



Consistent Subtyping for All

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Background

There has been ongoing debate about which language paradigm, **static typing** or **dynamic typing**, is better



Some people are in favor of
static typing:

- Communication
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Productivity

¹Adapted from POPL2017 tutorial.

Some people are in favor of **static typing**:

- Communication
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Productivity

the other prefer **dynamic typing**:

- ~~Don't have to write type annotations~~
- Expressiveness
- Cognitive load
- Learning curve

¹Adapted from POPL2017 tutorial.

Gradual Typing From a Programmer's View

Gradual typing enables the evolution of programs from untyped to typed, and provides *fine-grained* control over which parts are statically checked.²

²Examples courtesy of Garcia's slides at POPL'16

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def f(x) = x + 2
def h(g) = g(1)
h f
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- Program with full type information (static checking)

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def f(x : Int) = x + 2
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- Program with full type information (static checking)

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def f(x : Int) = x + 2
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```

- Program with some type information (mixed checking)

```
def f(x : Int) = x + 2
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h f
```

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Gradual Typing 101

- A gradual type system enforces static type discipline whenever possible:

```
def f(x : Bool) = x + 2    -- static error  
def h (g) = g(1)  
h f
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```

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- When the type information is not available, it delegates to dynamic checking at runtime:

```
def f(x : Int) = x + 2  
def h(g) = g(True)  
h f                                -- runtime error
```

Gradual Typing 101

- The key external feature of every gradual type system is the *unknown type* \star .

```
f (x : Int) = x + 2    -- static checking
h (g :  $\star$ ) = g 1      -- dynamic checking
h f
```

- Central to gradual typing is type consistency \sim , which relaxes type equality: $\star \sim \text{Int}$, $\star \rightarrow \text{Int} \sim \text{Int} \rightarrow \star, \dots$

Int = Int
Bool = Bool
Int \neq Bool

$\xRightarrow{\text{extend}}$

Int \sim Int
Bool \sim Bool
Int $\not\sim$ Bool
 $\star \sim$ Int
Int $\rightarrow \star \sim \star \rightarrow$ Int
 \dots

Gradual Typing 101

- The key external feature of every gradual type system is the *unknown type* \star .

```
f (x : Int) = x + 2    -- static checking
h (g :  $\star$ ) = g 1      -- dynamic checking
h f
```

- Central to gradual typing is type consistency \sim , which relaxes type equality: $\star \sim \text{Int}$, $\star \rightarrow \text{Int} \sim \text{Int} \rightarrow \star, \dots$
- Dynamic semantics is defined by type-directed translation to an internal language with runtime casts:

$$(\langle \star \hookrightarrow \star \rightarrow \star \rangle g) \ (\langle \text{Int} \hookrightarrow \star \rangle 1)$$

Many Successes

Gradual typing has seen great popularity both in academia and industry. Over the years, there emerge many gradual type disciplines:

- Subtyping
- Parametric Polymorphism
- Type inference
- Security Typing
- Effects
- ...

Many Successes, But...

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- Subtyping
- Parametric Polymorphism
- Type inference
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- Effects
- ...



As type systems get more complex, it becomes more difficult to adapt notions of gradual typing.
[Garcia et al., 2016]

- Can we design a gradual type system with *implicit higher-rank polymorphism*?

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- State-of-art techniques are inadequate.

Why It Is interesting

- Haskell supports implicit higher-rank polymorphism, but some “safe” programs are rejected:

```
foo :: ([Int], [Char])  
foo = let f x = (x [1, 2], x ['a', 'b'])  
      in f reverse  -- GHC rejects
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- If we had gradual typing...

```
let f (x : ★) = (x [1, 2], x ['a', 'b'])  
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- If we had gradual typing...

```
let f (x :  $\star$ ) = (x [1, 2], x ['a', 'b'])
in f reverse
```

- Moving to more precised version still type checks, but with more static safety guarantee:

