

A Certified Interpreter for M Structural Polymorphism

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What's in OCaml's type system

- Core ML with relaxed value restriction
- Recursive types
- Polymorphic objects and variants
- Structural subtyping (with variance annotations)
- Modules and applicative functors
- Private types: private datatypes, rows and abbreviations
- Recursive modules . . .

What are the guarantee

Proved before (by many)

- Type soundness and principality of type inference on subsets (by hand).
- Mechanical proof of type soundness for the core OCaml-Light project (without the relaxed value

What I have done in Coq over the last 2 years

- A certified interpreter for ML with structural po
- Includes type soundness and principality of infer
- Covers polymorphic objects and variants, with r
- Mechanization is based on *“Engineering formal*

Structural polymorphism

A typing framework for polymorphic variants

- Faithful description of the core of OCaml
- Polymorphism is described by **local constraints**
- Constraints are kept in a **recursive kind environment**.
- Constraints are abstract, and **constraint** their δ -rules can be defined independently

Types and kinds

Types are mixed with kinds in a mutually recursive way.

| | | | |
|----------|-------|--|---------------------|
| T | $::=$ | α | type variable |
| | | $ T \rightarrow T$ | function type |
| σ | $::=$ | $\forall \bar{\alpha}. K \triangleright T$ | polytypes |
| K | $::=$ | $\emptyset \mid K, \alpha :: \kappa$ | kinding environment |
| κ | $::=$ | $\bullet \mid (C; R)$ | kind |
| R | $::=$ | $\{a : T, \dots\}$ | relation set |

Type judgments contain both a type and a kinding environment.

$$K; E \vdash e : T$$

Example: polymorphic vari

Kinds have the form $(L, U; R)$, such that $L \subset U$.

$Number(5) : \alpha :: (\{Number\}, \mathcal{L}; \{Number : int\}) \triangleright \alpha$

$l_2 = [Number(5), Face("King")]$

$l_2 : \alpha :: (\{Number, Face\}, \mathcal{L}; \{Number : int, Face : string\}) \triangleright \alpha$

$length = \text{function } Nil() \rightarrow 0 \mid Cons(a, l) \rightarrow 1 + length\ l$

$length : \alpha :: (\emptyset, \{Nil, Cons\}; \{Nil : unit, Cons : \beta \times \alpha\}) \triangleright \alpha$

$length' = \text{function } Nil() \rightarrow 0 \mid Cons(l) \rightarrow 1 + length\ l$

$length' : \alpha :: (\emptyset, \{Nil, Cons\}; \{Nil : unit, Cons : \alpha\}) \triangleright \alpha$

$f\ l = length\ l + length2\ l$

$f : \alpha :: (\emptyset, \{Nil, Cons\}; \{Nil : unit, Cons : \beta \times \alpha, Cons : \beta \times \alpha\}) \triangleright \alpha$

Typing rules

Variable

$$\frac{K, K_0 \vdash \theta : K \quad \text{dom}(\theta) \subset B}{K; E, x : \forall B. K_0 \triangleright T \vdash x : \theta(T)}$$

Abstraction

$$\frac{K; E, x : T \vdash e : T'}{K; E \vdash \text{fun } x \rightarrow e : T \rightarrow T'}$$

Application

$$\frac{K; E \vdash e_1 : T \rightarrow T' \quad K; E \vdash e_2 : T}{K; E \vdash e_1 e_2 : T'}$$

Generalize

$$\frac{K; E \vdash e : T \quad B \cap \text{dom}(E) = \emptyset}{K|_{\overline{B}}; E \vdash e : \forall B. K}$$

Let

$$\frac{K; E \vdash e_1 : \sigma \quad K; E \vdash e_2 : T}{K; E \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : T}$$

Constant

$$\frac{K_0 \vdash \theta : K \quad \text{type}(c) = T}{K; E \vdash c : \theta(T)}$$

$K_0 \vdash \theta : K$ iff $\alpha :: \kappa \in K_0$ implies $\theta(\alpha) :: \kappa' \in K$ and

Engineering formal metath

Aydemir, Charguéraud, Pierce, Pollack, Weirich

Soundness for various type systems (F_{\leq} , ML, CoC)

Two main ideas to avoid renaming:

- **Locally nameless definitions**

Use de-bruijn indices inside terms and types, but named variables for environments.

