



Advanced Functional Programming

Week 2 – Type-Checking and Type-Inference

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Type-Checking and Type-Inference

Static and Dynamic Type-Checking

- every Haskell expression is type-checked
- static type-checking: ill-typed expressions are detected at compile time
- big advantage: well-typed programs cannot go wrong (w.r.t. typing errors)
 - evaluation cannot change the type of an expression
 - example: if `f :: String -> Int` and `e :: String`, then `f e :: Int`, independent of evaluation
 - conclusion: detect type-errors at **compile-time**, erase types at runtime
- alternative: **dynamic type-checking** (e.g., Python)
 - dynamic: types are determined at **run-time**
 - consider `f x = if x > 3.1415 then "foo" else 5`
 - now evaluate `f (approxPi 1000) - 2`
 - only after evaluation of `approxPi 1000` we can determine the Boolean `approxPi 1000 > 3.1415`
 - this Boolean decides whether `f (approxPi 1000)` evaluates to the string "foo" or to the number 5
 - only then we know whether we will get a type error ("`foo`" - 2) or no type-error (`5 - 2`)

```
def f(x): return ("foo" if x > 3.1415 else 5)
```

```
# pi = 4 * (1 - 1/3 + 1/5 - 1/7 + 1/9 - ...)
```

```
def approxPi(x):
```

```
    p = 1
```

```
    y = 3
```

```
    m = -1
```

```
    while (x > 0):
```

```
        x -= 1
```

```
        p += m/y
```

```
        y += 2
```

```
        m *= -1
```

```
    return (4 * p)
```

```
# question: do the following python functions lead to type-errors?
```

```
def test1(): return f(approxPi(1000)) - 2
```

```
def test2(): return f(approxPi(1001)) - 2
```

Static Type-Checking and Type-Inference

- **type-checking**: given expression e , context Γ and type ty , determine whether

$$\Gamma \vdash e :: ty \quad (\text{e has type ty in context } \Gamma)$$

using some typing rules, e.g., the ones of Haskell, ML, ...

- **context** Γ : stores types of previously defined variables, functions and constructors
 - Γ might contain $(:) :: a \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$, $\text{True} :: \text{Bool}$, $\text{id} :: a \rightarrow a$, ...
 - we often just write $e :: ty$ instead of $\Gamma \vdash e :: ty$ if choice of Γ is clear
- **type-inference**: given expression e and context Γ , determine a **most general type** (aka **principal type**) of e or report non-typability
 - **most general**: $ty1$ is more general than $ty2$ if there is some type-substitution τ such that $ty1\tau = ty2$
 - a is more general than any type ty , choose $\tau := \{a/ty\}$
 - $a \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow b$ is more general than $[b] \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{String}$, take $\tau := \{a/[b], b/\text{String}\}$
 - $a \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow b$ is not more general than $\text{Char} \rightarrow [\text{Int}] \rightarrow \text{Char}$
- Haskell performs type-inference where type-inference will be applied twice
 - on function definitions in Haskell programs
 - on each expression before it is evaluated in ghci