```
let f (x :  $\forall a. [a] \rightarrow [a]$ ) = (x [1, 2], x ['a', 'b'])
in f reverse
```

- A new specification of consistent subtyping that works for implicit higher-rank polymorphism
- An easy-to-follow recipe for turning subtyping into consistent subtyping
- A gradually typed calculus with implicit higher-rank polymorphism
 - Satisfies correctness criteria (formalized in Coq)
 - A sound and complete algorithm

What Is Consistent Subtyping

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What Is Consistent Subtyping

- Consistent subtyping (\lesssim) is the extension of subtyping to gradual types. [Siek and Taha, 2007]
- A static subtyping relation ($<:$) over gradual types, with the key insight that \star is *neutral* to subtyping ($\star <: \star$)

Definition (Consistent Subtyping à la Siek and Taha)

The following two are *equivalent*:

1. $A \lesssim B$ if and only if $A \sim C$ and $C <: B$ for some C .
2. $A \lesssim B$ if and only if $A <: C$ and $C \sim B$ for some C .



Gradual typing and subtyping are orthogonal and can be combined in a principled fashion. – Siek and Taha

- Polymorphic types induce a subtyping relation:
 $\forall a. a \rightarrow a <: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$
 - Design consistent subtyping that combines 1) consistency 2) subtyping 3) polymorphism.
-

Challenge

- Polymorphic types induce a subtyping relation:
 $\forall a. a \rightarrow a <: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$
 - Design consistent subtyping that combines 1) consistency 2) subtyping 3) polymorphism.
- 👉 *Gradual typing and polymorphism are orthogonal and can be combined in a principled fashion.³*

³Note that here we are mostly concerned with static semantics.

Problem with Existing Definition

- The underlying static language is the well-established type system for higher-rank types. [Odersky and Läufer, 1996]

Types	A, B	$::=$	$\text{Int} \mid a \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \forall a. A$
Monotypes	τ, σ	$::=$	$\text{Int} \mid a \mid \tau \rightarrow \sigma$
Terms	e	$::=$	$x \mid n \mid \lambda x : A. e \mid \lambda x. e \mid e_1 e_2$
Contexts	Ψ	$::=$	$\bullet \mid \Psi, x : A \mid \Psi, a$

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A <: B}$$

(Subtyping)

$$\frac{a \in \Psi}{\Psi \vdash a <: a}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \text{Int} <: \text{Int}}$$

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash B_1 <: A_1 \quad \Psi \vdash A_2 <: B_2}{\Psi \vdash A_1 \rightarrow A_2 <: B_1 \rightarrow B_2}$$

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash \tau \quad \Psi \vdash A[a \mapsto \tau] <: B}{\Psi \vdash \forall a. A <: B}$$

$$\frac{\Psi, a \vdash A <: B}{\Psi \vdash A <: \forall a. B}$$

Subtyping with Unknown Types

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A <: B}$$

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$$\frac{a \in \Psi}{\Psi \vdash a <: a}$$

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$$\frac{\Psi \vdash \tau \quad \Psi \vdash A[a \mapsto \tau] <: B}{\Psi \vdash \forall a. A <: B}$$

$$\frac{\Psi, a \vdash A <: B}{\Psi \vdash A <: \forall a. B}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \star <: \star}$$

Type Consistency

$$\boxed{A \sim B}$$

(Type Consistency)

$$\frac{}{A \sim A}$$

$$\frac{}{A \sim \star}$$

$$\frac{}{\star \sim A}$$

