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# EDAP15: Program Analysis

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## MONOMORPHIC TYPE ANALYSIS

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# Basic Formal Notation

- ▶ Tuples:

$\langle a \rangle$

- ▶ Notation:  $\langle a, b \rangle$  (pair)  
 $\langle a, c, d \rangle$  (triple)

- ▶ Fixed-length (unlike list)

- ▶ Group items, analogous to (read-only) record/object

- ▶ Sets:

$\emptyset = \{\}$  (the empty set)

$\{1\}$  (*singleton* set containing precisely the number 1)

$\{2, 3\}$  (Set with two elements)

$\mathbb{Z}$  (The (infinite) set of integers)

$\mathbb{R}$  (The (infinite) set of real numbers)

# Basic operations on sets

$x \in S$  Is  $x$  contained in  $S$ ?  
True:  $1 \in \{1\}$  and  $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$   
False:  $2 \in \{1\}$  or  $\pi \in \mathbb{R}$

$x \notin S$  Is  $x$  NOT containd in  $S$ ?

$A \cup B$  Set union  
 $\{1\} \cup \{2\} = \{1, 2\}$   
 $\{1, 3\} \cup \{2, 3\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$

$A \cap B$  Set intersection  
 $\{1\} \cap \{2\} = \emptyset$   
 $\{1, 3\} \cap \{2, 3\} = \{3\}$

$A \subseteq B$  Subset relationship  
True:  $\emptyset \subseteq \{1\}$  and  $\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$   
False:  $\{2\} \subseteq \{1\}$

$A \times B$  Product set  
$$\begin{aligned} & \{1, 2\} \times \{3, 4\} \\ &= \{\langle 1, 3 \rangle, \langle 1, 4 \rangle, \langle 2, 3 \rangle, \langle 2, 4 \rangle\} \end{aligned}$$

# Relations

A relation  $R$  of arity  $n$  is a set of tuples of the form

$$R = \{ \langle v_1^1, v_2^1, \dots, v_n^1 \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle v_1^k, v_2^k, \dots, v_n^k \rangle \}$$

► Notation:

$$R(x_1, \dots, x_n) \iff \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \in R$$

► Example: the less-than-or-equals relation over integers:

$$(\leq) \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$$

► Relations of arity 2 are called *binary* relations:

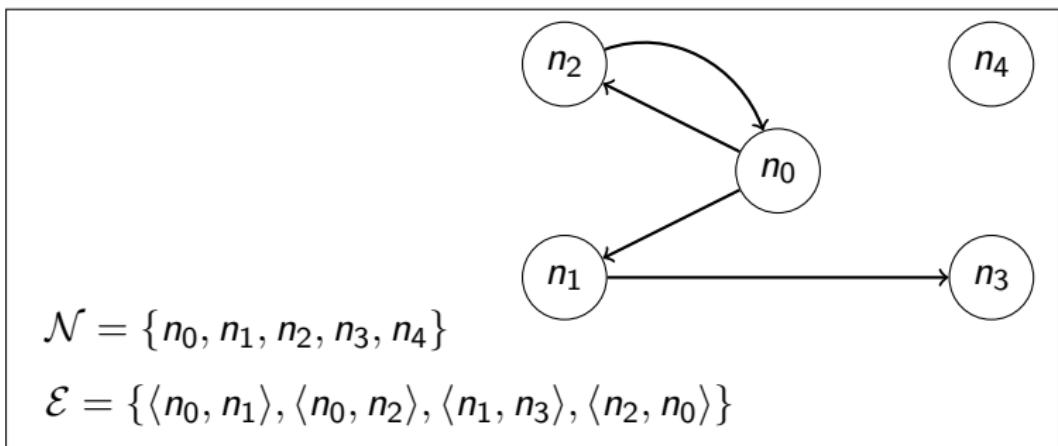
► Notation:

$$R(x, y) \iff x \ R \ y$$

# Graphs

A (directed) graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a tuple  $\mathcal{G} = \langle \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E} \rangle$ , where:

