



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
DIPARTIMENTO DI  
INFORMATICA - SCIENZA E INGEGNERIA

# SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

**COSIMO LANEVE**

`cosimo.laneve@unibo.it`

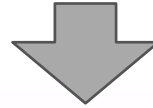
CORSO 72671

COMPLEMENTI DI LINGUAGGI DI PROGRAMMAZIONE

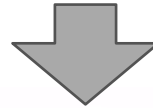
# THIS LECTURE



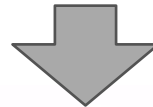
lexical  
analysis



syntactic  
analysis



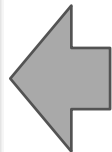
semantic  
analysis



bytecode  
generation

- \* scopes and symbol tables
- \* type checking

the `SimpLan`  
interpreter



# OUTLINE

- \* the design of types
- \* environments for type checking
- \* type checking of expressions, statements, functions, programs
- \* advanced type checking
- \* typing effects

## reference:

- \* Torben Mogensen: **Basics of Compiler Design**, Chapter 6

# TYPES AND TYPE SYSTEMS

## Definition: type

A type is

- \* a set of values
- \* a set of operations on those values

**example:** classes are one instance of the modern notion of type

**why we use types?**

- \* most operations are **legal** only for values of some types
- \* it **doesn't make sense** to add a function pointer and an integer in C
- \* it **does make sense** to add two integers
- \* but both have the same assembly language implementation!

**example:** what is the type of `addi $r1, $r2, $r3`

# TYPES AND TERMINOLOGIES

**type safety:** a language is **type-safe** if the only operations that can be performed on data whose type is that of the operation

- \* type enforcement can be **static**, catching potential errors at compile time,
- \* or **dynamic**, associating type information with values at run-time and consulting them as needed to detect imminent errors,
- \* or a **combination** of both.

**type system** is a formal system consisting of a set of rules that assigns a property called a type to the operations of a program

- \* **used statically** = done at compile time
- \* **used dynamically** = done at runtime; it associates each runtime object with a *type tag* containing type information that can also be used to implement downcasting, reflection, etc.
- \* combinations... (and there are also **untyped** languages: Python, JavaScript)

**type expressions:** data types can be defined by programmers (structured data types)

- \* **type compliance & equivalence:** when two types are equal? (nominal vs structural)

# TYPE CHECKING

**type checking** is the process of verifying that operations are used with the correct types — it may be either **static** or **dynamic**

- \* **type errors** arise when operations are performed on values that do not support that operation
- \* type checking can detect certain important kinds of errors
  - **memory errors**: reading from an invalid pointer, etc.
  - **violation of abstraction boundaries**

```
class FileSystem {
    private File open(String x){
        . . .
    }
    . . .
}
class Client {
    void f(FileSystem fs){
        File fdesc = fs.open("foo")
        . . .
    } // f cannot see inside FileSystem !
}
```

# TYPES AND TERMINOLOGIES

## a table for mainstream languages

### TYPE SYSTEMS

Language	Type Safety	Type Expr.	Type Comp. & Equiv.	Type Checking
C	weak	explicit	nominal	checking/inference
C#	weak	implicit/explicit	nominal	checking/inference
F#	strong	implicit	nominal	inference
Go	strong	implicit/explicit	structural	inference
Haskell	strong	implicit/explicit	nominal	inference
Java	strong	explicit	nominal	checking/inference
JavaScript	weak	implicit	no	dynamic
OCaml	strong	implicit/explicit	nominal	inference
Prolog	no	no	no	dynamic
Python	strong	implicit/explicit	no	dynamic
Scala	strong	implicit	nominal/structural	checking/inference

# FALSE POSITIVES AND FALSE NEGATIVES

assume there is a code for **STATIC** typechecking: `TypeCheck (P)`

- \* `TypeCheck (P)` takes in input a program `P`
- \* it returns `true` if the program is correct wrt types
- \* `false` otherwise

**false positives:** `TypeCheck (P) = true` and when you execute `P`, the execution terminates with a `program error` due to types

**false negatives:** `TypeCheck (P) = false` and when you execute `P`, the execution never shows up a `type error`

- \* example: `int x = 0; if (true) x = 1; else x = true;`

**FALSE POSITIVES ARE PROBLEMATIC!**



# STATIC TYPE CHECKING: THE FORMALISM

there is no standard tool for type checkers

- \* they need to be written in a general-purpose programming language

there are standard notations that can be used for specifying the rules of the type checker

