

# Implementing Dependent Types in Haskell

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- Present a type checker for dependent types, implemented in Haskell.
- Only a core language as a basis for experimentation:
  - much like  $F_\omega$  is for Haskell/GHC.
- There are many design choices:
  - Keep it simple . . .
  - . . .yet powerful enough to demonstrate some of the advantages gained by dependent types.
- For programmers interested in type systems, not type theorists interested in programming.

# Why dependent types?

- Lots of type-level programming in Haskell: more static guarantees, but
  - duplication of concepts on different layers
  - more and more type system extensions
  - some of them with restrictions and metatheory that is difficult to understand

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  - duplication of concepts on different layers
  - more and more type system extensions
  - some of them with restrictions and metatheory that is difficult to understand
- Dependent types offer:
  - type-level programming becomes term-level programming
  - programs, properties, and proofs within a single formalism
  - a comparatively clean theory on the surface
  - of course, there's another set of problems, but . . .

$$t ::= a \mid t \rightarrow t'$$

# Simply-typed Lambda Calculus $\lambda_{\rightarrow}$

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$$\begin{aligned}t &::= a \mid t \rightarrow t' \\e &::= e :: t \mid x \mid e_1 e_2 \mid \lambda x \rightarrow e \\ \Gamma &::= \varepsilon \mid \Gamma, a :: * \mid \Gamma, x :: t\end{aligned}$$

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t :: * \quad \Gamma \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t}{\Gamma \vdash (e :: t) ::_{\uparrow} t} \quad \frac{\Gamma(x) = t}{\Gamma \vdash x ::_{\uparrow} t} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 ::_{\uparrow} t \rightarrow t' \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 ::_{\downarrow} t}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 ::_{\uparrow} t'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e ::_{\uparrow} t}{\Gamma \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x :: t \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x \rightarrow e ::_{\downarrow} t \rightarrow t'}$$

$$v ::= n \mid \lambda x \rightarrow v$$
$$n ::= x \mid n v$$

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{e \Downarrow v}{e :: t \Downarrow v} \quad \frac{}{x \Downarrow x} \\
 \\
 \frac{e_1 \Downarrow \lambda x \rightarrow v_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow v_1[x \mapsto v_2]} \quad \frac{e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow n_1 v_2} \quad \frac{e \Downarrow v}{\lambda x \rightarrow e \Downarrow \lambda x \rightarrow v}
 \end{array}$$

# Moving to dependent types: dependent functions

The construct

$$\forall x :: t.t' \text{ (often also written } \Pi x :: t.t')$$

generalizes and thereby replaces the function arrow

$$t \rightarrow t'$$

Difference:  $x$  may occur in  $t'$ . If it doesn't, we just write  $t \rightarrow t'$  as syntactic sugar.

**Note:** This also generalizes (Haskell's) parametric polymorphism, but we do not enforce parametricity.

# Moving to dependent types: everything is a term

We collapse the multi-level structure (terms, types, [kinds]) – everything is a term. The  $\forall$  moves to the term-level, in turn lambda abstraction and application become available to (former) types.

- The symbol

$::$

becomes a relation between two terms.

- Computation arrives in the world of the types.
- Also automatically introduces “kinds”.

# Example

We can state a large class of properties as types:

$$\forall (a :: *) (xs :: List a). \text{reverse (reverse xs)} == xs$$
$$\forall (x :: Nat) (xs :: List Nat). \quad \text{Holds (sorted xs)}$$
$$\rightarrow \text{Holds (sorted (insert x xs))}$$

- An inhabitant of such types is a proof (Curry-Howard).
- Consistency of the type system is an advantage.

# Conversion rule

Computation on types also introduces a problem: When are two types equal?

$\text{Vec } (2 + 2) \text{ Nat} = \text{Vec } 4 \text{ Nat}$

$\text{Vec } (x + 0) \text{ Nat} = \text{Vec } x \text{ Nat}$  (assuming  $x :: \text{Nat}$  in the context)

$\text{Vec } (x + y) \text{ Nat} = \text{Vec } (y + x) \text{ Nat}$  (assuming  $x, y :: \text{Nat}$  in the context)

Conversion rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e :: t' \quad t = t'}{\Gamma \vdash e :: t}$$

In our case: evaluate both terms to normal form, then compare for (alpha-)equality.

- We try to keep the calculus strongly normalizing.



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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t ::_{\downarrow} * \quad \Gamma \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t}{\Gamma \vdash (e :: t) ::_{\uparrow} t} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash * ::_{\uparrow} *} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t ::_{\downarrow} * \quad \Gamma, x :: t \vdash t' ::_{\downarrow} *}{\Gamma \vdash \forall x :: t.t' ::_{\uparrow} *}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = t}{\Gamma \vdash x ::_{\uparrow} t} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 ::_{\uparrow} \forall x :: t.t' \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 ::_{\downarrow} t}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 ::_{\uparrow} t'[x \mapsto e_2]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e ::_{\uparrow} t' \quad t \Downarrow v \quad t' \Downarrow v}{\Gamma \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x :: t \vdash e ::_{\downarrow} t'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x \rightarrow e ::_{\downarrow} \forall x :: t.t'}$$