- **Co-finite quantification**

Variables local to a branch are quantified universally. This allows reuse of derivations in different contexts.

Formalization is not always intuitive, but streamlines soundness.

Typing rules (co-finite)

Variable

$$K \vdash \bar{T} :: \bar{\kappa}^{\bar{T}}$$

$$\frac{}{K; E, x : \bar{\kappa} \triangleright T_1 \vdash x : T_1^{\bar{T}}}$$

Abstraction

$$\frac{\forall x \notin L \quad K; E, x : T \vdash e^x : T'}{K; E \vdash \lambda e : T \rightarrow T'}$$

Application

$$\frac{K; E \vdash e_1 : T \rightarrow T' \quad K; E \vdash e_2 : T}{K; E \vdash e_1 e_2 : T'}$$

$$K; E \vdash e_1 e_2 : T'$$

$$K \vdash \alpha :: \kappa \quad \text{when } \alpha :: \kappa' \in K \text{ and } \kappa' \models$$

$$K \vdash T :: \bullet \quad \text{always}$$

Generalize

$$\frac{\forall \bar{\alpha} \notin L \quad K, \bar{\alpha} :: \bar{\kappa}^{\bar{\alpha}}}{K; E \vdash e : \bar{\kappa} \triangleright T}$$

$$K; E \vdash e : \bar{\kappa} \triangleright T$$

Let

$$\frac{K; E \vdash e_1 : \sigma \quad K; E \vdash e_2 : T}{K; E \vdash \text{let } e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : T}$$

$$K; E \vdash \text{let } e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : T$$

Constant

$$\frac{K \vdash \bar{T} :: \bar{\kappa}^{\bar{T}} \quad \text{Tco}}{K; E \vdash c : T_1^{\bar{T}}}$$

$$K; E \vdash c : T_1^{\bar{T}}$$

Soundness results

Started from *Engineering formal metatheory* ML pr
with many modifications to accomodate mutual rec
No renaming needed for soundness!

Lemma preservation : $\forall K E e e' T,$
 $K ; E \models e \sim : T \rightarrow$
 $e \rightarrow e' \rightarrow$
 $K ; E \models e' \sim : T.$

Lemma progress : $\forall K e T,$
 $K ; \text{empty} \models e \sim : T \rightarrow$
 $\text{value } e \vee \text{exists } e', e \rightarrow e'.$

Lemma value_irreducible : $\forall e e',$
 $\text{value } e \rightarrow \sim(e \rightarrow e').$

Extent of changes

Need [simultaneous substitutions](#) rather than iterate

As a consequence, freshness of sequences of variables is insufficient, and we need [disjointness conditions](#) (L_1)

Also added a framework for [constants and \$\delta\$ -rules](#).

Overall [size just doubled](#), with no significant jump in

This does not include:

[Additions to the metatheory](#), with tactics for finding disjointness, etc... (1300 lines)

[Domain proofs](#), for concrete constraints and con

Constraint domain proo

Instantiation of the framework to a constraint domain following “dialog”. This was done for the domain of variants and records.

```
Module Cstr.    (* Define constraints *)    End
Module Const.  (* Constants and arities *) End
Module Sound1 := MkSound(Cstr)(Const).
Import Sound1  Infra Defs.

Module Delta.  (* Constant types and delta-rul
Module Sound2 := Mk2(Delta).
Import Sound2  JudgInfra Judge.

Module SndHyp. (* Domain proofs *) End SndHyp.
Module Soundness := Mk3(SndHyp).
```

Adding a non-structural

Kind GC

$$FV_K(E, T) \cap \text{dom}(K') = \emptyset$$

$$K, K'; E \vdash e : T$$

$$K; E \vdash e : T$$

cofinite Ki

$$\forall \bar{\alpha} \notin L$$

$$K, \bar{\alpha} :: \bar{\kappa}^{\bar{\alpha}};$$

$$K; E \vdash_{GC}$$

- Formalizes the intuition that kinds not appearing in T are not relevant to the typing judgment.
- Good for [modularity](#).
- Not derivable in the original type system, as all derivation must be in K from the beginning.
- Again, the co-finite version is implicit.