Non-Deterministic Type-Checking Algorithm

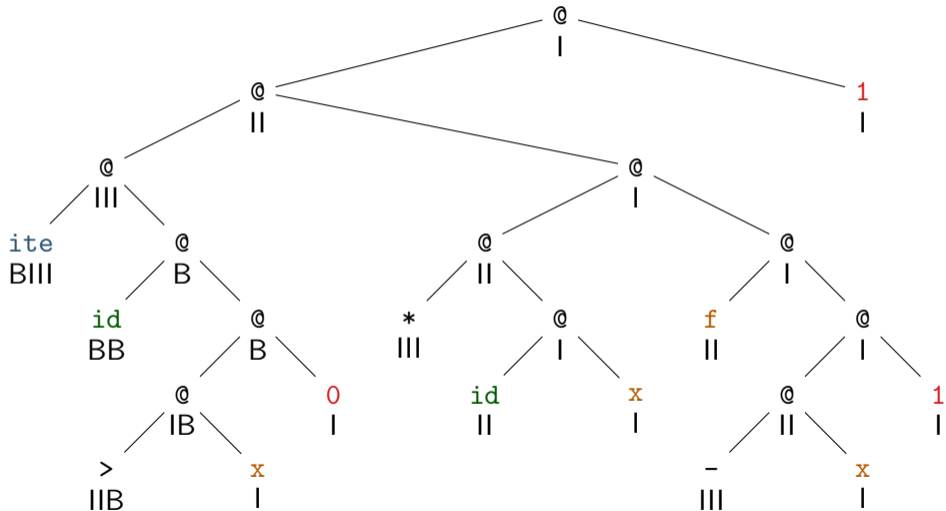
- note: we restrict to expressions built from variables, constants and applications
- algorithm to type-check new definition of $f \ p_1 \ \dots \ p_n = \text{rhs}$ in context Γ
 - guess a type for f of shape $ty_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow ty_n \rightarrow ty$
(or take a user-defined type annotation for f)
 - guess a type for each variable x in the defining equation
 - for each constant $c \neq f$ that appears in the defining equation, guess an instance w.r.t. Γ
 - e.g., if $id :: a \rightarrow a \in \Gamma$, then each occurrence of id can choose a different substitution, e.g., $id :: Int \rightarrow Int$ and $id :: Bool \rightarrow Bool$
 - define a local context Γ' that extends Γ by all guesses
 - type-check definition of f by checking $\Gamma' \vdash f \ p_1 \ \dots \ p_n :: ty$ and $\Gamma' \vdash \text{rhs} :: ty$ by recursion on the expressions
 - $\Gamma' \vdash xf :: t$ if $xf :: t \in \Gamma'$ if xf is a variable or $xf = f$
 - $\Gamma' \vdash c :: t$ if $c :: t \in \Gamma'$ according to guessed instance for each constant $c \neq f$
 - **type-check all applications**
$$\frac{\Gamma' \vdash e_1 :: t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \quad \Gamma' \vdash e_2 :: t_1}{\Gamma' \vdash e_1 \ e_2 :: t_2}$$
- finally, store $f :: ty_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow ty_n \rightarrow ty$ in Γ

Example

- `f x = if id (x > 0) then id x * f (x - 1) else 1`
 - guess `f :: Int -> Int`
 - guess `x :: Int`
 - instantiate `if-then-else :: Bool -> Int -> Int -> Int`
(`if-then-else :: Bool -> a -> a -> a ∈ Γ`)
 - instantiate `id :: Bool -> Bool` (`id :: a -> a ∈ Γ`)
 - instantiate `(>) :: Int -> Int -> Bool`
 - instantiate `0 :: Int`
 - instantiate `id :: Int -> Int`
 - instantiate `*` `:: Int -> Int -> Int`
 - instantiate `-` `:: Int -> Int -> Int`
 - instantiate `1` `:: Int`
 - instantiate `1` `:: Int`
- on next slide, abbreviate `Int -> Int -> Bool` by `IIB`, etc.

Example Typing

```
f x = if id (x > 0) then id x * f (x - 1) else 1
```



Example Typing

```
f x = if id (x > 0) then id x * f (x - 1) else 1
```

- guesses work out
 - we assumed $f :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$ and $x :: \text{Int}$
 - then lhs $f\ x :: \text{Int}$ and rhs $\text{if } \dots :: \text{Int}$
 - so $f :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$ is added to Γ
- guesses might be too specific, but it is possible to guess most general type

Next Step – Type Inference

- avoid guesses
- compute most generic types instead
- **algorithm of Hindley and Milner**
 - use very generic types first (which might be too generic)
 - setup constraints
 - solve constraints and thereby specialize initial types

Example Typing – Inferring a Most General Type

```
map f [] = []
```

```
map f (x : xs) = f x : map f xs
```

- n -ary function gets type $a_0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow a_n$ with type-variables a_0, \dots, a_n
 - $\text{map} :: a_1 \rightarrow a_2 \rightarrow a_3$
- each variable in defining equation gets assigned fresh type-variable
 - $f :: a_4$ (in principle one could distinguish both f s)
 - $x :: a_5$
 - $xs :: a_6$
- instantiate all type-variables in type of constants by fresh type-variables
 - instantiate $[] :: [a_7]$
 - instantiate $[] :: [a_8]$
 - instantiate $(:) :: a_9 \rightarrow [a_9] \rightarrow [a_9]$
 - instantiate $(:) :: a_{10} \rightarrow [a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}]$