$v ::= x \bar{v} \mid * \mid \forall x :: v.v' \mid \lambda x \rightarrow v$

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$$\frac{e \Downarrow v}{e :: t \Downarrow v} \quad \frac{}{* \Downarrow *} \quad \frac{t \Downarrow v \quad t' \Downarrow v'}{\forall x :: t.t' \Downarrow \forall x :: v.v'} \quad \frac{}{x \Downarrow x}$$

$$v ::= x \mid \bar{v} \mid * \mid \forall x :: v.v' \mid \lambda x \rightarrow v$$

$$\frac{e \Downarrow v}{e :: t \Downarrow v} \quad * \Downarrow * \quad \frac{t \Downarrow v \quad t' \Downarrow v'}{\forall x :: t.t' \Downarrow \forall x :: v.v'} \quad \frac{}{x \Downarrow x}$$

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \lambda x \rightarrow v_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow v_1[x \mapsto v_2]} \quad \frac{e_1 \Downarrow n_1 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2}{e_1 e_2 \Downarrow n_1 v_2} \quad \frac{e \Downarrow v}{\lambda x \rightarrow e \Downarrow \lambda x \rightarrow v}$$



- Abstract Syntax
- Evaluation
- Substitution
- Typechecking
- Quotation

# Abstract Syntax

```
data Term↑
  = Ann Term↓ Term↓
  | Star
  | Pi Term↓ Term↓
  | Var Int
  | Par Name
  | Term↑ :@: Term↓
deriving (Show, Eq)
```

```
data Term↓
  = Inf Term↑
  | Lam Term↓
deriving (Show, Eq)
```

# Contexts, Values

```
type Type    = Value
```

```
type Context = [(Name, Type)]
```

```
data Value
```

```
  = VLam (Value → Value)
```

```
  | VStar
```

```
  | VPi Value (Value → Value)
```

```
  | VNeutral Neutral
```

```
data Neutral
```

```
  = NPar Name
```

```
  | NApp Neutral Value
```

$\text{eval}_\downarrow :: \text{Term}_\downarrow \rightarrow \text{Env} \rightarrow \text{Value}$

$\text{eval}_\uparrow :: \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Env} \rightarrow \text{Value}$

# Typechecking

$\text{type}_\uparrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Context} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Result Type}$

$\text{type}_\downarrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Context} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\downarrow \rightarrow \text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Result ()}$

$\text{type}_\uparrow \ i \ \Gamma \ (\text{Ann } e \ t)$

$= \mathbf{do} \ \text{type}_\downarrow \ i \ \Gamma \ t \ \text{VStar}$

$\quad \mathbf{let} \ v = \text{eval}_\downarrow \ t \ []$

$\quad \text{type}_\downarrow \ i \ \Gamma \ e \ v$

$\quad \text{return } v$

$\text{type}_\uparrow \ i \ \Gamma \ \text{Star}$

$= \text{return VStar}$

# Typechecking, continued

$\text{type}_\uparrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Context} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Result Type}$

$\text{type}_\downarrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Context} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\downarrow \rightarrow \text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Result ()}$

$\text{type}_\uparrow \ i \ \Gamma \ (\text{Pi } t \ t')$

$= \mathbf{do} \ \text{type}_\downarrow \ i \ \Gamma \ t \ \text{VStar}$

$\mathbf{let} \ v = \text{eval}_\downarrow \ t \ []$

$\text{type}_\downarrow \ (i + 1) \ ((\text{Bound } i, v) : \Gamma)$

$(\text{subst}_\downarrow \ 0 \ (\text{Par } (\text{Bound } i)) \ t') \ \text{VStar}$

$\text{return VStar}$

$\text{subst}_\uparrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow$

$\text{subst}_\downarrow :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Term}_\uparrow \rightarrow \text{Term}_\downarrow \rightarrow \text{Term}_\downarrow$

# Typechecking, continued

```
type↓ i Γ (Inf e) v  
= do v' ← type↑ i Γ e  
  unless (quote0 v == quote0 v') (throwError "type mismatch")
```

## Typechecking, continued

```
type↓ i Γ (Inf e) v  
  = do v' ← type↑ i Γ e  
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```

quote<sub>0</sub> :: Value → Term<sub>↓</sub>

quote<sub>0</sub> = quote 0

quote :: Int → Value → Term<sub>↓</sub>



# Typechecking, continued

```
type↓ i Γ (Inf e) v
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```

```
quote0 :: Value → Term↓
```

```
quote0 = quote 0
```

```
quote :: Int → Value → Term↓
```

Example:

```
quote 0 (VLam (λx → VLam (λy → x)))
= Lam (quote 1 (VLam (λy → vpar (Unquoted 0))))
= Lam (Lam (quote 2 (vpar (Unquoted 0))))
= Lam (Lam (neutralQuote 2 (NPar (Unquoted 0))))
= Lam (Lam (Var 1))
```

# Where are the dependent types?

- Total implementation is about 100 lines of Haskell code.
- Easy to see that we have gained advantages compared to  $\lambda_{\rightarrow}$ .
- Hard to actually use the power of dependent types without adding datatypes to the language.

