



Concepts of Programming Language Design

Parametric Polymorphism

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Overview

tools to talk about languages

higher & first-order syntax

inference rules, induction

abstract machines

big step and small step operational semantics

value & type environments

parametric polymorphism/
generics

control stacks

partial application/function closures

semantic features

type checking

functional

static & dynamic
scoping

static & dynamic
typing

(algebraic) data types

language concepts

explicit & implicit
typing

procedural/imperative



Parametric Polymorphism

- Example: swap the elements of a pair (in Haskell)

```
swap (x, y) = (y, x)
```

- What is swap's type?

- In Haskell: *forall a. forall b. (a,b) -> (b,a)*

```
swap :: (a, b) -> (b, a)
```

- in MinHs:

```
recfun swapIntBool :: (Int, Bool) -> (Bool, Int) pair =  
    (snd pair, fst pair)
```

```
recfun swapBoolInt :: (Bool, Int) -> (Int, Bool) pair =  
    (snd pair, fst pair)
```

.....



Parametric polymorphism

The term **polymorphism** is used in the PL context to mean several different concepts:

- **Parametric polymorphism** (when functional programmers talk about polymorphism, often referred to as ‘generics’ by OO ppl)
 - ▶ the operation can work on **any** type

```
swap :: (a, b) -> (b, a)
```

```
swap (x, y) = (y, x)
```

```
swap (1, "Hello")
```

```
swap ('c', \x -> x + 1)
```

```
swap (True, odd)
```



Parametric polymorphism

- **Adhoc polymorphism** (when OO programmers talk about polymorphism)
 - ▶ a function or operation is **overloaded** with multiple implementations to work on some specific types

`5 + 3`

`3.7 + 1.234`

`“Hello” + “ World”`

Sometimes **polymorphism** is used to refer to **subtyping**

We will cover all of these concepts in the course



Parametric Polymorphism in Haskell

- Parametric polymorphism:

```
swap :: (a, b) -> (b, a)
swap pair =
    (snd pair, fst pair)
```

- a and b are *type variables*

- Using a polymorphic function:

- when a polymorphic function is applied to a concrete value, the type variables are *instantiated*:

```
swap (1, True)
```

- instantiates type variable a to Int, b to Bool



Parametric Polymorphism (generics) in C#

```
static void Swap<T>(ref T a, ref T b) {  
    T temp;  
    temp = a;  
    a     = b;  
    b     = temp;  
}
```

explicit introduction of type variable

```
static void Main(string[] args) {  
    int a, b;  
    char c, d;  
    a = 5;  
    b = 10;  
    c = 'X';  
    d = 'Y';  
  
    Swap<int>(ref a, ref b);  
    Swap<char>(ref c, ref d);  
  
}
```

explicit instantiation of type variable



Parametric Polymorphism (generics) in Swift

```
func swap<T>(_ a: inout T, _ b: inout T) {  
    let tmp = a  
    a = b  
    b = tmp  
}
```

explicit introduction of type variable

```
var x = 3  
var y = 107
```

```
swap(&x, &y)
```

```
var str1 = "hello"  
var str2 = "world"  
swap(&str1, &str2)
```

but no explicit instantiation necessary
(but possible)



Adding Parametric Polymorphism to MinHs

- First: with explicit typing (as in C#)
 - introduction of type variables is explicit

```
static void Swap<T>(ref T a, ref T b)
func swap<T>(_ a: inout T, _ b: inout T)
```

- instantiation of type variables is explicit

```
Swap<int>(ref a, ref b)
```

- Later, we look into how this works for implicit typing (i.e., programmer does not have to provide the type)



Adding Parametric Polymorphism to MinHs

- Type abstraction in polymorphic (explicitly typed) MinHs:

```
(Type a in
  (Type b in
    recfun swap :: ((a * b) → (b * a)) pair =
      (snd pair, fst pair)))
```

explicit introduction of type variables

- Type instantiation

```
(inst (Type a in
  (inst (Type b in
    recfun swap :: ((a * b) → (b * a)) pair =
      (snd pair, fst pair)
    Bool)
  Int)))
```

explicit instantiation of type variables
(corresponds to application on the value level)

evaluates to

```
recfun swap :: (Int * Bool) → (Bool * Int) pair =
  (snd pair, fst pair)
```