- $\mathcal{N}$  is the set of *nodes* of  $\mathcal{G}$
- $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{N} \times \mathcal{N}$  is the set of *edges* of  $\mathcal{G}$
- Often: Add function  $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow X$  to *label* edges



# Summary

- ▶ **Tuples** group a fixed number of items
- ▶ **Sets** represent a (possibly infinite) number of distinct elements
  - ▶ We use them e.g. to represent possible analysis results
- ▶ **Relations** are sets of equal-sized tuples
  - ▶ We mostly use them implicitly
  - ▶ Similar to database tables, but:
    - ▶ No duplicate rows
    - ▶ No row order
- ▶ **(Directed) Graphs** represent *nodes* and *edges* between them
  - ▶ Optional *labels* on edges possible
  - ▶ We use them e.g. for program dependencies

# Types

Java

```
int v;
```

Haskell

```
v :: Int
```

ML

```
val v : int
```

- ▶ Framework for classifying parts of programs by:
  - ▶ Which set they may be drawn from, and/or
  - ▶ What behaviour they exhibit
- ▶ *Type analysis* deals with:
  - ▶ *Checking types*: Do the types agree?
  - ▶ *Inferring types*: Given part of a program, what is its type?
- ▶ We focus on *static type analysis*

# Types and Programs: Two Languages

Language  $\mathcal{V}$ :

```
val ::= nat  
      | true | false
```

Language  $\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{V}}$ :

```
type ::= INT  
       | BOOL
```

- ▶ For program analysis, best to consider types and programs *separate* languages
  - ▶ Target language's type system may not match our needs
  - ▶ Language  $\mathcal{V}$  entirely lacks type system
- ▶ Abstract over  $\mathcal{V}$  with  $\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{V}}$ :

$23 : \text{INT}$

$\text{true} : \text{BOOL}$

- ▶ From that perspective, “has-type-of” is a binary relation:

$$(:) \subseteq \mathcal{V} \times \mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{V}}$$

# Uses of Type Analysis

- ▶ Types abstractly model program behaviour
  - ▶ “Traditionally”:
    - ▶ Set of possible computational results
    - ▶ Set of possible behaviours of computational result
  - ▶ We can model other behaviour as types:
    - ▶ Uncaught exceptions
    - ▶ Use of shared memory regions
    - ▶ Other side effects
    - ▶ Dependencies
    - ▶ Race conditions in concurrent memory access
- ...

# Applying Type Systems

Given program  $p$ : analyse  $p : \tau$

## Type Checking

- ▶ Assume  $\tau$  is given
- ▶ Test: Is  $p : \tau$  true?
- ▶ Can use type inference

## Type Inference

- ▶ Assume  $\tau$  is not given
- ▶ Find all  $\tau$  s.th.  $p : \tau$
- ▶ None/Multiple: Type Error

## Program Analysis Designer's View

- ▶ Checking  $\tau$  requires specification
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ User spec: “no exceptions”
  - ▶ Language spec: “no side effects allowed here”
- ▶ Inferring  $\tau$  can sensibly yield multiple results
  - ▶ Zero/many properties of interest
  - ▶ Example:  $\tau$  describes type of exception that might be raised

# Summary

- ▶ Types abstractly *model* some aspect of a program
- ▶ For a given analysis, the language of *types* and *programs* might be distinct
- ▶ Type analysis examines:
  - ▶ **Type Checking** Does this program have some specific type?
  - ▶ **Type Analysis** Which types can this program have?
- ▶ Standard notation: the binary **typing relation** ( $:$ ) relates programs  $p$  and their types  $\tau$ :

$$p : \tau$$

# A Simple Language: IGA

```
expr ::= <val>
      | <expr> plus <expr>
      | <expr> >= <expr>
      | if <expr> then <expr> else <expr>
```

```
val ::= nat
      | true | false
```

```
nat ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ...
```

