



Chapter 7

Types and type checking

Course “Compiler Construction”

Martin Steffen

Spring 2024



Chapter 7

Learning Targets of Chapter “Types and type checking”.

1. the concept of types
2. specific common types
3. type safety
4. type checking
5. polymorphism, subtyping and other complications



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Learning Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking



Chapter 7

Outline of Chapter “Types and type checking”.

Introduction

Various types and their representation

Equality of types

Type checking



Section

Introduction

Chapter 7 “Types and type checking”

Course “Compiler Construction”

Martin Steffen

Spring 2024

General remarks and overview



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

- Goal here:
 - what are *types*?
 - static vs. dynamic typing
 - how to describe types *syntactically*?
 - how to *represent* and use types in a compiler?
- coverage of various types
 - basic types (often predefined/built-in)
 - type constructors
 - values of a type
 - type operators
 - representation at run-time
 - run-time tests and special problems (array, union, record, pointers)
- specification and implementation of type systems/type checkers
- advanced concepts

Why types?

- crucial, user-visible **abstraction** describing program behavior
- one view: type describes a set of (mostly related) *values*
- static typing: checking/enforcing a type discipline at compile time
- dynamic typing: same at run-time, mixtures possible
- completely untyped languages: very rare to non-existent, types were part of PLs from the start.

Milner's dictum ("type safety")

Well-typed programs cannot go wrong!

- *strong* typing:¹ rigorously prevent "misuse" of data
- types useful for later phases and optimizations
- documentation and partial specification

¹The terminology is rather fuzzy, and perhaps changed a bit over time.



Types: in first approximation

Conceptually

- semantic view: set of values *plus* a set of corresponding operations
- syntactic view: notation to *construct* basic elements of the type (its values) *plus* “procedures” operating on them
- compiler implementor’s view: data of the same type have same underlying memory representation

further classification:

- built-in/predefined vs. *user-defined* types
- basic/base/elementary/primitive types vs. compound types
- type constructors: building more complex types from simpler ones
- reference vs. value types



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking



Section

Various types and their representation

Chapter 7 “Types and type checking”

Course “Compiler Construction”

Martin Steffen

Spring 2024

Some typical basic types



INF5110
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

base types

<code>int</code>	<code>0, 1, ...</code>	<code>+, -, *, /</code>	integers
<code>real</code>	<code>5.05E4 ...</code>	<code>+, -, *</code>	real numbers
<code>bool</code>	<code>true, false</code>	<code>and or (!) ...</code>	booleans
<code>char</code>	<code>'a'</code>		characters
<code>:</code>			

- often HW support for some of those (including some of the op's)
- elements of `int` are not exactly mathematical *integers*, same for `real`
- often variations offered: `int32`, `int64`
- often implicit **conversions** and relations between basic types
 - which the type system has to specify/check for legality
 - which the compiler has to implement

Some compound types



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

compound types

array[0..9] of real		a[i+1]
list	[], [1;2;3]	concat
string	"text"	concat ...
struct / record		r.x
...		

- mostly reference types
- when built in, special “easy syntax” (same for basic built-in types)
 - 4 + 5 as opposed to `plus(4, 5)`
 - `a[6]` as opposed to `array_access(a, 6)` ...
- parser/lexer aware of built-in types/operators (special precedences, associativity, etc.)
- cf. functionality “built-in/predefined” via libraries

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Abstract data types

- unit of *data* together with *functions/procedures/operations* ... operating on them
- encapsulation + interface
- often: separation between exported and internal operations
 - for instance `public`, `private` ...
 - or via separate interfaces
- (static) classes in Java: may be used/seen as ADTs, methods are then the “operations”

```
ADT begin
integer i;
real x;
int proc total(int a) {
    return i * x + a // or: ``total = i * x + a''
}
end
```



Type constructors: building new types

- array type
- record type (also known as struct-types)
- union type
- pair/tuple type
- pointer type
 - explicit as in C
 - implicit distinction between reference and value types, hidden from programmers (e.g. Java)
- *signatures* (specifying methods / procedures / subroutines / functions) as type
- function type constructor, incl. higher-order types (in functional languages)
- (names of) classes and subclasses
- ...