Example Typing – Setting Up Constraints

```
map f [] = []
```

```
map f (x : xs) = f x : map f xs
```

- setup from previous slide
 - `map` :: `a1 -> a2 -> a3`, `f` :: `a4`, `x` :: `a5`, `xs` :: `a6`
 - `[]` :: `[a7]`, `[]` :: `[a8]`, `(:)` :: `a9 -> [a9] -> [a9]`,
`(:)` :: `a10 -> [a10] -> [a10]`
- further assign type-variables to all non-atomic subexpressions of patterns and rhss
 - `(:)` `x` :: `b1`, `x` : `xs` :: `b2`, `f x` :: `b3`, `(:)` `f x` :: `b4`, `map f` :: `b5`,
`map f xs` :: `b6`, `f x` : `map f xs` :: `b7`
- finally add constraints to ensure applicability of typing rules
 - `a1 = a4`, first argument of `map` in lhss of equations
 - `a2 = [a7]`, `a2 = b2`, second argument of `map` in lhss of equations
 - `a3 = [a8]`, `a3 = b7`, return type of `map` equals type of rhss in both equations
 - consider each application `e1 e2`
 - lookup types for `e1` :: `t1`, `e2` :: `t2`, and `e1 e2` :: `t3`
 - add constraint `t1 = t2 -> t3`

Example Typing – Final Constraints

```
map f [] = []
```

```
map f (x : xs) = f x : map f xs
```

- setup

- `map :: a1 -> a2 -> a3, f :: a4, x :: a5, xs :: a6`
- `[] :: [a7], [] :: [a8], (:) :: a9 -> [a9] -> [a9],
(:) :: a10 -> [a10] -> [a10]`
- `(:) x :: b1, x : xs :: b2, f x :: b3, (:) f x :: b4, map f :: b5,
map f xs :: b6, f x : map f xs :: b7`

- constraints

- `a1 = a4, a2 = [a7], a2 = b2, a3 = [a8], a3 = b7`
- `a9 -> [a9] -> [a9] = a5 -> b1`
- `b1 = a6 -> b2`
- `a4 = a5 -> b3`
- `a10 -> [a10] -> [a10] = b3 -> b4`
- `a1 -> a2 -> a3 = a4 -> b5`
- `b5 = a6 -> b6`
- `b4 = b6 -> b7`

Example Typing – Current State

```
map f [] = []
```

```
map f (x : xs) = f x : map f xs
```

- setup
 - $\text{map} :: a1 \rightarrow a2 \rightarrow a3, \dots$
- constraints
 - $U = \{a1 = a4, a2 = [a7], a2 = b2, a3 = [a8], a3 = b7, a9 \rightarrow [a9] \rightarrow [a9] = a5 \rightarrow b1, b1 = a6 \rightarrow b2, a4 = a5 \rightarrow b3, a10 \rightarrow [a10] \rightarrow [a10] = b3 \rightarrow b4, a1 \rightarrow a2 \rightarrow a3 = a4 \rightarrow b5, b5 = a6 \rightarrow b6, b4 = b6 \rightarrow b7\}$
- connection of constraints and types via substitution τ , mapping type-variables to types
 - theorem: $(s\tau = t\tau \text{ for all } s = t \in U)$ iff $\text{map} :: (a1 \rightarrow a2 \rightarrow a3)\tau$
 - task: find most general τ such $s\tau = t\tau$ for all $s = t \in U$ unification problem
 - such a **most general unifier** (mgu) τ yields the most general type for `map`
 - unification is decidable and a most general unifier can be computed
 - **unification is the core algorithm for type-inference**
(unification works on terms, and indeed **types are terms** where `[.]` is unary symbol, `. -> .` is binary symbol, `Bool` and `Int` are constants, etc.)

