda y:t. \ b [t] y \ x \)

- **Naturals**
  - \( \text{nat} = \forall t. (t \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t \rightarrow t \) (given a successor and a zero element, compute a natural number)
  - \( \text{0} = \Lambda t. \lambda s:t \rightarrow t. \lambda z:t. \ z \)
  - \( \text{n} = \Lambda t. \lambda s:t \rightarrow t. \lambda z:t. \ s (s (s...s(n))) \)
  - \( \text{add} = \lambda n:\text{nat}. \lambda m:\text{nat}. \Lambda t. \lambda s:t \rightarrow t. \lambda z:t. \ n [t] s (m [t] s \ z) \)
  - \( \text{mul} = \lambda n:\text{nat}. \lambda m:\text{nat}. \Lambda t. \lambda s:t \rightarrow t. \lambda z:t. \ n [t] (m [t] s) \ z \)
Expressiveness of $F_2$

- We can encode similarly:
  - $\tau_1 + \tau_2$ as $\forall t. (\tau_1 \to t) \to (\tau_2 \to t) \to t$
  - $\tau_1 \times \tau_2$ as $\forall t. (\tau_1 \to \tau_2 \to t) \to t$
  - unit as $\forall t. t \to t$

- We cannot encode full recursion ($\mu t. \tau$)
  - We can encode primitive recursion but not full recursion
  - All terms in $F_2$ have a termination proof in second-order Peano arithmetic (Girard, 1971)
    - This is the set of naturals defined using zero, successor, induction along with quantification both over naturals and over sets of naturals
Computer Science, Mathematics

- This American mathematician did not win the Turing award, but developed in 1936, independently of Alan Turing, a model of computation that was equivalent to Turing Machines. The unsolvability of the Entscheidungsproblem was exactly what was needed to obtain unsolvability results in the theory of formal languages.
More Prose Logic

281. She couldn't exactly say that he looked different, although there was the possibility that she could pass him on the street without recognizing him. But, upon closer inspection, he was exactly the same.

94. She found her mother where she would always be, behind the bar, cooking food only the sober would eat.

126. It all starts six years after the end of it all.

222. He is just as powerful as myself, but not equally so.

378. "Are you alright?" His voice sounded scared but his voice looked calm.
What’s Wrong with F$_2$

- **Simple syntax but very complicated semantics**
  - $id$ can be applied to itself: “$id \ [orall t. t \to t] \ id$”
  - This can lead to paradoxical situations in a pure set-theoretic interpretation of types
  - e.g., the meaning of $id$ is a function whose domain contains a set (the meaning of $\forall t. t \to t$) that contains $id$!
  - This suggests that giving an interpretation to impredicative type abstraction is tricky

- **Complicated termination proof (Girard)**

- **Type reconstruction (typeability) is undecidable**
  - If the type application and abstraction are missing

- **How to fix it?**
  - Restrict the use of polymorphism
Predicative Polymorphism

- Restriction: type variables can be instantiated only with monomorphic types
- This restriction can be expressed syntactically
  \[ \tau ::= b \mid \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \mid t \]  // monomorphic types
  \[ \sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall t. \sigma \mid \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \]  // polymorphic types
  \[ e ::= x \mid e_1 e_2 \mid \lambda x:\sigma. e \mid \Delta t.e \mid e [\tau] \]
  - Type application is restricted to mono types
  - Cannot apply “id” to itself anymore

- Same great typing rules
- Simple semantics and termination proof
Was that good enough?

• Type reconstruction still **undecidable**
• **Must.** Restrict. Further!
Prenex Predicative Polymorphism

- Restriction: polymorphic type constructor at top level only
- This restriction can also be expressed syntactically
  \( \tau ::= b \mid \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \mid t \)
  \( \sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall t. \sigma \)
  \( e ::= x \mid e_1 e_2 \mid \lambda x: \tau. e \mid \forall t.e \mid e[\tau] \)
  - Type application is predicative
  - Abstraction only on mono types
  - The only occurrences of \( \forall \) are at the top level of a type
    \( (\forall t. t \rightarrow t) \rightarrow (\forall t. t \rightarrow t) \) is not a valid type

- Same typing rules (less filling!)
- Simple semantics and termination proof
- Decidable type inference!
Expressiveness of Prenex Predicative $F_2$

- We have simplified too much!
- Not expressive enough to encode nat, bool
  - But such encodings are only of theoretical interest anyway (cf. time wasting)
- Is it expressive enough in practice? Almost!
  - Cannot write something like
    \[(\lambda s: \forall t. \tau. \ldots s [\text{nat}] x \ldots s [\text{bool}] y)\]
      \[(\forall t. \ldots \text{code for sort})\]
  - Formal argument $s$ cannot be polymorphic
What are we trying to do again?

