

COSE212: Programming Languages

Lecture 14 — Automatic Type Inference (2)

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2022 Fall

Goal

- So far we have informally discussed how to derive type equations.
- In this lecture, we define the procedure precisely.

Language

$$\begin{array}{l} E \rightarrow n \\ \quad | \\ \quad | x \\ \quad | E + E \\ \quad | E - E \\ \quad | \text{iszero } E \\ \quad | \text{if } E \text{ then } E \text{ else } E \\ \quad | \text{let } x = E \text{ in } E \\ \quad | \text{proc } x E \\ \quad | E E \\ \\ T \rightarrow \text{int} \\ \quad | \text{bool} \\ \quad | T \rightarrow T \\ \quad | \alpha (\in \text{TyVar}) \end{array}$$

Type Equations

- Type equations are conjunctions of “type equalities”: e.g.,

$$t_0 = t_f \rightarrow t_1$$

$$t_1 = t_x \rightarrow t_4$$

$$t_3 = \text{int}$$

$$t_4 = \text{int}$$

$$t_2 = \text{int}$$

$$t_f = \text{int} \rightarrow t_3$$

$$t_f = t_x \rightarrow t_4$$

- Type equations ($TyEqn$) are defined inductively:

$$\begin{array}{l} TyEqn \rightarrow \emptyset \\ | \quad T \doteq T \wedge TyEqn \end{array}$$

Deriving Type Equations

- Algorithm for generating equations:

$$\mathcal{V} : (\mathit{Var} \rightarrow \mathit{T}) \times \mathit{E} \times \mathit{T} \rightarrow \mathit{TyEqn}$$

- $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, e, t)$ generates the condition for e to have type t in Γ :

$$\Gamma \vdash e : t \text{ iff } \mathcal{V}(\Gamma, e, t) \text{ is satisfied.}$$

- Examples:

- ▶ $\mathcal{V}([x \mapsto \text{int}], x+1, \alpha) =$
- ▶ $\mathcal{V}(\emptyset, \text{proc } (x) (\text{if } x \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 2), \alpha \rightarrow \beta) =$

- To derive type equations for closed expression E , we call $\mathcal{V}(\emptyset, E, \alpha)$, where α is a fresh type variable.

Deriving Type Equations

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, n, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, x, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, e_1 + e_2, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, \text{iszero } e, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, \text{if } e_1 e_2 e_3, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, \text{proc } (x) e, t) =$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, e_1 e_2, t) =$$

Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{V}(\emptyset, (\text{proc } (x) (x)) \ 1, \alpha) \\ &= \mathcal{V}(\emptyset, \text{proc } (x) (x), \alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha) \wedge \mathcal{V}(\emptyset, 1, \alpha_1) && \text{new } \alpha_1 \\ &= \alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha \dot{=} \alpha_2 \rightarrow \alpha_3 \wedge \mathcal{V}([x \mapsto \alpha_2], x, \alpha_3) \wedge \alpha_1 \dot{=} \text{int} && \text{new } \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \\ &= \alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha \dot{=} \alpha_2 \rightarrow \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_2 \dot{=} \alpha_3 \wedge \alpha_1 \dot{=} \text{int} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 1

$$\mathcal{V}(\emptyset, \text{proc}(f)(f \ 11), \alpha)$$

Exercise 2

$\mathcal{V}([x \mapsto \text{bool}], \text{if } x \text{ then } (x - 1) \text{ else } 0, \alpha)$

Exercise 3

$\mathcal{V}(\emptyset, \text{proc } (f) (\text{iszero } (f f)), \alpha)$

Summary

We have defined the algorithm for deriving type equations from program text:

- Given a program E , call $\mathcal{V}(\emptyset, E, \alpha)$ to derive type equations.
- Solve the equations and find the type assigned to α .