Working with Kind GC

Framework proofs are still easy (induction on derivation)
domain proofs become much harder (inversion no longer works)

One would like to prove the following lemma:

$$K; E \vdash_{GC} e : T \Rightarrow \exists K', K, K'; E \vdash e : T$$

I got completely stuck in the co-finite system, as co-finite
quantification in **Generalize** does not commute with substitution
I could finally prove it in more than 1300 lines, including
renaming lemmas for both terms and types.

Afterwards, I realized that I only needed canonicalization
which is only 100 lines, as it does not require renaming

Type inference

Type inference is done in the usual ML way

- **W-like algorithm** relying on type unification
- All functions return both a **normalized s** and an updated **kinding environment**.
- Statements of inductive theorems become complex.
- Simpler statements as corollary.
- **Renaming lemmas** are needed.

Unification

Formal proofs in LCF by Paulson as early as 1985.

Here we also need to handle the kinding environment algorithm much more complicated.

Rather than θ is more general than θ' ($\exists\theta_1, \theta' = \theta_1 \circ \theta$) simpler θ' extends θ ($\theta' \circ \theta = \theta'$). They are equivalent and idempotent.

900 lines for definitions and soundness, thanks to a lemma exploiting symmetries. 1000 more lines for correctness with a large part for termination.

Type inference

For core ML, **W**'s correctness was proved about 100k lines in Isabelle and Coq.

The original paper on type inference structural polymorphism contained only proofs about unification.

The practical type inference algorithm is very complex due to subtleties of **generalize**.

Both soundness and principality require renaming. **generalize** renames type variables twice!

More than 3000 lines of proof, with lots of lemmas and type variables.

Type inference (let case)

$\text{generalize}(K, E, T, L) =$
let $A = \text{FV}_K(E)$ and $B = \text{FV}_K(T)$ in
let $K' = K|_{\bar{A}}$ in let $\bar{\alpha} :: \bar{\kappa} = K'|_B$ in
let $\{\bar{\alpha}'\} = B \setminus (A \cup \{\bar{\alpha}\})$ in let $\bar{\kappa}' = \text{map } (\lambda_.\bullet) \bar{\alpha}'$ in
 $\langle (K|_A, K'|_L), [\bar{\alpha}\bar{\alpha}'](\bar{\kappa}\bar{\kappa}' \triangleright T) \rangle$

$\text{typinf}(K, E, \text{let } e_1 \text{ in } e_2, T, \theta, L) =$
let $\alpha = \text{fresh}(L)$ in
match $\text{typinf}(K, E, e_1, \alpha, \theta, L \cup \{\alpha\})$ with
| $\langle K', \theta', L' \rangle \Rightarrow$
let $\langle K'', \sigma \rangle = \text{generalize}(\theta'(K'), \theta'(E), \theta'(T), \theta'(\text{do } e_1))$ in
let $x = \text{fresh}(\text{dom}(E) \cup \text{FV}(e_1) \cup \text{FV}(e_2))$ in
 $\text{typinf}(K'', (E, x : \sigma), e_2^x, T, \theta', L')$
| $\langle \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \rangle$

Properties of type inference

Soundness

$\text{typinf}'(E, e) = \langle K, T \rangle \rightarrow \text{FV}(E) = \emptyset \rightarrow K; E \vdash e : T$

$\text{typinf}(K, E, e, T, \theta, L) = \langle K', \theta', L' \rangle \rightarrow$
 $\text{dom}(\theta) \cap \text{dom}(K) = \emptyset \rightarrow \text{FV}(\theta, K, E, T) \subset L \rightarrow$
 $\theta'(K'); \theta'(E) \vdash e : \theta'(T) \wedge \theta' \sqsubseteq \theta \wedge K \vdash \theta' : \theta'(K') \wedge$
 $\text{dom}(\theta') \cap \text{dom}(K') = \emptyset \wedge \text{FV}(\theta', K', E) \cup L \subset L'$

Principality

$K; E \vdash e : T \rightarrow \text{FV}(E) = \emptyset \rightarrow$
 $\exists K' T', \text{typinf}'(E, e) = \langle K', T' \rangle \wedge \exists \theta, T = \theta(T') \wedge K' \vdash \theta$

$K; E \vdash e : \theta(T) \rightarrow K \vdash \theta(E_1) \leq E \rightarrow \theta \sqsubseteq \theta_1 \rightarrow K_1 \vdash \theta$
 $\text{dom}(\theta_1) \cap \text{dom}(K_1) = \emptyset \rightarrow \text{dom}(\theta) \cup \text{FV}(\theta_1, K_1, E_1,$
 $\exists K' \theta' L', \text{typinf}(K_1, E_1, e, T, \theta_1, L) = \langle K', \theta', L' \rangle \wedge$
 $\exists \theta'', \theta \theta'' \sqsubseteq \theta' \wedge K' \vdash \theta \theta'' : K \wedge \text{dom}(\theta'') \subset L' \setminus L$

Interpreter

Defined a stack based abstract machine.