Parametric Polymorphism

- What is the type of this function?

```
(Type a in
  (Type b in
    recfun swap :: ((a * b) → (b * a)) pair =
      (snd pair, fst pair)))
```

- Universal quantification:

- it is $\forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow (b * a)$
- written in Haskell (leading `forall a. forall b. optional`)

```
forall a. forall b. (a * b) → (b * a)
```



Polymorphic MinHS - Concrete Syntax

$$\textit{Polytypes} \quad \sigma \quad ::= \quad \tau \mid \forall \textit{Ident} . \sigma$$
$$\textit{Monotypes} \quad \tau \quad ::= \quad \text{Bool} \mid \text{Int} \mid (\tau \rightarrow \tau) \mid \textit{Ident}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Expressions} \quad & \textit{Expr} ::= \textit{Ident} \\ & | \text{inst } (\textit{Expr}, \tau) \\ & | \text{recfun } \textit{Ident} :: (\tau \rightarrow \tau) \textit{Ident} = \textit{Expr} \\ & | \text{Type } \textit{Ident} \text{ in } \textit{Expr} \mid \dots \end{aligned}$$

- Note that we only allow quantifiers at the outermost position
 - this restriction is not necessary for explicitly typed MinHs



Polymorphic MinHS

- Valid Types:
 - types can now contain type variables, but they need to be “in scope” (bound by a quantifier)

$$\begin{array}{c} \hline \Delta \vdash \text{Bool} \text{ ok} \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \hline \Delta \vdash \text{Int} \text{ ok} \\ \hline \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \Delta \vdash \tau_1 \text{ ok} \quad \Delta \vdash \tau_1 \text{ ok} \\ \hline \Delta \vdash \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \text{ ok} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \Delta \cup \{t\} \vdash \sigma \text{ ok} \quad t \notin \Delta \\ \hline \Delta \vdash \forall t. \sigma \text{ ok} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} t \in \Delta \\ \hline \Delta \vdash t \text{ ok} \end{array}$$



Polymorphic MinHS

- Typing rules

$$\frac{\Delta \cup \{t\}, \Gamma \vdash e : \sigma \quad t \notin \Delta}{\Delta, \Gamma \vdash (\text{Type } (t.e)) : \forall t. \sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Delta, \Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \sigma \quad \Delta \vdash \tau \text{ ok}}{\Delta, \Gamma \vdash (\text{Inst } e \tau) : \sigma[t := \tau]}$$



Polymorphic MinHS

- Dynamic Semantics

$$\frac{e \mapsto_M e'}{(\text{Inst } e \ \tau) \mapsto_M (\text{Inst } e' \ \tau)}$$

$$\frac{}{(\text{Inst } (\text{Type}(t.e)) \ \tau) \mapsto_M e[t := \tau]}$$



Polymorphic MinHs

- Polymorphic MinHs with

- explicit **introduction** of type variables:

- ▶ `(Type a in recfun id :: (a -> a) x = x)` `:: ∀ a. a → a`

- explicit **instantiation** of type variables:

- ▶ `(Inst(Type a in recfun id : (a->a) x = x) Bool)` `:: Bool → Bool`



Parametric Polymorphism

- We only allow quantifiers in a type at the outermost position. Does this matter?
 - Example: can we give a type to this function?

```
strangeFun f = if (f True)
                then (f 5)
                else 10
```

- Possible type:

```
strangeFun :: ( $\forall a. a \rightarrow a$ )  $\rightarrow$  Int
```

but there is not possible type which would be legal in our MinHs definition!

- Polymorphic types are not first class citizens in MinHs!
 - we can't specify that a function requires or produces a polymorphic function/value!