- \* they can be easily converted to code in any host language

the most common notation is **inference rules**

## Definition: inference rule

An inference rule has a set of premises  $J_1, \dots, J_n$  and a conclusion  $J$ , conventionally separated by a line:

$$\frac{J_1 \quad \dots \quad J_n}{J}$$

when the set of premises is empty, the rule is called **axiom**

# TYPE CHECKING: THE FORMALISM

the inference rule

$$\frac{J_1 \quad \dots \quad J_n}{J}$$

is read if the **Premises**  $J_1, \dots, J_n$  are true  
then **Conclusion**  $J$  is true

\* the symbols  $J_1, \dots, J_n, J$  are called **judgments**

\* the most common judgment is  $\vdash e:T$  that is read "expression  $e$  has type  $T$ "

\* an example:

$$\frac{\vdash e_1: \text{bool} \quad \vdash e_2: \text{bool}}{\vdash e_1 \ \&\& \ e_2 : \text{bool}}$$

that is read: if  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  have type `bool`, then  $e_1 \ \&\& \ e_2$  has type `bool`

# TYPE SYSTEM AND TYPE CHECKING

the set of inference rules for the types of a language is called **type system**

inference rules for language constructs can be implemented by means of **recursive functions** on the abstract syntax trees

the function `typeCheck`:

\* given a term  $e$ , return a type  $T$ , such that  $\vdash e:T$

```
example: Type typeCheck(Exp e) =
    switch (e){
        case a && b:
            t1 = typeCheck(a) ;
            t2 = typeCheck(b) ;
            if ((t1 == bool) && (t2 == bool))
                return bool ;
            else break ;
    }
}
```

the `typeCheck` method in `SimpLan` has no argument because the infos are in the fields of the object

# CONTEXT AND ENVIRONMENT

how do we type-check variables?

- \* variables, such as  $x$ , can have any of the types available in a programming language
- \* the type it has in a particular program depends on the **context**

the context is defined by declarations that bind variables to their type

it is **a data structure** where one can **look up** a variable and **get its type**

**formally, contexts are environments  $\Gamma$**

- \* see previous slides

$\Gamma \vdash e : \text{bool}$  is read:  $e$  has type  $\text{bool}$  in the environment  $\Gamma$

in the compilers, the environment is implemented by symbol tables

# A TYPE SYSTEM FOR SIMPLE EXPRESSIONS

exp : NUM | ID | 'true' | 'false'  
| exp '+' exp | exp '==' exp ;

the type system contains the rules (for type checking)

$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{num} : \text{int}}$  [Num]     $\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{bool}}$  [True]     $\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{false} : \text{bool}}$  [False]

$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e2 : \text{int} \quad + : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e1 + e2 : \text{int}}$  [Plus]

$\frac{\Gamma(\text{id}) = T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{id} : T}$  [Var]

$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e1 : T1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e2 : T2 \quad T1=T2 \quad == : T1 \times T1 \rightarrow \text{bool}}{\Gamma \vdash e1 == e2 : \text{bool}}$  [Eq]

this is not a judgment:  
it is an axiom schema!

== is polymorphic!

this is the unique place where  $\Gamma$  is used

# PROOF TREES

with the type system we can derive

$$\Gamma \vdash (x+5) == (y+2) : \text{bool}$$

assuming that  $\Gamma = [x \mapsto \text{int}, y \mapsto \text{int}]$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{[Var]} \frac{\Gamma(x) = \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash x:\text{int}} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 5:\text{int}} \text{[Num]} \quad \frac{\Gamma(y) = \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash y:\text{int}} \text{[Var]} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 2:\text{int}} \text{[Num]} \\ \text{[Plus]} \frac{+ : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (x+5):\text{int}} \quad \frac{+ : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (y+2):\text{int}} \text{[Plus]} \\ \frac{== : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{bool}}{\Gamma \vdash (x+5) == (y+2) : \text{bool}} \text{[Eq-i]} \end{array}$$

this is called **PROOF TREE**

proof trees are **finite** trees where

- \* the nodes are **instances** of the inference rules
- \* in particular, the leaves are instances of axioms
- \* the root of the tree contains the judgement that is demonstrated

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

the environments are implemented by symbol tables

- \* **in the following:** the type of symbol tables is `SymbolTable`
- \* assume  $\Gamma$  to be of type `SymbolTable`
- \* the operation of lookup in  $\Gamma$  is  $\Gamma(id)$
- \* the operation of insert/extension of a new identifier  $id$  in  $\Gamma$  is  $\Gamma[id \mapsto type]$