$$\frac{A_1 \sim B_1 \quad A_2 \sim B_2}{A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \sim B_1 \rightarrow B_2}$$

Type Consistency with Polymorphic Types

$$\boxed{A \sim B}$$

(Type Consistency)

$$\frac{}{A \sim A}$$

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$$\frac{A \sim B}{\forall a. A \sim \forall a. B}$$

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The simplicity comes from the orthogonality between consistency and subtyping!

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2. $A \lesssim B$ if and only if $A <: C$ and $C \sim B$ for some C .



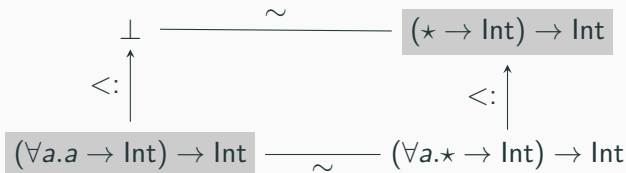
Equivalence is broken in the polymorphic setting!

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1. $A \lesssim B$ if and only if $A \sim C$ and $C <: B$ for some C . ✓
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 *Equivalence is broken in the polymorphic setting!*

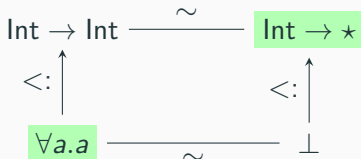


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👉 *Equivalence is broken in the polymorphic setting!*



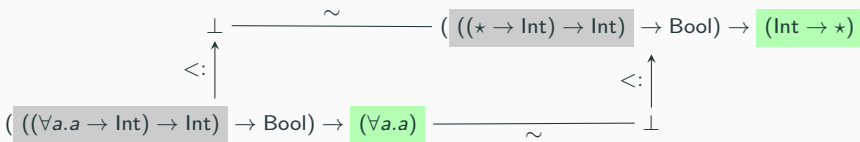
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Equivalence is broken in the polymorphic setting!



Revisiting Consistent Subtyping

- Subtyping validates the *subsumption principle*

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash e : A \quad A <: B}{\Psi \vdash e : B}$$

Consistent Subtyping vs. Subtyping

- Subtyping validates the *subsumption principle*, so should consistent subtyping

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash e : A \quad A \lesssim B}{\Psi \vdash e : B}$$

Consistent Subtyping vs. Subtyping

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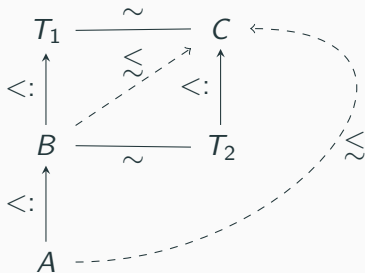
$$\frac{\Psi \vdash e : A \quad A \lesssim B}{\Psi \vdash e : B}$$

- Subtyping is transitive, but consistent subtyping *is not*

Observations

Observation (I)

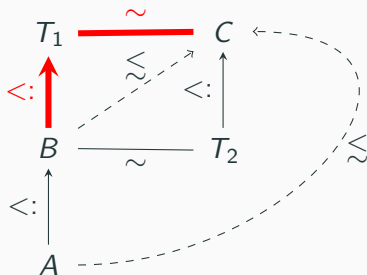
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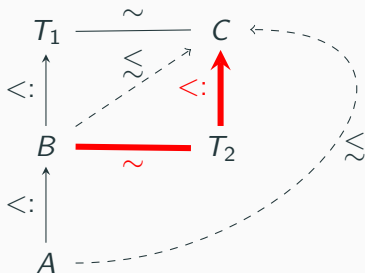
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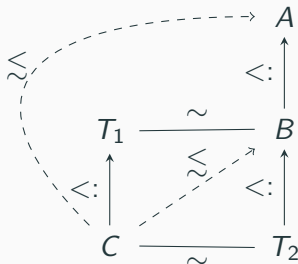
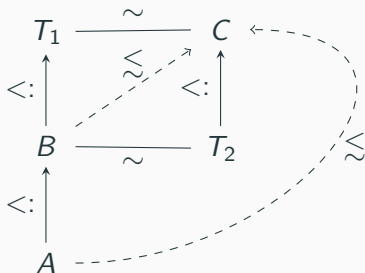
Observations

Observation (I)

If $A <: B$ and $B \lesssim C$, then $A \lesssim C$.

Observation (II)

If $C \lesssim B$ and $B <: A$, then $C \lesssim A$.



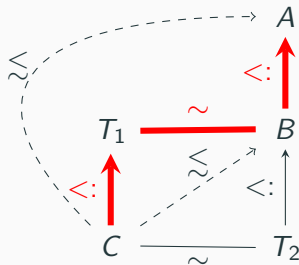
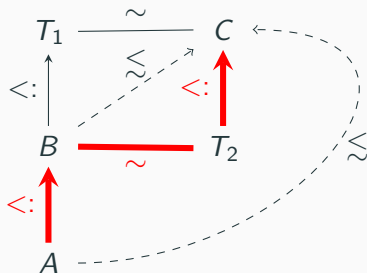
Observations

Observation (I)

If $A <: B$ and $B \lesssim C$, then $A \lesssim C$.

Observation (II)

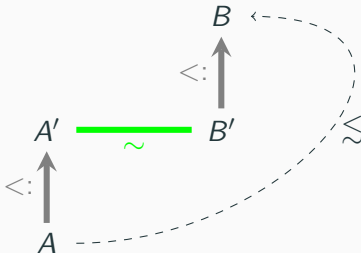
If $C \lesssim B$ and $B <: A$, then $C \lesssim A$.



Consistent Subtyping, the Specification

Definition (Generalized Consistent Subtyping)

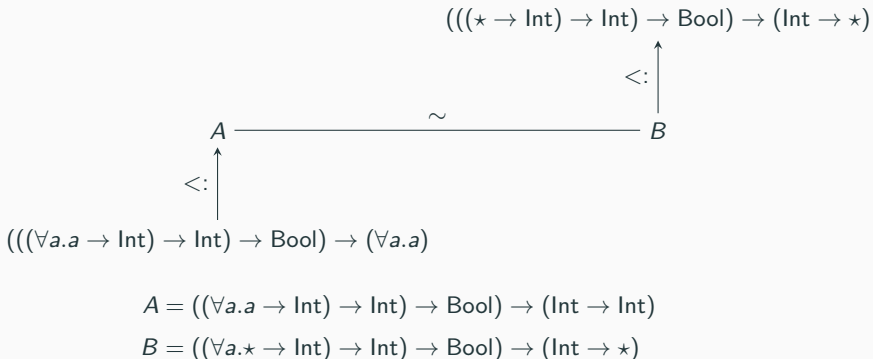
$\Psi \vdash A \lesssim B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Psi \vdash A <: A'$, $A' \sim B'$ and $\Psi \vdash B' <: B$ for some A' and B' .



Consistent Subtyping, the Specification

Definition (Generalized Consistent Subtyping)

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Definition (Generalized Consistent Subtyping)

$\Psi \vdash A \lesssim B \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Psi \vdash A <: A' , A' \sim B' \text{ and } \Psi \vdash B' <: B \text{ for some } A' \text{ and } B'.$

Two sources of non-determinism:

1. Two intermediate types A' and B'

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Two sources of non-determinism:

1. Two intermediate types A' and B'