Implementing parametric polymorphism

- We discussed the implications of parametric polymorphism/generics for the static and dynamic semantics
- But how can it actually be implemented? What code should be generated by the compiler for polymorphic functions
- Let's look how generics can be simulated in a language which doesn't support parametric polymorphism



Implementing parametric polymorphism

C:

```
#define SWAP(x, y, T) {T SWAPTMP = x; x = y; y = SWAPTMP;}
```

```
double x = 10.12;  
double y = 2.123;  
SWAP(x, y, double);
```

```
void swap (void **x, void **y){  
    void *tmp = *x;  
    *x = *y;  
    *y = *x;  
}
```

```
double *a = malloc (sizeof (double));  
*a = 10.12;
```

```
double *b = malloc (sizeof (double));  
*b = 3.14;
```

```
swap((void**)&a, (void**)&b);
```



Implementing parametric polymorphism

- There are two choices (somewhat simplified):
 - generate monomorphic code for every instance used
 - ▶ code size?
 - ▶ separate compilation?
 - 'box' every value, so all polymorphic operations can be expressed in terms on operations on pointers
 - ▶ runtime overhead?
 - ▶ locality?
 - **monomorphisation optimisation**: boxed values, but specialise to monomorphic version where possible
- OO languages where everything is an object and associated with a vTable have other options available (similar to overloading, will be covered later)



Polymorphism in implicitly typed languages

- **Explicitly typed languages** require type annotations for every new variable/function/method name
 - explicitly typed languages: C, C++, Fortran, Java, Objective C, Visual Basic, C# (2.0 and earlier)
- **Implicitly typed languages** make the compiler infer the correct type
 - implicitly typed languages: C# (≥ 3.0), Haskell, Python, Go
- Some languages allow omission of types in some circumstances (Swift)
- Many implicitly typed languages allow the user to add optional type annotations
 - correctness
 - performance



From types to programs

- We showed that

```
(Type a in
  (Type b in
    recfun swap :: ((a * b) -> (b * a)) pair =
      (snd pair, fst pair)))
```

has the type

$$\forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow (b * a)$$

Can we go backwards?

given a type, what is the program?

which other programs have this type?



From types to programs

- Observations:

- a function can't do anything with a value of polymorphic type but to pass it along, copy it, or ignore it
- Assume a function has this type:

$$f :: \forall a. [a] \rightarrow \text{Int}$$

the Int value cannot depend on the values in the list!

it can only depend on the structure of the list!

- Therefore, we know that for any function g and list xs

$$f (\text{map } g \text{ } xs) = f \text{ } xs$$


From types to programs

- Observations:
 - only `Error` values can have type

$\forall a. \ a$



Total polymorphic functions

- For which of the following types can we write total, terminating MinHs functions?

- $\forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow (b * a)$ ✓

- $\forall a. \forall b. (a + b) \rightarrow (b + a)$ ✓

- $\forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow a$ ✓

- $\forall a. \forall b. (a + b) \rightarrow a$ ✗

- $\forall a. \forall b. a \rightarrow (a + b)$ ✓

- $\forall a. \forall b. (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow a)$ ✗

- $\forall a. \forall b. \forall c. ((a \rightarrow c) * (b \rightarrow c)) \rightarrow (a + b \rightarrow c)$ ✓



Total polymorphic functions

- Curry-Howard correspondence:
 - The type constructors $+$, $*$, and \rightarrow correspond to the logical operators \vee , \wedge and \Rightarrow
 - Types correspond to theorems, and total, terminating programs to (constructive) proofs
 - A type checker then corresponds to a proof checker!
 - our MinHs types correspond to propositional formulae, therefore the theorems are not very exciting
 - more powerful type systems correspond to more powerful logics



Total polymorphic functions

- Some propositional logic theorems:

$$(A \wedge B) \Rightarrow A$$

$$(A \wedge B) \Rightarrow B$$

$$A \Rightarrow (A \vee B)$$

$$B \Rightarrow (A \vee B)$$

$$(A \wedge (A \Rightarrow B)) \Rightarrow B$$

- Currying /uncurrying

$$a \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) \quad \equiv \quad (a * b) \rightarrow c$$

$$A \Rightarrow (B \Rightarrow C) \quad \equiv \quad (A \wedge B) \Rightarrow C$$

- What does the unit type correspond to?
- What about primitive types (int, bool)?





Concepts of Programming Language Design

Parametric Polymorphism: Type Inference

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Polymorphism

- Parametric polymorphism:
 - we already know how to **type check** an **explicitly typed** polymorphic program
 - today we discuss how to infer the type of a polymorphic program
- Looking at other flavours of polymorphism:
 - Subtyping
 - Subclassing in the context of OO (Featherweight Java), overriding
 - Overloading



How can a compiler infer types?