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TYPE SYSTEM

the type checking is implemented by a recursive function on the nodes of the AST

```
Type typeCheck (SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , Exp e){
  switch (e){
    case e1+e2:  if ((typeCheck( $\Gamma$ ,e1)==int) && (typeCheck( $\Gamma$ ,e2)==int))
                  return int ;
                  else { error("wrong sum") ; break ; }
    case e1==e2: if ((typeCheck( $\Gamma$ ,e1) == typeCheck( $\Gamma$ ,e2))
                  return bool ;
                  else { error("wrong equal") ; break ; }
    case id:     if ( $\Gamma$ (id) is undefined)
                  error("Undeclared id") ; break ;
                  else return( $\Gamma$ (id)) ;
    case num:    return(int) ;
    case true:   return(bool) ;
    case false:  return(bool) ;
  }
}
```

**WARNING:** this is psedocode!

The `typeCheck` method in `SimpLan` has no argument because the infos are in the fields of the class

- there is no symbol table anymore... because of an optimization
- there is no case analysis because nodes are specialized



# PROOFS TREES IN A TYPE CHECKING SYSTEM

with the type inference system we can derive

$$\Gamma \vdash (x+5) == (y+2) : \text{bool}$$

assuming that  $\Gamma = [x \mapsto \text{int}, y \mapsto \text{int}]$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{[Var]} \frac{\Gamma(x) = \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash x:T2 \quad T2=\text{int}} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 5:T3 \quad T3=\text{int}} \text{[Num]} \quad \text{[Var]} \frac{\Gamma(y) = \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash y:T5 \quad T5=\text{int}} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 2:T6 \quad T6=\text{int}} \text{[Num]} \\
 \text{[Plus]} \frac{T2=\text{int}=T3 \quad + : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (x+5):T1 \quad T1=\text{int}} \quad \frac{T5=\text{int}=T6 \quad + : \text{int} \times \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash (y+2):T4 \quad T4=\text{int}} \text{[Plus]} \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash (x+5):T1 \quad T1=\text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash (y+2):T4 \quad T4=\text{int} \quad T1=T4 \quad == : T1 \times T1 \rightarrow \text{bool}}{\Gamma \vdash (x+5) == (y+2) : T \quad T = \text{bool}} \text{[Eq]}
 \end{array}$$

if you replace the type variables  $T, T1, \dots$  with the corresponding values, you obtain the proof tree

# TYPE CHECKING OF `SimpLan`

the `SimpLan` language

```
prog   : exp ';'
        | let exp ';' ;

let    : 'let' (dec ';' )+ 'in' ;

dec    : type ID '=' exp ';'
        | type ID '(' param (',' param )* ')' '=' (let)? exp ';' ;

type   : 'int' | 'bool' ;

exp    : INTEGER | 'true' | 'false' | ID
        | exp '+' exp | exp '==' exp
        | 'if' '(' exp ')' '{' exp '}' 'else' '{' exp '}'
        | ID '(' exp (',' exp )* ')' ;
```

exp are different

the following pseudocode uses explicit parameters `SymbolTable` and `Nodes` representing syntactic categories

- it is different from the implementation
- it should be simpler to understand

# TYPE CHECKING OF EXPRESSIONS

we use a method `Type typeChecking (SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ExpNode e)`

the symbol table

the expression to type check  
— a pointer to the syntax tree —

```
Type typeChecking (SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ExpNode e) {
  switch (e) {
    case num      : return(int)
    case true     :
    case false    : return(bool)
    case id       : Type t =  $\Gamma$ (id);
                   if (t = unbound) error("Undeclared id");
                   else return(t);
    case e1 + e2  : Type t1 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e1);
                   Type t2 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e2);
                   if ((t1==int)&&(t2==int)) return(int);
                   else error("Wrong invocation of addition");
    case e1 == e2 : Type t1 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e1);
                   Type t2 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e2);
                   if (t1 == t2) return(bool);
                   else error("Wrong invocation of conjunction");
    . . . }
}
```

# TYPE CHECKING OF EXPRESSIONS — CONT.

```
Type typeChecking(SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ExpNode e){
  switch (e) {
    . . .
    case if (e1){ e2 } else { e3 } :
      Type t1 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e1);
      Type t2 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e2);
      Type t3 = typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e3);
      if (t1==bool) && (t2==t3) return(t2);
      else error("Type mismatch in conditionals");

    id(e_list) : Type t =  $\Gamma$ (id) ;
      switch (t){
        case unbound : error("Undeclared function id");
        case (t1, . . . , tn) -> t0 :
          [t1', . . . , tm'] = typeCheckingTuple( $\Gamma$ , e_list)
          if ((n==m) && (t1 == t1') && ... && (tn == tn'))
            return(t0);
          else error("Wrong invocation of function");
      }
  }
}
```

esercizio: vedere CallNode

```
TupleType typeCheckingTuple(SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ExpNodeList L){
  switch (L){
    case null : return([ ]);
    case e      : return([typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e)]);
    case e::L1 : return(typeChecking( $\Gamma$ , e) :: typeCheckingTuple( $\Gamma$ , L1));
  }}

```

*← element concatenation*

# TYPE CHECKING: ADVANCED RULES

what are the rules for conditionals and function invocations?