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking



Array type

```
array [<indextype>] of <component type>
```

- elements (arrays) = (finite) functions from index-type to component type
- allowed index-types:
 - non-negative (unsigned) integers?, from ... to ...?
 - other types?: enumerated types, characters
- things to keep in mind:
 - indexing outside the array bounds?
 - are the array bounds (statically) known to the compiler?
 - **dynamic** arrays (extensible at run-time)?

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and their representation

Equality of types

Type checking

One and more-dimensional arrays



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

- one-dimensional: efficiently implementable in standard hardware (relative memory addressing, known offset)
- two or more dimensions

```
array [1..4] of array [1..3] of real  
array [1..4, 1..3] of real
```

- one can see it as “array of arrays” (Java), an array is typically a reference type
- conceptually “two-dimensional”- *linear layout* in memory (language dependent)

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Records (“structs”)



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
struct {  
  real r;  
  int i;  
}
```

- values: “labelled tuples” ($\text{real} \times \text{int}$)
- constructing elements, e.g.

`struct point`

- access (read or update): *dot-notation* `x.i`
- implementation: linear memory layout given by the (types of the) attributes
- attributes accessible by statically fixed **offsets**
- **fast** access
- cf. objects as in Java

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Tuple/product types

- $T_1 \times T_2$ (or in ascii `T_1 * T_2`)
- elements are *tuples*: for instance: `(1, "text")` is element of `int * string`
- generalization to *n*-tuples:

value	type
<code>(1, "text", true)</code>	<code>int * string * bool</code>
<code>(1, ("text", true))</code>	<code>int * (string * bool)</code>

- structs can be seen as “labeled tuples”, resp. tuples as “anonymous structs”
- tuple types: common in functional languages,
- in C/Java-like languages: *n*-ary tuple types often only implicit as **input** types for procedures/methods (part of the “signature”)



Union types (C-style again)



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
union {  
    real r;  
    int i  
}
```

- related to **sum types** (outside C)
- (more or less) represents **disjoint union** of values of “participating” types
- access in C (confusingly enough): dot-notation `u.i`

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Union types in C and type safety

- union types in C: bad example for (safe) type disciplines, as it's simply type-unsafe, basically an *unsafe* hack ...

Union type (in C):

- nothing much more than a directive to allocate enough memory to hold largest member of the union.
 - in the example: `real` takes more space than `int`
 - implementor's (= low level) focus and memory allocation, not "proper usage focus" or assuring strong typing
- ⇒ bad example of modern use of types
- better (type-safe) implementations known since
- ⇒ **variant record** ("tagged"/"discriminated" union) or even inductive data types



Variant records from Pascal



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
record case isReal: boolean of
  true: (r: real);
  false: (i: integer);
```

- “variant record”
- non-overlapping memory layout²
- programmer responsible to set and check the “discriminator” self
- enforcing type-safety-wise: not really an improvement :-)

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

²Again, that's an implementor-centric view, not a user-centric one.

Inductive types in ML and similar

- *type-safe* and powerful
- allows *pattern matching*

```
IsReal of real | IsInteger of int
```

- allows *recursive* definitions \Rightarrow inductive data types:

```
type int_bintree =  
  Node of int * int_bintree * int_bintree  
  | Nil
```

- Node, Leaf, IsReal: *constructors* (cf. languages like Java)
- constructors used as discriminators in “union” types

```
type exp =  
  Plus of exp * exp  
  | Minus of exp * exp  
  | Number of int  
  | Var of string
```



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Recursive data types in C

does not work

```
struct int_bintree {  
    int val;  
    struct int_bintree left, right;  
}
```

- note: *implementation* in ML: also uses “pointers” (but hidden from the user)
- no nil-pointers in ML (and `NIL` is not a nil-pointer, it’s a constructor)



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Recursive data types in C

“indirect” recursion