2. Guessing monotypes
$$\frac{\Psi \vdash \tau \quad \Psi \vdash A[a \mapsto \tau] <: B}{\Psi \vdash \forall a. A <: B}$$

Definition (Generalized Consistent Subtyping)

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Two sources of non-determinism:

1. Two intermediate types A' and B'

 *We can derive a syntax-directed inductive definition without resorting to subtyping or consistency at all!*

Consistent Subtyping Without Existentials

Notice $\Psi \vdash \star \lesssim A$ always holds ($\star <: \star \sim A <: A$), and vice versa ($\Psi \vdash A \lesssim \star$)

Consistent Subtyping Without Existentials: First Step

1. Replace $<$ with \lesssim

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A <: B}$$

(Subtyping)

$$\frac{a \in \Psi}{\Psi \vdash a <: a}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \text{Int} <: \text{Int}}$$

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Consistent Subtyping Without Existentials: First Step

1. Replace $<:$ with \lesssim

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A \lesssim B}$$

(Consistent Subtyping, not yet)

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$$\frac{\Psi, a \vdash A \lesssim B}{\Psi \vdash A \lesssim \forall a. B}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \star \lesssim \star}$$

Consistent Subtyping Without Existentials: Second Step

1. Replace $<$ with \lesssim
2. Replace $\Psi \vdash \star \lesssim \star$ with $\Psi \vdash \star \lesssim A$ and $\Psi \vdash A \lesssim \star$

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A \lesssim B}$$

(Consistent Subtyping, not yet)

$$\frac{a \in \Psi}{\Psi \vdash a \lesssim a}$$

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$$\frac{\Psi \vdash \tau \quad \Psi \vdash A[a \mapsto \tau] \lesssim B}{\Psi \vdash \forall a. A \lesssim B}$$

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$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \star \lesssim A}$$

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Theorem

$\Psi \vdash A \lesssim B$ iff $\Psi \vdash A <: A'$, $A' \sim B'$ and $\Psi \vdash B' <: B$ for some A' and B' .

Declarative Type System

$\Psi \vdash e : A$

(Typing, selected rules)

$$\frac{\Psi, a \vdash e : A}{\Psi \vdash e : \forall a. A} \text{ U-GEN}$$

$$\frac{\Psi, x : A \vdash e : B}{\Psi \vdash \lambda x : A. e : A \rightarrow B} \text{ U-LAMANN}$$

$$\frac{\Psi, x : \tau \vdash e : B}{\Psi \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau \rightarrow B} \text{ U-LAM}$$

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash e_1 : A \quad \Psi \vdash A \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \quad \Psi \vdash e_2 : A_3 \quad \Psi \vdash A_3 \lesssim A_1}{\Psi \vdash e_1 e_2 : A_2} \text{ U-APP}$$

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash e_1 : A \quad \boxed{\Psi \vdash A \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2} \quad \Psi \vdash e_2 : A_3 \quad \Psi \vdash A_3 \lesssim A_1}{\Psi \vdash e_1 e_2 : A_2} \text{U-APP}$$

$$\boxed{\Psi \vdash A \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2}$$

(Matching)

$$\frac{\Psi \vdash \tau \quad \Psi \vdash A[a \mapsto \tau] \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2}{\Psi \vdash \forall a. A \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2} \text{M-FORALL}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \triangleright A_1 \rightarrow A_2} \text{M-ARR}$$