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : T_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : T_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : T_3 \quad T_1 = \text{bool} \quad T_2 = T_3}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e_1) \ e_2 \ \text{else } e_3 : T_2} \text{ [If]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T \quad (\Gamma \vdash e_i : T_i')_{i \in 1..n} \quad (T_i = T_i')_{i \in 1..n}}{\Gamma \vdash f(e_1, \dots, e_n) : T} \text{ [Invk]}$$

and what about declarations?

in `SimpLan` there are two types of declarations

1. the declaration of an identifier `type ID '=' exp`
2. the declaration of a function `type ID '(' ( param ( ',' param)* )? ')' '=' (let)? exp`

they both change the symbol table

# TYPE CHECKING OF DECLARATIONS

the judgments of decs are  $\Gamma \vdash \text{decs} : \Gamma'$

**the judgments return environments!**

rules for declarations are

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T' \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma)) \quad T=T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \ x = e ; : \Gamma[x \mapsto T]} [\text{VarD}]$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash d : \Gamma' \quad \Gamma' \vdash D : \Gamma''}{\Gamma \vdash d \ D : \Gamma''} [\text{SeqD}]$$

# TYPE CHECKING OF DECLARATIONS

the rule for function declarations is

*it is the same if you omit the • operation!*

this is the rule used by `SimpLan`

$$\frac{\Gamma \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash e : T' \quad T' = T \quad f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = e; \quad : \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{[Fun]}$$

[Fun] does not admit recursive definitions: if you want them, you must replace the judgment in the premise with

$$\Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash e : T'$$

you obtain the [FunR] rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash e : T' \quad T' = T \quad f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = e; \quad : \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{[FunR]}$$

what about mutual recursive definitions?

# TYPE CHECKING OF LET

the rule for let

$$\frac{\Gamma \bullet [] \vdash D : \Gamma' \quad \Gamma' \vdash e : T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } D \text{ in } e : T} \text{[Let]}$$

*this corresponds to a newScope() operation!*

*this corresponds to a remove() operation!*

**remark:** the scope of the declarations  $D$  are  $e$ : outside `let`, declarations are not accessible anymore!

**question:** why don't we use the simpler rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash D : \Gamma' \quad \Gamma' \vdash e : T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } D \text{ in } e : T} \text{[Let-Simpler]}$$



# TYPE CHECKING: IMPLEMENTATION (WITH FUNR)

**notice:** it is NOT `SimpLan` because we use `[FunR]`

*this may return  
error("Multiple declaration of id")*

```
SymbolTable typeCheckingDecs (SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , DecsNode D) {
  switch (D) {
    case T x = e : Type T1 = typeChecking ( $\Gamma$ , e) ;
                  if (T == T1) return  $\Gamma[x \mapsto T]$  ;
                  else error ("Type mismatch in id decl") ;

    case T f(P) e : Tuple<Types> T1 = getType (P) ;
                  SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  =  $\Gamma[f \mapsto T1 \rightarrow T]$  ;
                  SymbolTable  $\Gamma''$  =  $\Gamma' \cdot \mathbf{insertArgs} ([], P)$  ;
                  Type T2 = typeChecking ( $\Gamma''$ , e);
                  if (T == T2) return  $\Gamma'$  ;
                  else error ("Wrong function id declaration");

    case T f(P) let D' in e: Tuple<Types> T1 = getType (P);
                  SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  =  $\Gamma[f \mapsto T1 \rightarrow T]$  ;
                  SymbolTable  $\Gamma''$  =  $\Gamma' \cdot \mathbf{insertArgs} ([], P)$  ;
                   $\Gamma''$  = typeCheckingDecs ( $\Gamma''$ , D');
                  Type T2 = typeChecking ( $\Gamma''$ , e);
                  if (T == T2) return  $\Gamma'$  ;
                  else error ("Wrong function id declaration");

    case d D' : SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  = typeCheckingDecs ( $\Gamma$ , d);
               return typeCheckingDecs ( $\Gamma'$ , D');
  }
}
```