```
struct int_bintree {
    int val;
    struct int_bintree *left , *right;
};
```

- note: *implementation* in ML: also uses “pointers” (but hidden from the user)
- no nil-pointers in ML (and `NIL` is not a nil-pointer, it’s a constructor)



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Recursive data types in C

“indirect” recursion

```
struct int_bintree {
    int val;
    struct int_bintree *left , *right;
};
```

In Java: references implicit

```
class IntBinTreeNode {
    int val;
    IntBinTreeNode left , right;
}
```

- note: *implementation* in ML: also uses “pointers” (but hidden from the user)
- no nil-pointers in ML (and `NIL` is not a nil-pointer, it’s a constructor)



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Pointer types

- *pointer* type: notation in C: `int*`
- “ * ”: can be seen as type constructor

```
int* p;
```

- random other languages: $\hat{\text{integer}}$ in Pascal, `int ref` in ML
- value: *address* of (or reference/pointer to) values of the underlying type
- operations: *dereferencing* and determining the address of an data item (and C allows “ *pointer arithmetic* ”)

```
var a:  $\hat{\text{integer}}$  (* pointer to an integer *)
var b: integer
...
a := &i           (* i an int var *)
                  (* a := new integer ok too *)
b :=  $\hat{a}$  + b
```



Implicit dereferencing

- many languages: more or less hide existence of pointers
- cf. reference vs. value types often: automatic/implicit dereferencing

```
C r;  
C r = new C();
```

- “sloppy” speaking: “ `r` is an object (which is an instance of class `C` /which is of type `C`)”,
- slightly more precise: variable “ `r` contains an object... ”
- precise: “variable `r` will contain a reference to an object”
- `r.field` corresponds to something like “
`(*r).field`, similar in Simula ...



Programming with pointers

- “popular” source of errors
- test for non-null-ness often required
- explicit pointers: can lead to problems in block-structured language (when handled non-expertly)
- watch out for parameter passing
- aliasing
- null-pointers: “the billion-dollar-mistake”
- take care of concurrency



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

**Various types and
their
representation**

Equality of types

Type checking

Function variables



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
program Funcvar;  
var pv : Procedure (x: integer); (* procedur var *)  
  
  Procedure Q();  
  var  
    a : integer;  
    Procedure P(i : integer);  
  begin  
    a:= a+i; (* a def'ed outside *)  
  end;  
begin  
  pv := @P; (* ``return'' P (as side effect) *)  
end; (* "@" dependent on dialect *)  
begin (* here: free Pascal *)  
  Q();  
  pv(1);  
end.
```

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Function variables and nested scopes



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

- tricky part here: nested scope + function definition *escaping* surrounding function/scope.
- here: inner procedure “returned” via assignment to function variable
- **stack discipline** of dynamic memory management?
- related also: functions allowed as return value?
 - Pascal: not directly possible (unless one “returns” them via function-typed reference variables like here)
 - C: possible, but *nested* function definitions not allowed
- combination of nested function definitions and functions as official return values (and arguments): **higher-order functions**
- Note: functions as arguments less problematic than as return values.

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Function signatures

- define the “header” (also “signature”) of a function³
- in the discussion: we don't distinguish mostly: functions, procedures, methods, subroutines.
- functional type (independent of the name f): $\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}$

Modula-2	C
<pre>var f: procedure (integer): integer;</pre>	<pre>int (*f) (int)</pre>

- **values**: all functions (procedures ...) with the given signature
- problems with block structure and free use of procedure variables.

³Actually, an identifier of the function is mentioned as well.

