CS150 APL: Type Systems and Effects

Guannan Wei

guannan.wei@tufts.edu
Sept 11, 2025

Tufts University

Last time

- Simply typed lambda calculus (STLC)
- Soundness, incompleteness
- Polymorphic lambda calculus (System F)
- Unit type

Today

More expressive type systems:

- Product types
- Sum types
- Existential types
- Effects
- ..

Product type

- Product type (pair type, tuple type): $\tau_1 \times \tau_2$
- E.g. struct in C but without field names

Syntax

```
\begin{array}{lll} t & ::= & \cdots \mid (t_1,t_2) \mid \text{fst } t \mid \text{snd } t & \textbf{terms} \\ v & ::= & \cdots \mid (v_1,v_2) & \textbf{values} \\ \tau & ::= & \cdots \mid \tau_1 \times \tau_2 & \textbf{types} \\ E & ::= & \cdots \mid (v,E) \mid (E,t) \mid \text{fst } E \mid \text{snd } E & \textbf{reduction contexts} \end{array}
```

Product type

Dynamics

$$\frac{}{\mathsf{fst}\ (v_1,v_2) \to v_1} \ \mathsf{Fst} \qquad \qquad \frac{}{\mathsf{snd}\ (v_1,v_2) \to v_2} \ \mathsf{Snd}$$

Statics

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (t_1, t_2) : \tau_1 \times \tau_2} \text{ PAIR} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau_1 \times \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fst } t : \tau_1} \text{ FST} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau_1 \times \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{snd } t : \tau_2} \text{ SND}$$

Product type

• Can generalize to *n*-ary record type:

```
\{l_1: 	au_1, \dots, l_n: 	au_n\} where l_i are field labels (names).
```

- Record can be either ordered or unordered. Useful to model objects in OOP languages.
- Example: {name : string, age : nat}

- Similar to a union of two types, but each the variants are tagged
- Encoding errors with option type, e.g. in SML:

```
datatype 'a option = NONE | SOME of 'a

case some_computation of
   NONE => handle_error ()
   | SOME x => use_value x
```

Syntax

```
\begin{array}{lll} t &::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{inl} t \mid \operatorname{inr} t \mid \operatorname{case} t_0 \text{ of inl } x_1 \Rightarrow t_1; \operatorname{inr} x_2 \Rightarrow t_2 & \textbf{terms} \\ v &::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{inl} v \mid \operatorname{inr} v & \textbf{values} \\ \tau &::= & \cdots \mid \tau_1 + \tau_2 & \textbf{types} \\ E &::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{inl} E \mid \operatorname{inr} E \mid \operatorname{case} E \text{ of inl } x_1 \Rightarrow t_1; \operatorname{inr} x_2 \Rightarrow t_2 & \textbf{reduction contexts} \end{array}
```

- inl t constructs a value of type $\tau_1 + \tau_2$ from a value of type τ_1
- inr t constructs a value of type $\tau_1 + \tau_2$ from a value of type τ_2
- case to consume a sum type value, need to provide handler for each variant

Example: option type

```
\begin{aligned} & \text{datatype 'a option = NONE | SOME of 'a} \\ & \text{option}(\alpha) \triangleq \text{unit} + \alpha \\ & \text{NONE} \triangleq \Lambda\alpha.\text{inl } (): \text{option}(\alpha) \\ & \text{SOME} \triangleq \Lambda\alpha.\lambda v : \alpha.\text{inr } v : \forall \alpha.\alpha \rightarrow \text{option}(\alpha) \\ & x \text{ safeDiv } y \triangleq \lambda x.\lambda y.\text{if0 } y \text{ then NONE[nat] else SOME[nat]}(x/y) \end{aligned}
```

Dynamics

$$\frac{\text{Case (inl }v) \text{ of inl }x_1\Rightarrow t_1; \text{inr }x_2\Rightarrow t_2\to t_1[x_1:=v]}{\text{Case (inr }v) \text{ of inl }x_1\Rightarrow t_1; \text{inr }x_2\Rightarrow t_2\to t_2[x_2:=v]} \overset{\text{Case-INL}}{\text{Case (inr }v)}$$