*type checks  
recursive functions  
(we are using [FunR])*

*// to be defined!*

*formal parameters and  
local variables are in  
the same nesting level  
(we are using a variant of [FunR])*

**notice:** mutual recursion is still not covered!

# TYPE CHECKING FUNCTIONS: RECAP

the rules are

$$\frac{\Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash e : T' \quad T' = T \quad f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = e; : \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{[FunR]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash D : \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet \Gamma' \quad \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T] \bullet \Gamma' \vdash e : T' \quad T' = T \quad f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = \text{let } D \text{ in } e; : \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{[FunRLet]}$$

**notice:** in `SimpLan` we use `[FunR]`, NOT `[FunR]`

# TYPE CHECKING PROGRAMS

programs are

```
prog    : 'let' (vardec | fundec)+ 'in' exp ';' ;
```

then the inference rule is the same of `let` and the implementation is

```
Type typeChecking(SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ProgNode p) {// the symbol table is not used!  
    SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  = typeCheckingDecs( $\emptyset$ , p.decs);  
    return typeChecking( $\Gamma'$ , p.exp) ;  
}
```

**problem:** how to let a function invokes another function defined afterwards?

# TYPE CHECKING PROGRAMS (MUTUAL RECURSION)

we need a pre-visit that collects function definitions

formally, there is a new judgment  $\Gamma \Vdash D : \Gamma'$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \Vdash T \ x = e \ ; \ : \ \Gamma} \text{ [VarM]} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \Vdash d : \Gamma' \quad \Gamma' \Vdash D : \Gamma''}{\Gamma \Vdash d \ D : \Gamma''} \text{ [DecM]}$$

$$\frac{f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \Vdash T \ f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = e \ ; \ : \ \Gamma[f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{ [FunM]}$$

the let-rule becomes

here we use [Fun] and not [FunR].  
 WHY? WHAT HAPPENS IF WE USE [FunR]?

$$\frac{\emptyset \Vdash D : \Gamma' \quad \Gamma \bullet \Gamma' \bullet [] \vdash D : \Gamma'' \quad \Gamma'' \vdash e : T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } D \text{ in } e : T} \text{ [LetM]}$$

**question:** [LetM] has been written with the premise  $\Gamma \bullet \Gamma' \bullet [] \vdash D : \Gamma''$  for reusing [Fun] (or [FunR]): may you provide a different rule in order to have the simpler premise  $\Gamma \bullet \Gamma' \vdash D ;_{\Sigma} \Gamma''$  ?

# TYPE CHECKING PROGRAMS (MUTUAL RECURSION)

```
SymbolTable typeCheckingDecsAux(SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , DecsNode D){  
  case D of  
    Empty    : return( $\Gamma$ ) ;  
    T x = e ; D' : return typeCheckingDecsAux( $\Gamma$ , D') ;  
    T f(A) B ; D' : Tuple<Types> T' = getType(A) ;  
                  SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  = insert( $\Gamma$ , f, T'→T) ;  
                  return typeCheckingDecsAux( $\Gamma$ , D') ;  
}
```

*the insert may also fail:  
multiple declarations of functions in the same scope*



the type inference of the whole program managing mutual recursion is

```
SymbolTable typeCheckingDecs(SymbolTable  $\Gamma$ , ProgNode p){  
  SymbolTable  $\Gamma'$  = typeCheckingDecsAux(EMPTY_TABLE, p.decs);  
   $\Gamma'$  = newScope( $\Gamma'$ ) ;  
  SymbolTable  $\Gamma''$  = typeCheckingDecs( $\Gamma'$ , p.decs);  
  return typeChecking( $\Gamma''$ , p.exp) ;  
}
```

# ADVANCED ISSUES

- \* subtyping
- \* statements
- \* subtyping and assignment
- \* overriding

# SUBTYPING

consider the following program in `miniSimpLan`:

```
let T x = e in e'
```

according to the current type system we have the proof tree

$$\frac{\Gamma \bullet [] \vdash e : T'' \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma \bullet [])) \quad \text{[VarD]} \quad \frac{\Gamma \bullet [] \vdash T x = e : \Gamma \bullet [x \mapsto T] \quad \Gamma \bullet [x \mapsto T] \vdash e' : T' \quad \text{[Prog]}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } T x = e \text{ in } e' : T'}}$$

the equality between  $T''$  and  $T$  is a constraint that is sometimes **too strong**

**example:** with the above type system it is not possible to type

```
class C inherits P { ... }  
...  
let P x = new C in ...
```

problems with  
**inheritance!**

# SUBTYPING

define a relation  $T <: T'$  on types to say that:

- \* an object of type  $T$  could be used when one of type  $T'$  is **acceptable**