- ▶ Semantics mostly straightforward:
- ▶ plus operates only on nat
- ▶ >= requires nat arguments and returns true or false
- ▶ if e<sub>1</sub> then e<sub>2</sub> else e<sub>3</sub>:
  - ▶ If e<sub>1</sub> evaluates to true: computes e<sub>2</sub>
  - ▶ If e<sub>1</sub> evaluates to false: computes e<sub>3</sub>

# The Typing Relation

- We the set of types of IGA,  $\mathbb{T}_{iga} = \{\text{BOOL}, \text{INT}\}$ :
  - **BOOL**: Type of booleans (`true`, `false`)
  - **INT**: Type of natural numbers (`0`, `1`, `2`, ...)
- We can now type values:

`true` : **BOOL**  
`23` : **INT**

- Correspondingly  $(:)$  is a binary relation:

$$(:) \subseteq val \times \mathbb{T}_{iga}$$

# Types for Values

- ▶ To analyse all of IGA, we extend  $(:)$  to expressions:

$$(:) \subseteq \text{expr} \times \mathbb{T}_{iga}$$

- ▶ We want to type e.g.:

39 plus 3 : INT

For clarity, we will write this formally

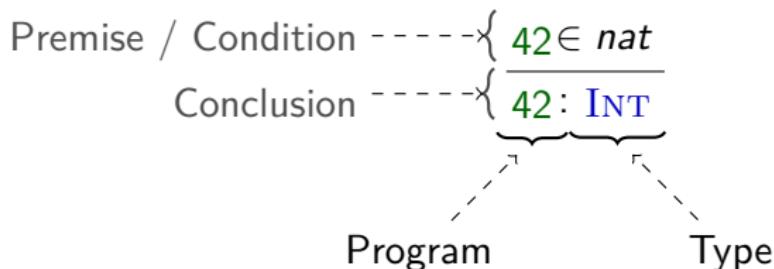
# Types for Expressions

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\textit{t-true})$$

$$\frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\textit{t-false})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\textit{t-nat})$$

# Conditional Typing Rules



If  $42 \in \text{nat}$  holds, then so does  $42 : \text{INT}$

- ▶  $v$  is a *Metavariable*
- ▶ We can replace  $v$  by *anything*
  - ▶ One restriction: we must do so *everywhere in the rule at once*
- ⇒ “*Substitution*”

# Types for Expressions

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-true})$$

$$\frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-false})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus})$$

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$



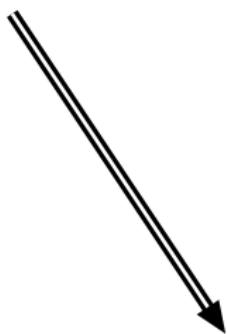
$$\boxed{\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}} \left[ \begin{array}{l} e_1 \mapsto 1 \\ e_2 \mapsto 2 \text{ plus } 3 \end{array} \right]$$

1 plus 2 plus 3 : INT

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-nat})$$



$$\frac{1 : \text{INT} \qquad \qquad \qquad 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}}{1 \text{ plus } 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-plus})$$

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \ (\text{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \ (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\boxed{\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \ (\text{t-plus})} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} e_1 \mapsto 2 \\ e_2 \mapsto 3 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\frac{1 : \text{INT} \qquad \qquad \qquad 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}}{1 \text{ plus } 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \ (\text{t-plus})$$

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-nat})$$



$$\frac{1 : \text{INT} \quad \frac{2 : \text{INT} \quad 3 : \text{INT}}{2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-plus})}{1 \text{ plus } 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \ (\textit{t-plus})$$

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}$$

$$\frac{1 \in \text{nat}}{1 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$

$$[v \mapsto 1]$$

$$\frac{2 \in \text{nat}}{2 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$

$$[v \mapsto 2]$$

$$\frac{3 \in \text{nat}}{3 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$

$$[v \mapsto 3]$$

$$\frac{1 : \text{INT} \quad \frac{2 : \text{INT} \quad 3 : \text{INT}}{2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}}{1 \text{ plus } 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}$$