Select the correct answer.
The IDS monitors and collects network system information and analyzes it to detect attacks or intrusions.

- True
- I don't know
**ML and the Amazing Polymorphic Let-Coat**

- **ML solution**: slight extension of the predicative $F_2$
  - Introduce “let $x : \sigma = e_1$ in $e_2$”
  - With the semantics of “$(\lambda x : \sigma . e_2) e_1$”
  - And typed as “[e₁/x] e₂” (result: “fresh each time”)

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma & \vdash e_1 : \sigma \\
\Gamma, x : \sigma & \vdash e_2 : \tau \\
\Gamma & \vdash \text{let } x : \sigma = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau
\end{align*}
\]

- This lets us write the polymorphic sort as

let

g : \forall t. \tau = \Lambda t. \text{... code for polymorphic sort ...}
in

... g [nat] x .... g [bool] y

- We have found the sweet spot!
**ML** and the Amazing Polymorphic Let-Coat

- **ML solution:** slight extension of the predicative $F_2$
  - Introduce "let $x : \sigma = e_1$ in $e_2$"
  - With the semantics of "$(\lambda x : \sigma . e_2) \ e_1$"
  - And typed as "$[e_1/x] \ e_2$" (result: "fresh each time")
    \[
    \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \sigma \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash e_2 : \tau
    \]
    \[
    \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x : \sigma = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau
    \]
- **This lets us write the polymorphic sort as**
  let
  \[
  s : \forall t. \tau = \Lambda t. \ldots \text{ code for polymorphic sort } \ldots
  \]
  in
  \[
  \ldots s \ [\text{nat}] \ x \ldots s \ [\text{bool}] \ y
  \]
- **Surprise:** this was a major ML design flaw!
ML Polymorphism and References

- Let is evaluated using **call-by-value** but is typed using **call-by-name**
  - What if there are side effects?
- Example:
  ```ml
  let x : ∀t. (t → t) ref = λt.ref (λx : t. x)
  in
  x [bool] := λx: bool. not x ;
  (! x [int]) 5
  - Will apply “not” to 5
  - Recall previous lectures: invariant typing of references
  - Similar examples can be constructed with exceptions
- It took **10 years** to find and agree on a clean solution
The Value Restriction in ML

- A type in a let is generalized *only for syntactic values*

\[
\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \sigma \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash e_2 : \tau \\
\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x : \sigma = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau
\]

- Since \(e_1\) is a value, its evaluation *cannot have side-effects*
- In this case call-by-name and call-by-value are the same
- In the previous example \(\text{ref } (\lambda x : t. \ x)\) is not a value
- This is not too restrictive in practice!
Subtype Bounded Polymorphism

- We can **bound** the instances of a given type variable
  \[ \forall t < \tau. \sigma \]
- Consider a function \( f : \forall t < \tau. \, t \rightarrow \sigma \)
- How is \( f \) different than \( g : \tau \rightarrow \sigma \)?
- One Answer: can invoke \( f \) on any **subtype** of \( \tau \)
- Another: They are different if \( t \) appears in \( \sigma \)
  - e.g, let \( f : \forall t < \tau. \, t \rightarrow t \) and \( g : \tau \rightarrow \tau \) both be the identity function
  - Take \( x : \tau' \) where \( \tau' < \tau \)
  - \( f [\tau'] \cdot x \) has static type \( \tau' \)
  - \( g \cdot x \) (using subsumption) has static type \( \tau \)
  - Since both have dynamic type \( \tau' \), we have **lost** information with \( g \)
Homework

• Final Project!