## Definition: subtyping

Let `Inherits_from` be a set of pairs of types. A relation  $<:$  on types is called **subtyping** when

- \*  $T <: T$
- \*  $T <: T'$  if  $(T, T') \in \text{Inherits\_from}$
- \*  $T <: T'$  if  $T <: T''$  and  $T'' <: T'$

VarD with subtyping:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma)) \quad T <: T'}{\Gamma \vdash T' \ x = e ; : \Gamma[x \mapsto T']} \text{[Var-Subt]}$$

the old rule was:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T' \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma)) \quad T=T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \ x = e ; : \Gamma[x \mapsto T]} \text{[VarD]}$$



# BE CAREFUL: WRONG DEC/LET RULE

when declarations are singletons you may have a compact dec-let rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma[x \mapsto T'] \vdash e' : T'' \quad T <: T'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } T' \ x = e \text{ in } e' : T''} \text{ [CompactLet]}$$

no need to have •  
WHY?

1. consider the following wrong rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma \vdash e' : T'' \quad T <: T'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } T' \ x = e \text{ in } e' : T''} \text{ [WrongLet1]}$$

\* the following good program does not typecheck

```
let int x = 0 in x + 1
```

\* and some bad programs do typecheck

```
int foo(B x) { let A x = new A in x.b() }
```

[the problem was that  $e'$  was typed in a wrong env]

# BE CAREFUL: WRONG DEC/LET RULE

2. next, consider another hypothetical dec/let rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma[x \mapsto T'] \vdash e' : T'' \quad T' <: T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } T' \ x = e \text{ in } e' : T''} \text{ [WrongLet2]}$$

\* the following bad program is well typed

```
let B x = new A in x.b()
```

[the problem is that we have inverted the subtyping relation]

3. then consider this dec/let rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma[x \mapsto T] \vdash e' : T'' \quad T <: T'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } T' \ x = e \text{ in } e' : T''} \text{ [WrongLet3]}$$

\* the following good program is not typed

```
let A x = new B in { ... x = new A; x.a(); }
```

[the problem is that  $e'$  has been typed with a wrong binding for  $x$ ]

# FUNCTION INVOCATION WITH SUBTYPING

function  $f$  with type:  $T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T \quad (\Gamma \vdash e_i : T_i')_{i \in 1..n} \quad (T_i' <: T_i)_{i \in 1..n}}{\Gamma \vdash f(e_1, \dots, e_n) : T} \text{[Invk-Subt]}$$

\* therefore a function may be invoked with values of a subtype

# CONDITIONAL WITH SUBTYPING

the syntax of conditional expressions:

```
if (e) { e1 } else { e2 }
```

\* the typing system infer types that may be all different ...

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma \vdash e1 : T1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e2 : T2 \\ T <: \text{bool} \quad T1 <: T' \quad T2 <: T' \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e) \{ e1 \} \text{ else } \{ e2 \} : T'} \text{ [If-Subt]}$$

# STATEMENTS AND TYPE CHECKING

extend miniSimplan with statements

\* you get impSimplan

```
prog   : 'let' decs 'in' ( exp | stats ) ';' ;
decs   : ( vardec | fundec )+ ;
vardec : type ID '=' exp ';' ;
fundec : type ID '(' ( args )? ')' fbody ';' ;
fbody  : exp | stats | 'let' (vardec)+ 'in' ( exp | stats ) ;
args   : type ID ( ',' type ID)* ;
type   : 'int' | 'bool' | 'void' ;
exp    : INTEGER | 'true' | 'false' | ID
        | exp '+' exp | exp '==' exp
        | 'if' exp 'then' '{' exp '}' 'else' '{' exp '}'
        | ID '(' (exps)? ')' ;
exps   : exp (',' exps)* ;
stats  : stat ';' stat* ;
stat   : ID ':=' exp
        | 'if' exp '{' stats '}' 'else' '{' stats '}' ;
```

*sequences of statements*

*bodies may also be statements*

*the type void!*

*the statements*

# THE TYPING SYSTEM FOR STATEMENTS

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = T \quad \Gamma \vdash e : T' \quad T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash x = e; : \text{void}} \text{[Asgn]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad \Gamma \vdash s1 : T' \quad \Gamma \vdash s2 : T'' \quad T = \text{bool} \quad T' = \text{void} = T''}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e) \{ s1 \} \text{ else } \{ s2 \} : \text{void}} \text{[IfS]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : T \quad \Gamma \vdash S : T' \quad T = \text{void} = T'}{\Gamma \vdash s S : \text{void}} \text{[SeqS]}$$