Unification Algorithm of Martelli & Montanari

Transform unification problem U until no further rules are applicable

- $\{s = s\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow U$ (delete)
- $\{f(s_1, \dots, s_n) = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow \{s_1 = t_1, \dots, s_n = t_n\} \cup U$ (decompose)
- $\{f(\dots) = g(\dots)\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow \perp$, if $f \neq g$ (clash)
- $\{f(\dots) = x\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow \{x = f(\dots)\} \cup U$ (swap)
- $\{x = t\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow \{x = t\} \cup U\{x/t\}$, if $x \in \text{Vars}(U) \setminus \text{Vars}(t)$ (substitute)
- $\{x = t\} \uplus U \hookrightarrow \perp$, if $x \in \text{Vars}(t)$ and $x \neq t$ (occurs check)

Properties

- \hookrightarrow terminates
- if $U \hookrightarrow V$ then U and V have the same unifiers (\perp has no unifiers)
- if $U \hookrightarrow^! V$ ($U \hookrightarrow^* V$ and there is no \hookrightarrow -step possible on V) then either
 - $V = \perp$ and U has no unifier, or
 - $V = \{x_1 = t_1, \dots, x_n = t_n\}$ encodes a substitution τ , where the list x_1, \dots, x_n is distinct and $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \cap (\text{Vars}(t_1) \cup \dots \cup \text{Vars}(t_n)) = \emptyset$; moreover τ is an mgu of U

Example: Unification to Determine Type of Map

- $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], a_2 = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], a_3 = b_7,$
 $a_9 \rightarrow [a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = a_5 \rightarrow b_1, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3,$
 $a_{10} \rightarrow [a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_3 \rightarrow b_4, a_1 \rightarrow a_2 \rightarrow a_3 = a_4 \rightarrow b_5,$
 $b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- decompose: $a_1 = a_4, \underline{a_2 = [a_7]}, a_2 = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], a_3 = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = b_1, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, a_2 \rightarrow a_3 = b_5, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, \underline{a_3 = [a_8]}, a_3 = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = b_1, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, [a_7] \rightarrow a_3 = b_5, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = b_1, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = b_5, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$

Example: Unification to Determine Type of Map

- $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = b_1, \underline{b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2}, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = b_5, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = b_5, \underline{b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6}, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_4, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6,$
 $\underline{b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7}$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_6 \rightarrow b_7, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6,$
 $b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$

Example: Unification to Determine Type of Map

- $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, a_9 = a_5,$
 $[a_9] \rightarrow [a_9] = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[a_{10}] \rightarrow [a_{10}] = b_6 \rightarrow b_7, [a_7] \rightarrow [a_8] = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6,$
 $b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- decompose: $a_1 = a_4, a_2 = [a_7], [a_7] = b_2, a_3 = [a_8], [a_8] = b_7, \underline{a_9 = a_5},$
 $[a_9] = a_6, [a_9] = b_2, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, \underline{a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3}, \underline{a_{10} = b_3}, [a_{10}] = b_6,$
 $[a_{10}] = b_7, [a_7] = a_6, [a_8] = b_6, b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_2 = [a_7], \underline{[a_7] = b_2}, a_3 = [a_8], \underline{[a_8] = b_7},$
 $a_9 = a_5, \underline{[a_5] = a_6}, \underline{[a_5] = b_2}, b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3,$
 $[b_3] = b_6, [b_3] = b_7, [a_7] = a_6, [a_8] = b_6,$ $b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- swap: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_2 = [a_7], b_2 = [a_7], a_3 = [a_8], b_7 = [a_8], a_9 = a_5,$
 $a_6 = [a_5], b_2 = [a_5], b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2, a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3, a_{10} = b_3, b_6 = [b_3],$
 $b_7 = [b_3], a_6 = [a_7], b_6 = [a_8], b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6, b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$