Escaping

```
program Funcvar;  
var pv : Procedure (x: integer); (* procedur var *)  
  
  Procedure Q();  
  var  
    a : integer;  
    Procedure P(i : integer);  
  begin  
    a:= a+i; (* a def'ed outside *)  
  end;  
begin  
  pv := @P; (* ``return'' P (as side effect) *)  
end; (* "@" dependent on dialect *)  
begin (* here: free Pascal *)  
  Q();  
  pv(1);  
end.
```

- at the end of line 15: variable a no longer exists
- possible safe usage: only assign to such variables (here pv) a new value (= function) at the same blocklevel the variable is declared

Classes and subclasses



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Parent class

```
class A {  
  int i;  
  void f() {...}  
}
```

Subclass B

```
class B extends A {  
  int i  
  void f() {...}  
}
```

Subclass C

```
class C extends A {  
  int i  
  void f() {...}  
}
```

- classes resemble records, and subclasses variant types, but additionally
 - visibility: local methods possible (besides fields)
 - subclasses
 - objects mostly created dynamically, *no* references into the stack
 - subtyping and polymorphism (subtype polymorphism): a reference typed by *A* can also point to *B* or *C* objects
- special problems: not really many, nil-pointer still possible

Access to object members: late binding

- notation $rA.i$ or $rA.f()$
- dynamic binding, late-binding, virtual access, dynamic dispatch ...: all mean roughly the same
- central mechanism in many OO language, in connection with inheritance

Virtual access $rA.f()$ (methods)

“deepest” f in the run-time class of the *object*, rA points to

- remember: “most-closely nested” access of variables in nested lexical block
- Java:
 - methods “in” objects are only dynamically bound (but there are class methods too)
 - instance variables not, neither static methods “in” classes.



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Example: fields and methods



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
public class Shadow {
    public static void main(String [] args){
        C2 c2 = new C2();
        c2.n();
    }
}

class C1 {
    String s = "C1";
    void m () {System.out.print(this.s);}
}

class C2 extends C1 {
    String s = "C2";
    void n () {this.m();}
}
```

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking



- *Overloading*
 - common for (at least) standard, built-in operations
 - also possible for user defined functions/methods ...
 - disambiguation via (static) types of arguments
 - “ad-hoc” polymorphism
 - implementation:
 - put types of parameters as “part” of the name
 - look-up gives back a set of alternatives
- (generic) polymorphism
`swap(var x, y: anytype)`

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Polymorphism



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

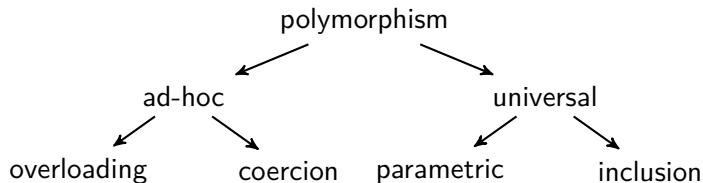
Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking





Section

Equality of types

Chapter 7 “Types and type checking”

Course “Compiler Construction”

Martin Steffen

Spring 2024

Classes as types



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

- classes = types? Not so fast
- more precise view:
 - design decision in Java and similar languages (but not all/even not all class-based OOLs): that class *names* are used in the **role of (names of) types**.
- other roles of classes (in class-based OOLs)
 - generator of objects (via constructor, again with the same name)⁴
 - containing *code* that implements the instances

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

⁴Not for Java's *static* classes etc, obviously.

When are 2 types “equal”?

- type equivalence
- surprisingly many different answers possible
- implementor’s focus (deprecated): type `int` and `short` are equal, because they “are” both 2 bytes
- type checker must often decide such equivalences
- related to a more fundamental question: what’s a type?

Example: pairs of integers

```
type pair_of_ints = int * int;;  
let x : pair_of_int = (1,4);;
```

Is “the” type of (values of) `x`

- `pair_of_ints`, or
- the product type `int * int`, or
- both, as they are equal, i.e., `pair_of_int` is an abbreviation of the product type (type synonym)?



Example with interfaces



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
interface I1 { int m (int x); }
interface I2 { int m (int x); }
class C1 implements I1 {
    public int m(int y) {return y++; }
}
class C2 implements I2 {
    public int m(int y) {return y++; }
}

public class Noduck1 {
    public static void main(String [] arg) {
        I1 x1 = new C1();           // I2 not possible
        I2 x2 = new C2();
        x1 = x2;                    // ???
    }
}
```