Principal Type

- What type should the compiler infer for function `f`?

```
recfun f x = (fst x) + 1
```

- Possible types

(1) `Int * Int → Int`

(2) `Int * Bool → Int`

(3) `Int * (Int → (Int + Bool)) → Int`

(4) $\forall a. \text{Int} * a \rightarrow \text{Int}$

- Types (1) - (3) are instances of type (4)



Principal Type

- We write $\tau' \leq \tau$ if τ' is less general than τ , or in other words, is τ' an instance of τ

- $\text{Int} * \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \leq \forall a. \text{Int} * a \rightarrow \text{Int}$
- $\forall a. \text{Int} * a \rightarrow \text{Int} \leq \forall a. \forall b. b * a \rightarrow b$
- $\forall a. \text{Int} * a \rightarrow \text{Int} \not\leq \forall a. a * a \rightarrow a$
- $\forall a. a * a \rightarrow a \leq \forall a. \forall b. b * a \rightarrow b$
- $\forall a. (a * a) * (a * a) \rightarrow (a * a) \leq \forall a. a * a \rightarrow a$

- More formally:

- $\forall b_1 \dots b_k. \tau' \leq \forall a_1 \dots a_n. \tau$ if there is a substitution S such that $\tau' = (S \tau)$

- We are interested in the most general type τ of the expression e such that

$$e : \tau' \text{ implies } \tau' \leq \tau$$

- This is called the principal type of the expression



Implicitly Typed MinHs

- MinHs with the following changes:
 - no type annotations for functions and type constructors (sum & product type)
 - `Roll`, `Unroll`, `Rec` not part of the language
 - no explicit type abstraction and instantiation (`Type` and `Inst` not part of the language)
 - Types of the build-in functions and constructors are part of the **environment**:
 - ▶ $\Gamma = \{+ : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}, \text{fst} : \forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow a, \dots\}$
 - no overloading yet, e.g., `==` still only compares integers,



Implicitly Typed MinHs

- What is the type of the following expressions:

- `Inl True`

- ▶ we would not be able to determine the type in a monomorphic setting
- ▶ polymorphic type: $\forall a. (\text{Bool} + a)$

- `Fst (1, True)`

- ▶ type of `Fst`: $\forall a. \forall b. (a * b) \rightarrow a$
- ▶ type of argument $(\text{Int} * \text{Bool})$
- ▶ type: Int

- `Roll (Inl 1)`

- ▶ impossible to derive a most general type in implicitly typed language, therefore not part of the language (named recursive types are no problem!)



Typing Rules

- First, let us look at typing rules that are sufficient to derive

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \sigma$$

if σ is a possible (possibly polymorphic) type of e under the environment Γ



Typing Rules

- Can we use the type checking rules to infer the type?
- Application, if-expression, variable and product rules:

$$\frac{x : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : \tau}$$

input: env Γ and expression
output: type of expression τ

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Pair } t_1 \ t_2) : \tau_1 * \tau_2}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Apply } t_1 \ t_2) : \tau_2}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \text{Bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash t_3 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{If } t_1 \ t_2 \ t_3) : \tau}$$


Typing Rules

- Functions, Inr, Inl

problem: env Γ is not an input!
we have to guess the types of f and x

$$\frac{\Gamma \cup \{f : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2, x : \tau_1\} \vdash t : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Recfun } (f.x.t)) : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2}$$

problem: type is not an output,
we have to guess τ_2

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Inl } t_1) : \tau_1 + \tau_2}$$



Typing Rules

- \forall -introduction and elimination

problem: type not an output (guess)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau[t := \tau']}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \quad t \notin \text{FreeTypeVars}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}$$

problem: not syntax directed



Type Inference Algorithm - summary so far

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau[t := \tau']}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \quad t \notin \text{FreeTypeVars}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \cup \{f : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2, x : \tau_1\} \vdash t : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Recfun } (f.x.t)) : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{Inl } t_1) : \tau_1 + \tau_2}$$

- The rules above do **not** specify a type inference algorithm:
 - it is not possible to view the environment and the expression as input, the type as an output
 - the rules are not syntax directed



Type Inference Algorithm

- Idea
 - delay the instantiation of type variables until necessary
 - replace \forall -quantified variables by free, fresh variables