\* not so difficult

# THE TYPING SYSTEM WITH SUBTYPING FOR STATEMENTS

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = T \quad \Gamma \vdash e : T' \quad T' <: T}{\Gamma \vdash x = e ; : \text{void}} \text{[Asgn-Subt]}$$

*assignment with subtyping!*

*T' <: void means that T' = void because there is no subtype of void*

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T \quad T <: \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash s1 : T' \quad T' <: \text{void} \quad \Gamma \vdash s2 : T'' \quad T'' <: \text{void}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e) \text{ s1 else s2 : void}} \text{[IfS-Subt]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : T \quad \Gamma \vdash S : T' \quad T <: \text{void} \quad T' <: \text{void}}{\Gamma \vdash s S : \text{void}} \text{[SeqS-Subt]}$$

\* therefore, if  $B <: A$ , we may write

$A \ x = \text{new } B() ;$

# COVARIANT ARRAYS AND ASSIGNMENTS

let `array[A]` be the type of an array containing data of type `A`

one could assume:

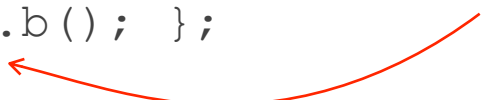
\* if `B <: A` then `array[B] <: array[A]`

(known as **covariant arrays**, present e.g. in Java)

but, consider the following program (well typed according to this assumption):

```
let void f(x:array[A]){ x[1]= new A; }  
in let z : array[B]  
    in { f(z); z[1].b(); };
```

*we are assigning to a  
variable of type B a value  
of type A with `B <: A`*



what is wrong with this program?



# A (GENERALLY) WRONG SUBTYPING RULE (CONT.)

## problem:

- \* when the **array of subtypes** is used in place of an **array of supertypes**...
- \* ...it is possible to **insert a supertype** in the array...
- \* ...and then the supertype can be used in place of a subtype (type error!)

but if arrays **cannot be written/modified**, “covariance” is sound!

- \* it is admitted when the array items are **NOT assigned**

# CLASS TYPING RULE

what is the type of:

```
class A{  
  T1 f1; ... Tn fn;  
  T1' m1 ( $\overline{T_1'' x_1}$ ) { ... }  
  ...  
  Th' mh ( $\overline{T_h'' x_h}$ ) { ... }  
}
```

$D = T_1 f_1; \dots T_n f_n; T_1' m_1 (\overline{T_1'' x_1}) \{ \dots \} \dots T_h' m_h (\overline{T_h'' x_h}) \{ \dots \}$

$\Gamma [A \mapsto [f_i \mapsto T_i, m_j \mapsto \overline{T_j''} \rightarrow T_j']^{i \in 1..n, j \in 1..h}] \vdash D : \Gamma'$

$\Gamma \vdash \text{class } A\{\dots\} : \Gamma [A \mapsto [f_i \mapsto T_i, m_j \mapsto \overline{T_j''} \rightarrow T_j']^{i \in 1..n, j \in 1..n}]$  [Class]

# CLASS SUBTYPING

subclasses can usually override some declarations of the superclass

\* usually the body assigned to method

assume it is possible to **override both fields and methods**, by changing also their types

**problem:**

```
class A{..., T f, ... }
class B inherits A {..., T' f, ... }
```

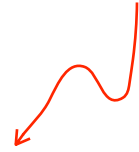
with  $T' <: T$  (fields can be seen as array cells)

**field overriding is usually not admitted**

- \* if they can be dynamically modified, the type cannot be changed
- \* in a **functional language** (e.g. `SimpLan`) field subtyping may be supported (**covariant fields**)

# METHOD INVOCATION

*this is a small environment as well!*



remark: the environment  $\Gamma$  now binds class types

\* e.g.  $\Gamma(C) = [a : T_a, b : T_b, m : T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T]$

\* therefore we may access to the type of a field with  $\Gamma(C)(a)$  and of a method with  $\Gamma(C)(m)$

\* you may also use the notations  $\Gamma(C.a)$  and  $\Gamma(C.m)$

the type rule for method invocation:

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = C \quad \Gamma(C.m) = T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T \quad \left( \Gamma \vdash e_i : T'_i \quad T'_i <: T_i \right)_{i \in 1..n}}{\Gamma \vdash x.m(e_1, \dots, e_n) : T} \text{ [MtdInvk-Subt]}$$