Analogous when using classes in their roles as types

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Structural vs. nominal equality



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

a, b	c	typedef
<pre>var a, b: record int i; double d end</pre>	<pre>var c: record int i; double d end</pre>	<pre>typedef idRecord: record int i; double d end</pre>
		<pre>var d: idRecord; var e: idRecord;;</pre>

what's possible?

```
a := c;
a := d;

a := b;
d := e;
```

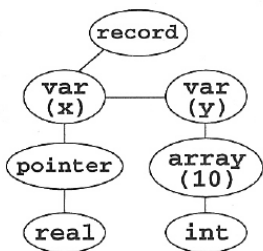


Types in the AST

- types are part of the syntax, as well
- represent: either in a separate symbol table, or part of the AST

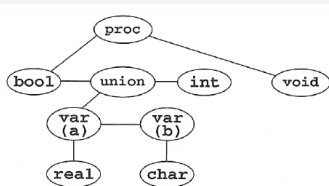
Record type

```
record  
  x: pointer to real;  
  y: array [10] of int  
end
```



Procedure header

```
proc (bool ,  
      union a: real; b: char end,  
      int ) : void  
end
```



Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Structured types without names



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

var-decls → *var-decls* ; *var-decl* | *var-decl*
var-decl → **id** : *type-exp*
type-exp → *simple-type* | *structured-type*
simple-type → **int** | **bool** | **real** | **char** | **void**
structured-type → **array** [*num*] : *type-exp*
| **record** *var-decls* **end**
| **union** *var-decls* **end**
| **pointerto** *type-exp*
| **proc** (*type-exps*) *type-exp*
type-exps → *type-exps* , *type-exp* | *type-exp*

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Structural equality (1)

```
function typeEqual(t1, t2: TypeExp) : Boolean;  
var temp: Boolean;  
    p1, p2: TypeExp;  
begin  
    if t1 and t2 are of simple type  
    then return t1 = t2  
    else if t1.kind = array and t2.kind = array  
    then return t1.size = t2.size and typeEqual(t1.child, t2.child)  
    else if t1.kind = record and t2.kind = record  
        or t1.kind = union and t2.kind = union  
    then begin  
        p1 := t1.child;  
        p2 := t2.child;  
        temp := true;  
        while temp and p1 ≠ nil and p2 ≠ nil  
        do  
            if p1.name ≠ p2.name  
            then temp := false  
            else  
                begin  
                    p1 := p1.sibling;  
                    p2 := p2.sibling;  
                end;  
        return temp and p1 = nil and p2 = nil;
```

Structural equality (2)

```
else if t1.kind = pointer and t2.kind = pointer
then    return typeEqual(t1.child, t2.child)
else if t1.kind = proc and t2.kind = proc
then    begin
        p1 := t1.child;
        p2 := t2.child;
        temp := true;
        while temp and p1 ≠ nil and p2 ≠ nil
        do
            if not typeEqual(p1.child, p2.child)
            then temp := false
            else
                begin
                    p1 := p1.sibling;
                    p2 := p2.sibling;
                end;
            return temp and p1 = nil and p2 = nil
                and typeEqual(t1.child, t2.child)
        end
else if t1 and t2 are type names (* if also names are checked *)
then    return typeEqual(getTypeExp(t1), getTypeExp(t2))
else    return false
end; (* typeEqual)
```

Structural equality



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

```
type texp = (* abstract syntax for types *)
  TBool
  | TInt
  | TFloat
  | TArray of int * texp
  | TRecord of string * (string * texp) list
  | TUnion of string * (string * texp) list
  | TPointer of texp
  | TFunc of texp * texp
```