Example: Unification to Determine Type of Map

- $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_2 = [a_7]$, $b_2 = [a_7]$, $a_3 = [a_8]$, $b_7 = [a_8]$, $a_9 = a_5$, $a_6 = [a_5]$, $b_2 = [a_5]$, $b_1 = a_6 \rightarrow b_2$, $a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_{10} = b_3$, $b_6 = [b_3]$, $b_7 = [b_3]$, $a_6 = [a_7]$, $b_6 = [a_8]$, $b_5 = a_6 \rightarrow b_6$, $b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow b_7$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_2 = [a_7]$, $b_2 = [a_7]$, $a_3 = [a_8]$, $b_7 = [a_8]$, $a_9 = a_5$, $a_6 = [a_5]$, $[a_7] = [a_5]$, $b_1 = [a_5] \rightarrow [a_7]$, $a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_{10} = b_3$, $b_6 = [b_3]$, $[a_8] = [b_3]$, $[a_5] = [a_7]$, $[b_3] = [a_8]$, $b_5 = [a_5] \rightarrow [b_3]$, $b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow [a_8]$
- decompose: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_2 = [a_7]$, $b_2 = [a_7]$, $a_3 = [a_8]$, $b_7 = [a_8]$, $a_9 = a_5$, $a_6 = [a_5]$, $a_7 = a_5$, $b_1 = [a_5] \rightarrow [a_7]$, $a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_{10} = b_3$, $b_6 = [b_3]$, $a_8 = b_3$, $a_5 = a_7$, $b_3 = a_8$, $b_5 = [a_5] \rightarrow [b_3]$, $b_4 = b_6 \rightarrow [a_8]$
- substitute: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_2 = [a_5]$, $b_2 = [a_5]$, $a_3 = [b_3]$, $b_7 = [b_3]$, $a_9 = a_5$, $a_6 = [a_5]$, $a_7 = a_5$, $b_1 = [a_5] \rightarrow [a_5]$, $a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_{10} = b_3$, $b_6 = [b_3]$, $a_8 = b_3$, $a_5 = a_5$, $b_3 = b_3$, $b_5 = [a_5] \rightarrow [b_3]$, $b_4 = [b_3] \rightarrow [b_3]$
- delete: $a_1 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_2 = [a_5]$, $b_2 = [a_5]$, $a_3 = [b_3]$, $b_7 = [b_3]$, $a_9 = a_5$, $a_6 = [a_5]$, $a_7 = a_5$, $b_1 = [a_5] \rightarrow [a_5]$, $a_4 = a_5 \rightarrow b_3$, $a_{10} = b_3$, $b_6 = [b_3]$, $a_8 = b_3$, $b_5 = [a_5] \rightarrow [b_3]$, $b_4 = [b_3] \rightarrow [b_3]$

Example: Unification to Determine Type of Map

- final result of unification algorithm: mgu τ

$a1 = a5 \rightarrow b3$, $a2 = [a5]$, $b2 = [a5]$, $a3 = [b3]$, $b7 = [b3]$, $a9 = a5$,
 $a6 = [a5]$, $a7 = a5$, $b1 = [a5] \rightarrow [a5]$, $a4 = a5 \rightarrow b3$, $a10 = b3$, $b6 = [b3]$,
 $a8 = b3$, $b5 = [a5] \rightarrow [b3]$, $b4 = [b3] \rightarrow [b3]$

- most general type of `map`: $(a1 \rightarrow a2 \rightarrow a3)\tau$, i.e.,
 $(a5 \rightarrow b3) \rightarrow [a5] \rightarrow [b3]$

Remarks

- we introduced fresh variables for every variable, for every argument of the function, and every non-atomic subexpression
 - this provides a **systematic way** (algorithm) to setup constraints
 - when doing type-inference manually, one often immediately sees certain connections and uses less variables and less constraints
- failures when running the unification algorithm correspond to type-errors of Haskell programs
 - clash appears on type-inference for function `f xs = True ++ xs`:
constant `(++) :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]`, but first argument `True :: Bool`;
this results in clash of equation `[] (a) = Bool`
 - occurs check appears on type-inference for function `f x = x : x`:
subexpression `(:) x :: [a] -> [a]`, but the next argument `x :: a`;
this results in occurs check of equation `[a] = a`

Extensions of the Type-Inference System

- extend expressions, e.g., by allowing `let` and `\ x -> e` (exercises)
- integrate type-classes
 - several functions are defined in type-classes or have type-class constraints
 - `fromEnum :: Enum a => a -> Int`
 - `sort :: Ord a => [a] -> [a]`
 - `5 :: Num a => a`
 - these constraints have to be collected in addition to the equalities in the unification algorithm
 - whenever the variables in type-class constraints get instantiated, one needs to look into the type-class instances to check the instantiation
 - examples are given on the next slide, without providing a full algorithm