Type inference algorithm

- The type of an expression alone as output is not sufficient:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \text{Bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_1 : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{If } t_1 \ t_2 \ t_3) : \tau}$$

```
f x y = if True
      then (x, y + 1)
      else (False, y)
```

assume x has unknown type a, y unknown type b

<i>(a * Int)</i>	<i>a must be Bool</i>
<i>(Bool * b)</i>	<i>b must be Int</i>

- Inspecting the then-branch reveals that it has type pair of something and integer, but also that **y** has to have type **Int**
- Since both branches have to have the same type, we know that **x** has to have type **Bool**
- By looking at the if-expression, we can determine that it has type **(Bool * Int)**, but also what type variables **a** and **b** are standing for



Type Inference Algorithm

- Idea

- delay the instantiation of type variables until necessary
- replace \forall -quantified variables by free, fresh variables
- find a substitution to unify the derived with the required type
- make the substitution part of the result of the type inference
- Input: expression e and environment Γ
- Output: type of expression τ , substitution S with possible instantiations of type variables in

$$S\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$$

`[a := Bool, b := Int]] {x :: a, y :: b} ⊢ (If True (Pair x (Plus y 1)) (Pair False y)) :: (Bool * Int)`



Type Inference Algorithm

- In some cases, it is necessary to substitute variables on both sides:

$$(\text{Bool} * x)[y := \text{Bool}, x := \text{Int}] \stackrel{?}{=} (y * \text{Int}) [y := \text{Bool}, x := \text{Int}]$$

or to replace variables with other variables

What about

$$(x * x) [x := y] = (x * y) [x := y]$$

$$(x * x) [x := \text{Int}, y := \text{Int}] = (x * y) [x := \text{Int}, y := \text{Int}]$$



Unification

- A substitution S , with $S \tau = S \tau'$ is called a **unifier** of τ and τ'
- For the algorithm, we need the **most general unifier (mgu)**
 - there may be more than one mgu
 - resulting terms are the same module renaming
- We write $\tau_1 \stackrel{S}{\sim} \tau_2$ if S is an **mgu** of τ_1 and τ_2
- Examples:
 - are there mgu's for the following pairs of types?

$(a * (a * a)) \stackrel{?}{=} (b * c)$

$\text{Int} \stackrel{?}{=} \text{Bool}$

$a \stackrel{?}{=} (a * a)$



Unification

- Simple unification algorithm
 - ▶ **input**: two type terms t_1 and t_2 , \forall -quantified variables replaced by fresh, unique variables
 - ▶ **output**: the most general unifier of t_1 and t_2 (if it exists)



Unification - Computing the Most General Unifier (MGU)

- Cases t_1 and t_2
 - are both type variables v_1 and v_2
 - ▶ if $v_1 = v_2$, return empty substitution
 - ▶ otherwise return $[v_2 := v_1]$
 - are both primitive types
 - ▶ if they are the same, return the empty substitution
 - ▶ otherwise, there is no unifier
 - both are product types with $t_1 = (t_{11} * t_{12})$ and $t_2 = (t_{21} * t_{22})$
 - ▶ compute the mgu S of t_{11} and t_{21}
 - ▶ compute the mgu S' of $S t_{12}$ and $S t_{22}$
 - ▶ return $S \cup S'$
 - both function types, sum types (see product types)
 - only one is type variable v , the other an arbitrary term t
 - ▶ if v occurs in t , there is no unifier (occurs check)
 - ▶ otherwise, return $[v := t]$



Unification - Computing the Most General Unifier (MGU)

- We discussed how to calculate the Most General Unifier of two type terms:
 - most general substitution to unify two type terms:

```
f x y = if True
      then (x, y + 1) (a * Int)
      else (False, y) (Bool * b)
```

$$(\text{Bool} * b) \xrightarrow{[a := \text{Bool}, b := \text{Int}]} (a * \text{Int})$$


Type Inference Algorithm

- Now back to our type inference algorithm

- $T\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$

- \forall -elimination:

$$\frac{x : \forall a_1. \dots \forall a_n. \tau \in \Gamma}{[\] \Gamma \vdash x : \tau [a_1 := \beta_1, \dots a_n := \beta_n]} \quad \beta_i \text{ fresh}$$

compare to previous rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau [t := \tau']}$$