# Recursive Typing Rules

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-plus)}$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \text{ (t-nat)}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} 1 \in \text{nat} \text{ (t-nat)} \\ 1 : \text{INT} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 2 \in \text{nat} \text{ (t-nat)} \\ 2 : \text{INT} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 3 \in \text{nat} \text{ (t-nat)} \\ 3 : \text{INT} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} 1 \text{ plus } 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT} \\ 2 \text{ plus } 3 : \text{INT} \end{array}} \text{ (t-plus)}$$


The diagram illustrates the derivation of the t-plus rule. Three arrows point from the top rules to the bottom application rule. The first arrow points from the t-nat rule for  $e_1$  to the  $1 \in \text{nat}$  part of the premise. The second arrow points from the t-nat rule for  $e_2$  to the  $2 \in \text{nat}$  part of the premise. The third arrow points from the t-nat rule for  $v$  to the  $3 \in \text{nat}$  part of the premise.

# Types for Expressions

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-true}) \quad \frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-false}) \quad \frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus}) \quad \frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 >= e_2 : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-ge})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau \quad e_3 : \tau}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{t-if})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \text{INT} \quad e_3 : \text{INT}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-if-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_3 : \text{BOOL}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-if-bool})$$

(**if**) rule summarises (**if-nat**) and (**if-bool**) via *metavariable*

# Checking Types

- With  $e : \tau$ , we can have:

- Exactly one  $\tau$  fits (we've computed a type):

2 plus 3 : INT

- No  $\tau$  fits (type error):

Type error in true plus 0

- Multiple  $\tau$  fit: can't happen in this type system

# Inferring Types

- ▶ Checking explores “*is everything consistent?*”
- ▶ Inferring explores “*what is possible?*”
- ▶ In program analysis, we often want the latter. Recall:

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \top \quad e_3 : \top}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \top} (\text{t-if})$$

- ▶ What if we don’t care for consistency and instead simply want to know all options (e.g., for optimisation)?
- ▶ The following rule may be a better fit:

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau_2 \quad e_3 : \tau_3 \quad i \in \{2, 3\}}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau_i} (\text{t-if}')$$

- ▶ For efficiency, can store types in sets ('Set Types'):

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau_2 \quad e_3 : \tau_3}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau_2 \cup \tau_3} (\text{t-if}'')$$

- ▶ Can design type rules so set types always produce one type.

# Summary

- ▶ *Type systems* relate expressions to types:

$$(:) \subseteq \text{expr} \times \mathbb{T}_{iga}$$

- ▶ We use *inference rules* to compactly describe the type system

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau \quad e_3 : \tau}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} (\text{t-if})$$

- ▶ No type matches  $\Rightarrow$  type error
- ▶ We will focus on Type Checking for a bit, for simplicity

# Adding Variables: The language INGA

```
expr  ::=  ⟨val⟩  
        |  id  
        |  let id = ⟨expr⟩ in ⟨expr⟩      new!  
        |  ⟨expr⟩ plus ⟨expr⟩  
        |  ⟨expr⟩ >= ⟨expr⟩  
        |  if ⟨expr⟩ then ⟨expr⟩ else ⟨expr⟩
```

```
val   ::=  nat  
        |  true  |  false
```

```
nat   ::=  0  |  1  |  2  |  3  |  4  |  ...  
id    ::=  x  |  y  |  z  |  ...
```

- ▶ Adds locally scoped variable bindings
- ▶ let x = 1 plus 2 in x + 3 evaluates to 6
- ▶ let x = 1 in (let x = 2 in x) + x evaluates to 3

# Typing Variables

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-true})$$

$$\frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-false})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 >= e_2 : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-ge})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau \quad e_3 : \tau}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{t-if})$$

- ▶ Same types as before:  $\mathbb{T}_{\text{inga}} = \{\text{BOOL}, \text{INT}\}$
- ▶ Need new typing rules for `let` and variables:

$$\frac{}{x : \tau} \quad t-var$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau_1 \quad e_2 : \tau_2}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \quad t-let$$

How do we connect  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau$  and  $\tau_2$  ?