Since variables are de Bruijn indices, we can use term

Theorem eval_sound_rec :

```
  ∀ (h:nat) (fl:list frame) (benv args:list clos)
    closed_n (length benv) t ->
    K ; E |= stack2trm (app2trm (inst t benv) args)
    K ; E |= res2trm (eval fenv h benv args t fl)
```

Theorem eval_complete : $\forall K t t' T,$

```
  K ; E |= t ~: T ->
  clos_refl_trans_1n _ red t t' -> value t' ->
  ∃h : nat, ∃cl : clos,
    eval fenv h [] [] t [] = Result 0 cl ∧ t' = c
```

Impact of locally nameless and

Since **local and global variables are distinct**, many can be **duplicated**, and we need lemmas to connect them.

- This is particularly painful for kinding environments recursive.
- Yet having to handle explicitly names of bound would probably be even more painful.

Co-finite approach seems to be always a boon. Even inference, only few proofs use renaming lemmas:

- **principality** only requires term variable renaming
- **soundness** requires both term and type variables surprising since we build a co-finite proof from a

Dependent types in values

They are used in the “engineering metatheory” framework when generating fresh variables:

Lemma `var_fresh` : $\forall L : \text{vars}, \{ x : \text{var} \mid x \notin L$

I used dependent types in values in one other place: `valid` and `coherent` by construction.

- A bit more complexity in domain proofs.
- But a big win since this property is kept by substitution.

```
Record ckind : Set :  
  kctr : Cstr.cstr;  
  kvalid : Cstr.valid;  
  krel : list (Cstr.cstr);  
  kcoherent : coherent
```

Also attempted to use dependent types for schemes (to ensure they are well-formed), but dropped them as it made the type inference algorithm more complex.

What's wrong?

Some proofs are still much bigger than expected: e.g. type inference, . . .

- The `value` predicate is complex, as it handles `cc`. It might have been better to define constants and `constructors` from the start. This would require writing the induction principle already done for closures.
- Using `functions` to represent algorithms is dirty. In some cases, adding `input-output inductive re` but in general it does not change the proof size.
- Still wondering...

Using the algorithm

Once the framework is instantiated, one can [extract](#) the inference algorithm to ocaml, and [run](#) it.

```
(* This example is equivalent to the ocaml term [f
# typinf1 (Coq_trm_cst (Const.Coq_tag (Variables.v
- : (var * kind) list * typ =
  [(1, None);
   (2,
    Some
     {kind_cstr = {cstr_low = {0}; cstr_high = None;
      kind_rel = Cons (Pair (0, Coq_typ_fvar 1), Ni
Coq_typ_arrow (Coq_typ_fvar 1, Coq_typ_fvar 2))
```


A more complete example

```
# let rev_append =
  recf (abs (abs (abs
    (matches [0;1] [abs (bvar 1);
      abs(apps(bvar 3)[sub 1 (bvar 0);cons(sub 0 (bvar 1]))))) ;;
val rev_append : trm = ...
# typinf2 Nil rev_append;;
- : (var * kind) list * typ = (* using p
  ([(10, <Ksum, {}, {0; 1}, {0 => tv 15; 1 => tv 34}
    (29, <Ksum, {1}, any, {1 => tv 26}>);
    (34, <Kprod, {1; 0}, any, {0 => tv 30; 1 => tv 1
    (26, <Kprod, {}, {0; 1}, {0 => tv 30; 1 => tv 29
  tv 10 @> tv 29 @> tv 29)
```

Conclusion

- Formalized completely **structural polymorphism**.
- Proved not only **type soundness**, but also **sound principality** of inference, and correctness of **eval** an abstract machine.
- First step towards a **certified reference implementation OCaml**. Next step might be type constructors and value restriction.
- The techniques in *Engineering formal metatheory* but had to **redo the automation**.
- Extractable proof scripts at
<http://www.math.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~garrigu>