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Structural equality

```
let rec t_structequal ((t1, t2): texp * texp) =
  match (t1, t2) with
  | (TBool, TBool) | (TInt, TInt) | (TFloat, TFloat) -> true
  | (TArray(size1, t1'), TArray(size2, t2')) ->
    (size1 = size2 && t_structequal (t1', t2'))
  | TRecord(name_1, flist1), TRecord(name_2, flist2)
  | TUnion(name_1, flist1), TUnion(name_2, flist2) ->
    (name_1 = name_2 && t_structequal_fields (flist1, flist2))
  | (TPointer t1', TPointer t2') ->
    t_structequal(t1', t2')
  | (TFunc(s1', t1'), TFunc(s2', t2')) ->
    t_structequal(s1', s2') && t_structequal(t1', t2')
  | _ -> false
```

Types with names



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

var-decls → *var-decls* ; *var-decl* | *var-decl*
var-decl → **id** : *simple-type-exp*
type-decls → *type-decls* ; *type-decl* | *type-decl*
type-decl → **id** = *type-exp*
type-exp → *simple-type-exp* | *structured-type*
simple-type-exp → *simple-type* | **id**
simple-type → **int** | **bool** | **real** | **char** | **void**
structured-type → **array** [*num*] : *simple-type-exp*
| **record** *var-decls* **end**
| **union** *var-decls* **end**
| **pointerto** *simple-type-exp*
| **proc** (*type-exps*) *simple-type-exp*
type-exps → *type-exps* , *simple-type-exp*
| *simple-type-exp*

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation
identifiers

Equality of types

Type checking

Name equality

- all types have “names”, and two types are equal iff their names are equal
- type equality checking: obviously simpler
- of course: type names may have *scopes*. . .

```
function typeEqual(t1, t2: TypeExp): Boolean;  
var temp: boolean  
    p1, p2: TypeExp;  
begin  
    if      t1 and t2 are of simple type  
    then   return t1 = t2  
    else if t1 and t2 are type names  
    then   return t1 = t2  
    else   return false;  
end
```



Type aliases

- languages with type aliases (type synonyms): C, Pascal, ML
- often very convenient (`type Coordinate = float * float`)
- light-weight mechanism

type alias; make t_1 known also under name t_2

```
type t2 = t1 // t2 is the ``same type``.
```

- also here: different choices wrt. *type equality*



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Type aliases: different choices



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Alias, for simple types

```
type t1 = int;  
type t2 = int;
```

- often: $t1$ and $t2$ are the “same” type

Alias of structured types

```
type t1 = array [10] of int;  
type t2 = array [10] of int;  
type t3 = t2;
```

- mostly $t3 \neq t1 \neq t2$

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking



Section

Type checking

Chapter 7 “Types and type checking”

Course “Compiler Construction”

Martin Steffen

Spring 2024

Type checking of expressions (and statements)

- types of subexpressions must “fit” to the expected types the constructs can operate on
 - type checking: top-down and *bottom-up* task
- ⇒ *synthesized* attributes, when using AGs
- Here: using an attribute grammar specification of the type checker
 - type checking conceptually done *while parsing* (as actions of the parser)
 - more common: type checker operates on the AST *after* the parser has done its job
 - type **system** vs. type **checker**
 - type system: specification of the rules governing the use of types in a language, type discipline
 - type checker: algorithmic formulation of the type system (resp. implementation thereof)



Grammar for statements and expressions



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

program → *var-decls* ; *stmts*
var-decls → *var-decls* ; *var-decl* | *var-decl*
var-decl → **id** : *type-exp*
type-exp → **int** | **bool** | **array** [*num*] : *type-exp*
stmts → *stmts* ; *stmt* | *stmt*
stmt → **if** *exp* **then** *stmt* | **id** := *exp*
exp → *exp* + *exp* | *exp* **or** *exp* | *exp* [*exp*]

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Type checking as semantic rules