Extensions of the Type-Inference System

- example 1

- we know `map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]` and `show :: Show c => c -> String`
- type-inference on `map show` works as follows
 - `map show :: ([a] -> [b])τ`, for τ being mgu of $U = \{(a \rightarrow b) = (c \rightarrow \text{String})\}$ for constraints $C = \{\text{Show } c\}$
 - $U \hookrightarrow \{a = c, b = \text{String}\}$ and C remains unchanged
 - result: `map show :: Show c => [c] -> [String]` where C is added as constraint

- example 2

- type-inference on `f x = map show [(x, True, 'c')]` works as follows
 - assume `x :: a`
 - `map show :: Show b => [b] -> [String]`
 - `[(x, True, 'c')] :: [(a, Bool, Char)]`
 - unification leads to `b = (a, Bool, Char)`
 - now `Show b` is instantiated to `Show (a, Bool, Char)` and simplified to `Show a`, since
 - `instance (Show a, Show b, Show c) => Show (a, b, c)`
 - `instance Show Bool`
 - `instance Show Char`
 - result: `f :: Show a => a -> [String]`

Limits of Type-Inference in the Presence of Type-Classes

- consider `f = if 2 * 2^62 < 0 then "overflow" else "okay"`
 - question: which number-type is chosen for the comparison?
`Int` or `Integer` or `Float` or `Double`
 - type-inference is of no help, e.g., `(<) (2 * 2^62) :: (Num a, Ord a) => a -> Bool`,
i.e., `2 * 2^62 < 0 :: Bool` for any suitable `a`
- **default rule**
 - for numeric types, Haskell uses a default rule: choose `Integer` as default, or switch to `Double` if fractional computations are involved (`2.0 < 4`)
 - if one does not want to use default types, provide explicit type annotation
 - note: defaults can be overwritten, e.g. by line `default (Int, Float)`
- examples
 - `f` evaluates to `"okay"`
 - `g = if 2 * 2^62 < (0 :: Int) then "overflow" else "okay"` yields `"overflow"`
 - `[]` in ghci is `show ([] :: [a])` which evaluates to string `[]` after defaulting `a` to `Integer`
 - `[] :: String` in ghci is `show ([] :: String)` which evaluates to string `"`

Limits of Default Rule

- built-in default rule is restricted to built-in numeric type classes
- consider function definition

```
f :: String -> Bool
```

```
f xs = show (read xs) == xs
```

- function `f` takes input `xs`, parses it into an element, which is then converted back to a string via `show` and compared to the input
 - `read xs :: Read a => a`
 - `show (read xs) :: (Show a, Read a) => String`
where `a` is the type for the intermediate result of `read xs`
- it is completely unclear, which type `a` should be: `Int`, `Bool`, `[Double]`, ...
- ghc complains about ambiguous type variables at this point
- solution: provide explicit type annotation, e.g.

```
f xs = show (read xs :: [(Int, Bool)]) == xs
```


Exercises – Task 1 (5 points)

Consider the following definition of a `fold` function on lists:

```
fold f [] e = e
```

```
fold f (x : xs) e = f x (fold f xs e)
```

1. Construct constraints to determine the most generic type of `fold`, similarly to Slide 12.
2. Encode the constraints in Haskell, and use the provided implementation of the unification algorithm to obtain the most generic type of `fold`. Compare the computed type to the type-inference algorithm of `ghc`. The latter can be invoked as follows:

```
cabal repl  
ghci> :m Exercise02  
ghci> :t fold
```

Exercises – Task 2 (5 points)

1. Extend the type-inference algorithm so that it can handle λ -abstractions of the form $\lambda x \rightarrow e$, where x is a variable and e some expression. What will be the constraints for type-inference of `function`?

```
function = \ x -> x x
```

2. Compare the difference of type-inference of Haskell when treating λ and `let`. To this end, invoke `ghc` on the following two functions. Try to explain the observed difference.

```
polymorphicLet :: (Bool, String)
```

```
polymorphicLet =
```

```
  let f = id
```

```
  in (f True, f "hello")
```

```
polymorphicLambda :: (Bool, String)
```

```
polymorphicLambda =
```

```
(\ f -> (f True, f "hello")) id
```

Literature

- Simon Thompson, *The Craft of Functional Programming*, Second Edition, Addison–Wesley, Chapter 13: “Checking Types”
- J. Roger Hindley. The Principal Type-Scheme of an Object in Combinatory Logic. *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, volume 146, pages 29—60.
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