# Adding datatypes

- Add the type.
- Add the constructors (introduction forms).
  - Types
  - Add constructors to values.
- Add an eliminator (eliminator forms).
  - Type
  - Add evaluation rules for eliminator.

# Natural numbers

$e ::= \dots \mid \text{Nat} \mid \text{Zero} \mid \text{Succ } e \mid \text{natElim } e \ e \ e \ e$

$v ::= \dots \mid \text{Nat} \mid \text{Zero} \mid \text{Succ } v$

$n ::= \dots \mid \text{natElim } v \ v \ n$

$$\frac{}{\text{Nat} \Downarrow \text{Nat}} \quad \frac{}{\text{Zero} \Downarrow \text{Zero}} \quad \frac{k \Downarrow l}{\text{Succ } k \Downarrow \text{Succ } l}$$

$$\frac{}{\text{Nat} \Downarrow \text{Nat}} \quad \frac{}{\text{Zero} \Downarrow \text{Zero}} \quad \frac{k \Downarrow I}{\text{Succ } k \Downarrow \text{Succ } I}$$

$$\frac{mz \Downarrow v}{\text{natElim } m \text{ } mz \text{ } ms \text{ } \text{Zero} \Downarrow v} \quad \frac{ms \text{ } k \text{ } (\text{natElim } m \text{ } mz \text{ } ms \text{ } k) \Downarrow v}{\text{natElim } m \text{ } mz \text{ } ms \text{ } (\text{Succ } k) \Downarrow v}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{Nat} :: *} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{Zero} :: \text{Nat}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash k :: \text{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{Succ } k :: \text{Nat}}$$

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash m :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow * \quad \Gamma, m :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow * \vdash m z :: m \text{ Zero} \quad \Gamma, m :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow * \vdash m s :: \forall k :: \text{Nat}. m k \rightarrow m (\text{Succ } k) \quad \Gamma \vdash n :: \text{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{natElim } m \text{ } m z \text{ } m s \text{ } n :: m n}$$



# Eliminator vs. fold

$\text{natFold} :: \forall m :: *. \quad m$   
 $\rightarrow (m \rightarrow m)$   
 $\rightarrow \text{Nat} \rightarrow a$

$\text{natElim} :: \forall m :: \text{Nat} \rightarrow *. \quad m \text{ Zero}$   
 $\rightarrow (\forall k :: \text{Nat}. m \ k \rightarrow m \ (\text{Succ } k))$   
 $\rightarrow \forall n :: \text{Nat}. m \ n$

$\text{natFold } r \ \text{zero} \ \text{succ} = \text{natElim } (\lambda\_ \rightarrow r) \ \text{zero} \ (\lambda\_ \text{rec} \rightarrow \text{succ } \text{rec})$

```
plus = natElim ( $\lambda\_ \rightarrow \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$ )  
      ( $\lambda n \rightarrow n$ )  
      ( $\lambda\_ \text{rec } n \rightarrow \text{Succ } (\text{rec } n)$ )
```

Systematically extend all the functions . . .

# Vectors

Vectors are lists that keep track of their length.

$\text{Vec} :: \forall (a :: *) (n :: \text{Nat}). *$

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$$\text{Vec} :: \forall (a :: *) (n :: \text{Nat}). *$$
$$\text{Nil} :: \forall a :: *. \text{Vec } a \text{ Zero}$$
$$\text{Cons} :: \forall a :: *. \forall n :: \text{Nat}. a \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ n \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ (\text{Succ } n)$$

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$$\text{Vec} :: \forall (a :: *) (n :: \text{Nat}). *$$
$$\text{Nil} :: \forall a :: *. \text{Vec } a \text{ Zero}$$
$$\text{Cons} :: \forall a :: *. \forall n :: \text{Nat}. a \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ n \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ (\text{Succ } n)$$
$$\begin{aligned} \text{vecElim} :: \forall a :: *. \forall m :: (\forall n :: \text{Nat}. \text{Vec } a \ n \rightarrow *). \\ & m \text{ Zero } (\text{Nil } a) \\ & \rightarrow (\forall n :: \text{Nat}. \forall x :: a. \forall xs :: \text{Vec } a \ n. \\ & \quad m \ n \ x \rightarrow m \ (\text{Succ } n) \ (\text{Cons } a \ n \ x \ xs)) \\ & \rightarrow \forall n :: \text{Nat}. \forall xs :: \text{Vec } a \ n. m \ n \ xs \end{aligned}$$

# Vector append

append =

```
(λa → vecElim a
  (λm _ → ∀(n :: Nat). Vec a n → Vec a (plus m n))
  (λ_ v → v)
  (λm v vs rec n w → Cons a (plus m n) v (rec n w)))
:: ∀(a :: *) (m :: Nat) (v :: Vec a m) (n :: Nat) (w :: Vec a n).
  Vec a (plus m n)
```

## Other interesting types

- Zero
- One (or Unit)
- Two (or Bool)
- Fin
- Eq
- Holds
- dependent pairs
- ...



# Lots of missing features

- implicit arguments
- proper case analysis
- user feedback (error messages)
- ...