# Connecting Variables and Types

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau_1 \quad e_2 : \tau_2}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \text{ t-let} \quad \xleftarrow[?]{\quad} \quad \frac{}{x : \tau} \text{ t-var}$$

- We know that  $x : \tau_1$  before we analyse  $e_2$
- Must carry this information into the analysis of  $e_2$ :
- Can be solved with typing rules with a bit of extra notation:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma[x \mapsto \tau_1] \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \text{ t-let}$$

This notation doesn't reflect how we would solve name/type analysis in Java / Scala / JastAdd.

# Variables and Types in Practice

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau_1 \quad e_2 : \tau_2}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \ t\text{-let} \quad \xleftarrow{?} \quad \overline{x : \tau} \ t\text{-var}$$

- ▶ Instead, we will “cheat” (*or, rather, use a notational trick*):
  - ▶ Write  $x.\text{ty} = \tau$  to assert type of  $x$
  - ▶ Semantics:
    - ▶ If  $x.\text{ty}$  unset, assign  $\tau$
    - ▶ Otherwise check equality
  - ▶ For now only works if we analyse top-down (more later, though!)
- ▶ **Note:** these attributes are associated with the *variable declarations / symbol table entries*:

`let x = 1 in let x = true in x : BOOL`

- ▶ Equivalently, assume that all variables have unique names.

# Typing INGA

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-true}) \quad \frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-false}) \quad \frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus}) \quad \frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 >= e_2 : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-ge})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau \quad e_3 : \tau}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{t-if})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau_1 \quad x.\text{ty} = \tau_1 \quad e_2 : \tau_2}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \quad t\text{-let} \quad \frac{x.\text{ty} = \tau}{x : \tau} \quad t\text{-var}$$

# Example

$$\frac{}{\text{true} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-true})$$

$$\frac{}{\text{false} : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-false})$$

$$\frac{v \in \text{nat}}{v : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 \text{ plus } e_2 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{INT} \quad e_2 : \text{INT}}{e_1 >= e_2 : \text{BOOL}} \quad (\text{t-ge})$$

$$\frac{x.\text{ty} = \tau}{x : \tau} \quad (\text{t-var})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \text{BOOL} \quad e_2 : \tau \quad e_3 : \tau}{\text{if } e_1 \text{ then } e_2 \text{ else } e_3 : \tau} \quad (\text{t-if})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau_1 \quad x.\text{ty} = \tau_1 \quad e_2 : \tau_2}{\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : \tau_2} \quad (\text{t-let})$$

$$x.\text{ty} = \text{INT}$$

$$\frac{1 \in \text{nat} \quad 1 : \text{INT}}{1 : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-nat})$$

$$x.\text{ty} = \text{INT}$$

$$\frac{x.\text{ty} = \text{INT}}{x : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-var})$$

$$\frac{x : \text{INT}}{x \text{ plus } x : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-plus})$$

$$\frac{x : \text{INT}}{x \text{ plus } x : \text{INT}} \quad (\text{t-let})$$

$$\text{let } x = 1 \text{ in } x \text{ plus } x : \text{INT}$$

# Summary

- ▶ To analyse realistic programs, we must analyse name bindings
- ▶ We do so through *indirection*:
  - ▶ Assume that we associate names with declarations / symbol table entries
  - ▶ When we encounter a name and want to:
    - ▶ *type-check*: if type not bound, set it now, otherwise check
    - ▶ *read type*: only works if type is already bound

# Adding Lists: The Language LINGA

```
expr  ::=  ⟨val⟩  
      |  id  
      |  let id = ⟨expr⟩ in ⟨expr⟩  
      |  nil  
      |  cons (⟨expr⟩,⟨expr⟩)  
      |  ⟨expr⟩ plus ⟨expr⟩  
      |  ⟨expr⟩ >= ⟨expr⟩  
      |  if ⟨expr⟩ then ⟨expr⟩ else ⟨expr⟩  
  
val   ::=  nat  
      |  true  |  false
```