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Grammar Rule	Semantic Rules
$var\text{-}decl \rightarrow id : type\text{-}exp$	$insert(id.name, type\text{-}exp.type)$ ◀
$type\text{-}exp \rightarrow int$	$type\text{-}exp.type := integer$
$type\text{-}exp \rightarrow bool$	$type\text{-}exp.type := boolean$
$type\text{-}exp_1 \rightarrow array$ $[num] \text{ of } type\text{-}exp_2$	$type\text{-}exp_1.type :=$ $makeTypeNode(array, num.size,$ $type\text{-}exp_2.type)$ ◀
$stmt \rightarrow if\ exp\ then\ stmt$	if not $typeEqual(exp.type, boolean)$ then $type\text{-}error(stmt)$
$stmt \rightarrow id := exp$	if not $typeEqual(lookup(id.name),$ $exp.type)$ then $type\text{-}error(stmt)$
$exp_1 \rightarrow exp_2 + exp_3$	if not ($typeEqual(exp_2.type, integer)$ and $typeEqual(exp_3.type, integer)$) then $type\text{-}error(exp_1)$; $exp_1.type := integer$
$exp_1 \rightarrow exp_2 \text{ or } exp_3$	if not ($typeEqual(exp_2.type, boolean)$ and $typeEqual(exp_3.type, boolean)$) then $type\text{-}error(exp_1)$; $exp_1.type := boolean$
$exp_1 \rightarrow exp_2 [exp_3]$	if $isArrayType(exp_2.type)$ and $typeEqual(exp_3.type, integer)$ then $exp_1.type := exp_2.type.child1$ else $type\text{-}error(exp_1)$
$exp \rightarrow num$	$exp.type := integer$
$exp \rightarrow true$	$exp.type := boolean$
$exp \rightarrow false$	$exp.type := boolean$
$exp \rightarrow id$	$exp.type := lookup(id.name)$ ◀

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

More “modern” presentation

- representation as derivation rules
- Γ : notation for symbol table
 - $\Gamma(x)$: look-up
 - $\Gamma, x : T$: insert
- more compact representation
- one reason: “errors” left implicit.



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Targets & Outline

Introduction

Various types and
their
representation

Equality of types

Type checking

Type checking (expressions)

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = T}{\Gamma \vdash x : T} \text{TE-ID} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{true} : \mathbf{bool}} \text{TE-TRUE} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{false} : \mathbf{bool}} \text{T-FALS}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash n : \mathbf{int}} \text{TE-NUM}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_2 : \mathbf{array_of } T \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_3 : \mathbf{int}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_2 [\mathit{exp}_3] : T} \text{TE-ARRAY}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_1 : \mathbf{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_2 : \mathbf{bool}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_1 \mathbf{or } \mathit{exp}_2 : \mathbf{bool}} \text{TE-OR}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_1 : \mathbf{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_2 : \mathbf{int}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathit{exp}_1 + \mathit{exp}_2 : \mathbf{int}} \text{TE-PLUS}$$

Declarations and statements

$\frac{\Gamma, x : \text{int} \vdash \text{rest} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash x : \mathbf{int}; \text{rest} : \text{ok}}$	TD-INT	$\frac{\Gamma, x : \text{bool} \vdash \text{rest} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash x : \mathbf{bool}; \text{rest} : \text{ok}}$	TD-BOOL
$\Gamma \vdash \text{num} : \text{int} \quad \Gamma(\text{type-exp}) = T$			
$\frac{\Gamma, x : \mathbf{array} \text{ num of } T \vdash \text{rest} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash x : \mathbf{array} [\text{num}] : \text{type-exp}; \text{rest} : \text{ok}}$	TD-ARRAY		
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x : T \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{exp} : T}{\Gamma \vdash x := \text{exp} : \text{ok}}$	TS-ASSIGN	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{exp} : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{stmt} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{if} \ \text{exp} \ \mathbf{then} \ \text{stmt} : \text{ok}}$	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{stmt}_1 : \text{ok} \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{stmt}_2 : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{stmt}_1 ; \text{stmt}_2 : \text{ok}}$	TS-SEQ		

References I



INF5110 –
Compiler
Construction

Bibliography

- [1] Louden, K. (1997). *Compiler Construction, Principles and Practice*. PWS Publishing.

Targets & Outline

Introduction

**Various types and
their
representation**

Equality of types

Type checking