Type Inference Algorithm

- If-rule:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} T \Gamma \vdash e_c : \tau_c \quad \tau_c \overset{U}{\sim} \text{Bool} \quad T_t UT \Gamma \vdash e_t : \tau_t \quad T_e T_t UT \Gamma \vdash e_e : \tau_e \end{array}}{U'UTT_tT_e \Gamma \vdash (\text{If } e_c \ e_t \ e_e) : U' \tau_e} \quad T_e \tau_t \overset{U'}{\sim} \tau_e$$

• algorithmic interpretation:

- Input : Γ and expression $(\text{If } e_c \ e_t \ e_e)$
- first, derive type of expression e_c with environment Γ
 - result: the substitution T and the type τ_c
- unify the types τ_c and Bool
 - result: substitution U
- derive type of expression e_t with new environment $UT \Gamma$
 - result: the substitution T_t and the type τ_t
- derive type of expression e_e with new environment $T_t UT \Gamma$
 - result: the substitution T_e and the type τ_e
- unify the types $T_t \tau_t$ and τ_e
 - result: substitution U'
- return substitution $U'UTT_tT_e$ and type $U' \tau_e$



Type Inference Algorithm

- Application rule

$$\frac{T \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad T_1 T \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \quad T_1 \tau_1 \stackrel{U}{\sim} \tau_2 \rightarrow \alpha}{UT_1 T \Gamma \vdash (\text{Apply } e_1 \ e_2) : U\alpha} \quad \alpha \text{ fresh}$$

- algorithmic interpretation:

- Input : Γ and expression $(\text{Apply } e_1 \ e_2)$
- first, derive type of expression e_1 with environment Γ
 - result: the substitution T and the type τ_1
- now, derive type of expression e_2 with new environment $T \Gamma$
 - result: the substitution T_1 and the type τ_2
- now, unify the types $T_1 \tau_1$ and $\tau_2 \rightarrow \alpha$
 - result: substitution U
- return substitution $UT_1 T$ and type $U\alpha$



Type Inference Algorithm

- Note
 - the rules are syntax directed
 - for every type of expression, there is exactly one rule which applies
 - the environment and expression are input & unifier and type are output



Type Inference Algorithm

- Function rule

$$\frac{T(\Gamma \cup \{x : \alpha_1\} \cup \{f : \alpha_2\}) \vdash e : \tau \quad T \alpha_2 \overset{U}{\sim} T \alpha_1 \rightarrow \tau}{UT\Gamma \vdash (\text{Recfun } (f.x.e)) : U(T \alpha_1 \rightarrow \tau)} \quad \alpha_i \text{ fresh}$$



Re-introducing the \forall -quantifier

- None of the rules so far re-introduced the \forall -quantifier
- Is this necessary at all?

```
let  
  f = recfun g x = (x,x)  
in (f True, f 1)
```

```
let  
  f x = (x,x)  
in (f True, f 1)
```

- only necessary if we have let-bindings (or global function bindings) so polymorphic functions can be applied in different contexts



Re-introducing the \forall -quantifier

- Generalise over all variables which occur free in τ , but not in Γ
 - Let $\mathbf{TV}(\Gamma)$ be the set of all free type variables in Γ , $\mathbf{TV}(\tau)$ the set of all free type variables in τ
 - Define $\mathbf{Gen}(\Gamma, \tau)$ as
 - $\mathbf{Gen}(\Gamma, \tau) = \forall(\mathbf{TV}(\tau) \setminus \mathbf{TV}(\Gamma)). \tau$
- Example:
 - $\mathbf{Gen}(\{x : a, y : \text{Int}\}, (a*b) \rightarrow b) = \forall b. (a*b) \rightarrow b$
- New \forall -introduction rule:

$$\frac{T_1 \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau \quad T_2 (T_1 \Gamma \cup x : \mathbf{Gen}(T_1 \Gamma, \tau)) \vdash e_2 : \tau'}{T_1 T_2 \Gamma \vdash (\text{Let } e_1 (x. e_2)) : \tau'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \quad t \notin \text{FreeTypeVars}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash e : \forall t. \tau}$$



Example

$$\frac{T \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad T_1 T \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \quad T_1 \tau_1 \overset{U}{\sim} \tau_2 \rightarrow \alpha}{UT_1 T \Gamma \vdash (\text{Apply } e_1 \ e_2) : U\alpha} \quad \alpha \text{ fresh}$$

(Apply Fst (Pair 1 True))