- ▶ `nil` is the empty list
- ▶ `cons(v, ℓ)` takes list `ℓ` and prepends `v`
- ▶ Can express list [0, 1, 2] as:

`cons(0, cons(1, cons(2, nil)))`

# The Type of Lists

The language of types  
 $\mathbb{T}_{linga}$  has one new production:

$$\begin{aligned} ty ::= & \text{ INT} \\ | & \text{ BOOL} \\ | & \text{ LIST } [ \langle ty \rangle ] \end{aligned}$$

## Example types:

- ▶  $\text{cons}(\text{true}, \text{nil}) : \text{LIST}[\text{BOOL}]$
- ▶  $\text{cons}(1, \text{cons}(2, \text{nil})) : \text{LIST}[\text{INT}]$
- ▶  $\text{cons}(1, \text{cons}(\text{false}, \text{nil})) : \text{type error}$
- ▶  $\text{cons}(\text{cons}(1, \text{nil}), \text{nil}) : \text{LIST}[\text{LIST}[\text{INT}]]$
- ▶  $\text{nil} : \text{LIST}[\text{INT}]$   
 $\text{LIST}[\text{BOOL}]$   
 $\text{LIST}[\text{LIST}[\text{INT}]]$   
 $\text{LIST}[\dots, \text{LIST}[\text{BOOL}], \dots]$

### First attempt at typing rules:

$$\frac{\tau \in \mathbb{T}_{linga}}{\text{nil} : \text{LIST}[\tau]} \quad (\text{t-nil})$$

$$\frac{e_1 : \tau \quad e_2 : \text{LIST}[\tau]}{\text{cons}(e_1, e_2) : \text{LIST}[\tau]} \quad (\text{t-cons})$$

nil has infinitely many of the types in  $\mathbb{T}_{linga}$

# Type Variables

$$\begin{array}{lcl} ty & ::= & \text{INT} \\ & | & \text{BOOL} \\ & | & \text{LIST } [\langle ty \rangle] \\ & | & tyvar \end{array}$$
$$tyvar ::= \alpha \mid \beta \mid \gamma \mid \dots$$

- ▶ Working with infinitely many types is impractical
- ▶ Summarise types by introducing **type variables** into  $\mathbb{T}_{linga}$
- ▶ Can now define **parametric type** of **nil**:

$$\overline{\text{nil} : \text{LIST}[\alpha]} \quad (\textcolor{blue}{t\text{-nil}})$$

Parametric Types can compactly summarise many possible types

# Summary

- ▶ Precise analyses often need to know parameterise types with other types
  - ▶  $\text{LIST}[\text{LIST}[\text{INT}]]$
- ▶ Naïve *Recursive Types* are difficult to work with:
  - ▶ If we *don't* know a ‘component type’, we have potentially infinitely many types to remember
- ▶ **Parametric Types:**
  - ▶  $\text{LIST}[\alpha]$
  - ▶ Use **Type Variable**  $\alpha$  to express that we know the type only *partially*

# Three Languages With Variables

## Meta-Language

- ▶ Describes *Object Language(s)*
- ▶ Variables refer to object language concepts:
  - ▶ LINGA programs
  - ▶  $\textcolor{blue}{T}_{\textit{linga}}$  types

## Programs: LINGA

- ▶ “Object Language” #1
- ▶ Variables refer to input programs
- ▶ Example:  $\textcolor{teal}{x}$  in

let  $\textcolor{teal}{x} = 1$  in  $\textcolor{teal}{x}$

## Types: $\textcolor{blue}{T}_{\textit{linga}}$

- ▶ “Object Language” #2
- ▶ Variables refer to unknown types
- ▶ Example:  $\alpha$  in

$\text{LIST}[\alpha]$

Meta-Variables Can Reference Object-Language Variables

Meta-Variable references	Example	Meta-Variable Notation
Program	1 plus 2	$e$
Type	$\text{LIST}[\text{BOOL}]$	$\tau$
Program variable	<u>foo</u>	$x$
Type Variable	$\alpha$	$\alpha$