# METHOD OVERRIDING (IN SCALA)

**example [from Scala]:**

```
class A{..., T m(T1 p1, ..., Tn pn) { e }, ... }
```

```
class B inherits A{..., T' m(T'1 p1, ..., T'n pn) { e' }, ... }
```

consider  $\text{let } T \ z = x.m(e_1, \dots, e_n) \text{ in } e$

assuming  $x$  with type  $A$  that can be instantiated by an object of type  $B$

- \* the  $B$  return type  $T'$  must be usable in place of the  $A$  return type  $T$ 
  - we need  $T' <: T$
- \*  $A$  parameter types must be usable in place of  $B$  parameter types
  - we need  $T_i <: T'_i$

# METHOD OVERRIDING: SUMMARY

\* if  $T_1 <: T_1' \dots T_n <: T_n'$  and  $T' <: T$  and  $B <: A$

\* the type of  $m$  in  $A$  is  $T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T$

\* the type of  $m$  in  $B$  is  $T_1' \times \dots \times T_n' \rightarrow T'$

\* then

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{controv} \longleftarrow \quad (T_i <: T_i')_{i \in 1..n} \quad T' <: T \quad \longrightarrow \text{cov} \\ \hline T_1' \times \dots \times T_n' \rightarrow T' <: T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow T \end{array}}{\text{[Arrow-Subt]}}$$

\* which is the general subtyping rule for functions

- **covariant** output (return) type
- **contravariant** input (parameter) types
- most of the programming languages (Java, C#) only admit **invariance** of input types!

# APPENDIX

snippets of type checking in `SimpLan`

# SNIPPETS OF TYPE CHECKING EXPRESSIONS IN SIMPLAN

this is in `PlusNode.java`

```
public Type typeCheck() {
    if ((left.typeCheck() instanceof IntType) && (right.typeCheck() instanceof IntType))
        return new IntType() ; ← returns INT
    else {
        System.out.println("Type Error: Non integers in addition") ;
        return new ErrorType() ;
    }
}
```

this is in `EqualNode.java`

```
public Type typeCheck() {
    Type tl = left.typeCheck() ;
    Type tr = right.typeCheck() ;
    if (tl.getClass().equals(tr.getClass()))
        return new BoolType() ; ← returns BOOL
    else {
        System.out.println("Type Error: Different types in equality") ;
        return new ErrorType() ;
    }
}
```



# SNIPPETS OF TYPE CHECKING CONDITIONALS IN SIMPLAN

this is in `IfNode.java`

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e1 : T1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e2 : T2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e3 : T3 \quad T1 = \text{bool} \quad T2 = T3}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e1) \ e2 \ \text{else } e3 : T2} \quad [\text{If}]$$

```
public Type typeCheck() {
    if (guard.typeCheck() instanceof BoolType) {
        Type thenexp = thenbranch.typeCheck() ;
        Type elseexp = elsebranch.typeCheck() ;
        if (thenexp.getClass().equals(elseexp.getClass()))
            return thenexp;
        else {
            System.out.println("Type Error: different types in then and else");
            return new ErrorType() ;
        }
    } else {
        System.out.println("Type Error: non boolean condition in if");
        return new ErrorType() ;
    }
}
```

# SNIPPETS OF SIMPLAN

$$\frac{\Gamma \bullet [x_1 \mapsto T_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto T_n] \vdash e : T' \quad T' = T \quad f \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma))}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad f(T_1 \ x_1, \dots, T_n \ x_n) = e ; : \Gamma [f \mapsto (T_1, \dots, T_n) \rightarrow T]} \text{[Fun]}$$

in FunNode.java:

```
public Type typeCheck () {
    if (declist!=null)
        for (Node dec:declist)
            dec.typeCheck();
    if ( (body.typeCheck()).getClass().equals(returntype.getClass()))
        return null ;
    else {
        System.out.println("Wrong return type for function "+id);
        return new ErrorType() ;
    }
}
```

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : T' \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\text{top}(\Gamma)) \quad T=T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \quad x = e ; : \Gamma [x \mapsto T]} \text{[VarD]}$$

in DecNode.java:

```
public Type typeCheck () {
    if (type.gettype() instanceof ArrowType) {
        System.out.println("Wrong usage of function identifier");
        return new ErrorType() ;
    } else return type.gettype() ;
}
```

# FINAL COMMENTS

- \* the typing rules use very concise notation
- \* they are very carefully constructed
- \* but some **good programs** will be **rejected** anyway

```
if (x == x) then return(x==1) else return(x)
```

**Rice Theorem** the notion of good program is undecidable

a type system enables a compiler to detect many common programming errors

- \* the cost is that some correct programs are disallowed
- \* one might have more expressive static type checking
- \* but more expressive type systems are also more complex

# NEXT LECTURE