Statics

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{inl} \ t : \tau_1 + \tau_2} \ \mathsf{INL} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{inr} \ t : \tau_1 + \tau_2} \ \mathsf{INR}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : \tau_1 + \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{case} \ t_0 \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{inl} \ x_1 \Rightarrow t_1; \mathsf{inr} \ x_2 \Rightarrow t_2 : \tau} \ \mathsf{Case}$$

• Can generalize to *n*-ary labeled variants:

$$\langle l_1:\tau_1,\dots,l_n:\tau_n\rangle$$

where l_i are variant labels (names).

 \bullet Injection to one of the variants: $\operatorname{inj}_{l_i} t: \langle l_1:\tau_1,\dots,l_n:\tau_n\rangle$

- Existential types: $\exists \alpha.\tau$
- Dual to universal types (∀-quantification)

Syntax

```
\begin{array}{llll} t & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{pack} \ \tau_1, t \ \operatorname{as} \ \exists \alpha. \tau_2 \mid \operatorname{unpack} \ \alpha, x = t_1 \ \operatorname{in} \ t_2 & \operatorname{terms} \\ v & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{pack} \ \tau_1, v \ \operatorname{as} \ \exists \alpha. \tau_2 & \operatorname{values} \\ \tau & ::= & \cdots \mid \exists \alpha. \tau & \operatorname{types} \\ E & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{pack} \ \tau_1, E \ \operatorname{as} \ \exists \alpha. \tau_2 \mid \operatorname{unpack} \ \alpha, x = E \ \operatorname{in} \ t & \operatorname{reduction} \ \operatorname{contexts} \end{array}
```

- Useful to express abstract data types (ADTs) or module systems (e.g. in SML/OCaml) and to hide implementation details
- Example: a counter ADT (using record type)

$$\mathsf{Counter} \triangleq \exists \alpha. \{\mathsf{init} : \alpha, \mathsf{inc} : \alpha \to \alpha, \mathsf{get} : \alpha \to \mathsf{nat}\}$$

An implementation:

$$\mathsf{Impl} \triangleq \mathsf{pack} \; \mathsf{nat}, \{\mathsf{init} : 0, \mathsf{inc} : \lambda x : \mathsf{nat}.x + 1, \mathsf{get} : \lambda x : \mathsf{nat}.x\} \; \mathsf{as} \; \mathsf{Counter}$$

A client:

$$\label{eq:alpha} \operatorname{unpack} \, \alpha, x = \operatorname{Impl} \, \operatorname{in}$$
 let $c = x.\operatorname{inc}(x.\operatorname{init}) \, \operatorname{in} \, x.\operatorname{get} \, c$

Dynamics

$$\overline{\text{unpack }\alpha,x=(\text{pack }\tau_1,v\text{ as }\exists\beta.\tau_2)\text{ in }t_2\to t_2[\alpha:=\tau_1,x:=v]}$$

UNPACKPACK

Statics

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \tau_1[\alpha := \tau_2]}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{pack}\ \tau_2, t\ \mathsf{as}\ \exists \alpha. \tau_1 : \exists \alpha. \tau_1}\ \mathsf{PACK}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \exists \alpha. \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma, \alpha, x : \tau_1 \vdash t_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{unpack}\ \alpha, x = t_1\ \mathsf{in}\ t_2 : \tau_2}\ \mathsf{UNPACK}$$

We can Church-encode existential types using universal types in System F!

$$\exists \alpha. \tau \triangleq \forall \beta. (\forall \alpha. \tau \to \beta) \to \beta$$

See Types and Programming Languages (TAPL), Chapter 24, Pierce

What else?

Important features in real-world languages we haven't covered:

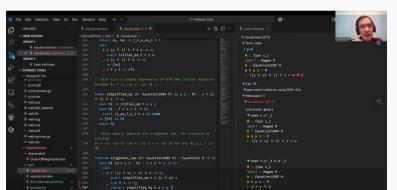
- Recursive type: $\mu\alpha.\tau$
 - Can encode general recursive functions
 - Useful to define inductive data types, e.g. list: $\mu \alpha.$ unit + nat $\times \alpha$
- Subtyping: $\tau_1 <: \tau_2$
- Nominal vs structural type systems
- Type checking/inference

Propositions as types

- Curry-Howard Correspondence
- Propositions as types
 - T as unit type
 - ⊥ as empty type
 - $\quad \blacksquare \ A \wedge B \text{ as } A \times B$
 - $A \vee B$ as A + B
 - $A \implies B \text{ as } A \to B$
 - $\forall x.P(x)$ as Π -type
 - $\exists x. P(x)$ as Σ -type
- Proofs as programs; proof normalization as program evaluation

Propositions as types

- Very expressive system to formalize mathematics
- Languages (or proof assistants) based on dependent type theory: Coq/Rocq,
 Lean, Agda, etc.
- Proper mathematicians are using these PLs to write and verify their proofs nowadays!



Propositions as types





Sept 25-26, 2015 thestrangeloop.com

Propositions as Types

Philip Wadler University of Edinburgh

Strange Loop St Louis, 25 August 2015

Talk: Propositions as Types by Philip Wadler

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v = IOiZatIZtGU

Effects

- What is an effect?
- Generally: anything happening during program execution that is not computing a value from its input

Effects

- What is an effect?
- Generally: anything happening during program execution that is not computing a value from its input
- Examples:
 - non-termination
 - read a state, update a state, I/O
 - exceptions/continuations
 - non-determinism
 - etc.

Mutable State

■ SML-style mutable references: ref, set, get

Syntax

```
\begin{array}{llll} t & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{ref} t \mid \operatorname{set} \ t_1 \ t_2 \mid \operatorname{get} \ t \mid l & \operatorname{terms} \\ l & \in & \operatorname{Loc} \triangleq \mathbb{N} & \operatorname{locations} \\ v & ::= & \cdots \mid l & \operatorname{values} \\ \tau & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{ref} \ \tau & \operatorname{types} \\ E & ::= & \cdots \mid \operatorname{ref} \ E \mid \operatorname{set} \ E \ t \mid \operatorname{set} \ v \ E \mid \operatorname{get} \ E & \operatorname{reduction} \ \operatorname{contexts} \end{array}
```

Mutable State

• Need to extend the configuration to include a store (or heap) $\sigma: \mathsf{Loc} \rightharpoonup \mathsf{Val}$ that maps locations to values

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{l \notin \text{dom}(\sigma)}{(\text{ref } v, \sigma) \to (l, \sigma[l \mapsto v])} \text{ Ref} & \frac{1}{(\text{set } l \ v, \sigma) \to ((), \sigma[l \mapsto v])} \text{ Set} \\ & \frac{\sigma(l) = v}{(\text{get } l, \sigma) \to (v, \sigma)} \text{ Get} & \frac{(t, \sigma) \to (t', \sigma')}{(E[t], \sigma) \to (E[t'], \sigma')} \text{ Context} \end{aligned}$$

Mutable State

• Need to statically type the store $\Sigma : \mathsf{Loc} \rightharpoonup \mathsf{Type}$ that maps locations to types

Statics
$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash t : \tau$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash t : \tau}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \operatorname{ref} \, t : \operatorname{ref} \, \tau} & \operatorname{ReF} & \frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash t_1 : \operatorname{ref} \, \tau}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \operatorname{set} \, t_1 \, t_2 : \operatorname{unit}} & \operatorname{SeT} \\ & \frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash t : \operatorname{ref} \, \tau}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \operatorname{get} \, t : \tau} & \operatorname{GET} & \frac{\Sigma(l) = \tau}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l : \operatorname{ref} \, \tau} & \operatorname{Loc} \end{split}$$

• Question: why do we need to type locations even they cannot appear in the surface syntax?

Next week

• Next Tuesday (Sept 16):

A Functional Correspondence between Evaluators and Abstract Machines

- Be sure reading the paper before class! Submit a summary on Canvas before the class.
- Next Thursday (Sept 18): paper discussion or lecture?