$$\frac{}{\Psi \vdash \star \triangleright \star \rightarrow \star} \text{M-UNKNOWN}$$

- Type-directed translation into an intermediate language with runtime casts ($\Psi \vdash e : A \rightsquigarrow s$)
- We translate to the Polymorphic Blame Calculus (PBC) [Ahmed et al., 2011]

PBC terms⁴ $s ::= x \mid n \mid \lambda x : A. s \mid \Lambda a. s \mid s_1 s_2 \mid \langle A \hookrightarrow B \rangle s$

⁴Only a subst of PBC terms are used

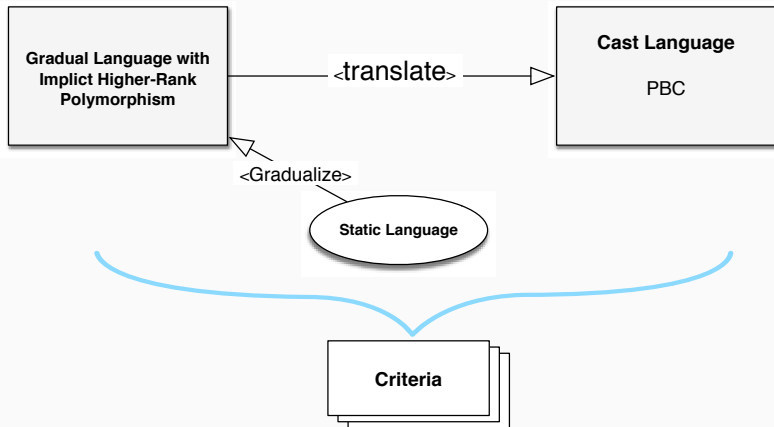
- **Conservative extension:** for all static Ψ , e , and A ,
 - if $\Psi \vdash^{OL} e : A$, then there exists B , such that $\Psi \vdash e : B$, and $\Psi \vdash B <: A$.
 - if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, then $\Psi \vdash^{OL} e : A$
- **Monotonicity w.r.t. precision:** for all Ψ , e , e' , A , if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, and $e' \sqsubseteq e$, then $\Psi \vdash e' : B$, and $B \sqsubseteq A$ for some B .
- **Type Preservation of cast insertion:** for all Ψ , e , A , if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, then $\Psi \vdash e : A \rightsquigarrow s$, and $\Psi \vdash^B s : A$ for some s .
- **Monotonicity of cast insertion:** for all Ψ , e_1 , e_2 , s_1 , s_2 , A , if $\Psi \vdash e_1 : A \rightsquigarrow s_1$, and $\Psi \vdash e_2 : A \rightsquigarrow s_2$, and $e_1 \sqsubseteq e_2$, then $\Psi \vdash s_1 \sqsubseteq^B s_2$.

- **Conservative extension:** for all static Ψ , e , and A ,
 - if $\Psi \vdash^{OL} e : A$, then there exists B , such that $\Psi \vdash e : B$, and $\Psi \vdash B <: A$.
 - if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, then $\Psi \vdash^{OL} e : A$
- **Monotonicity w.r.t. precision:** for all Ψ , e , e' , A , if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, and $e' \sqsubseteq e$, then $\Psi \vdash e' : B$, and $B \sqsubseteq A$ for some B .
- **Type Preservation of cast insertion:** for all Ψ , e , A , if $\Psi \vdash e : A$, then $\Psi \vdash e : A \rightsquigarrow s$, and $\Psi \vdash^B s : A$ for some s .
- **Monotonicity of cast insertion:** for all Ψ , e_1 , e_2 , s_1 , s_2 , A , if $\Psi \vdash e_1 : A \rightsquigarrow s_1$, and $\Psi \vdash e_2 : A \rightsquigarrow s_2$, and $e_1 \sqsubseteq e_2$, then $\Psi \vdash s_1 \sqsubseteq^B s_2$.



Proved in Coq!

Recap



- A bidirectional account of the algorithmic type system (inspired by [Dunfield and Krishnaswami, 2013])
- Extension to top types
- Discussion and comparison with other approaches (AGT [Garcia et al., 2016], Directed Consistency [Jafery and Dunfield, 2017])
- Discussion of dynamic guarantee

- Fix the issue with dynamic guarantee (partially)
- More features: fancy types, etc.

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Consistent Subtyping for All

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Backup Slides

Dynamic Guarantee

- Changes to the annotations of a gradually typed program should not change the dynamic behaviour of the program.
- The declarative system breaks it...

$$(\lambda f : \forall a. a \rightarrow \text{Int}. \lambda x : \text{Int}. f\ x) (\lambda x. 1) 3 \Downarrow 3$$
$$(\lambda f : \forall a. a \rightarrow \text{Int}. \lambda x : \star. f\ x) (\lambda x. 1) 3 \Downarrow ?$$

- A common problem in gradual type inference, see [Garcia and Cimini 2015]. Static and gradual type parameters may help.
- A more sophisticated term precision is needed in PBC. [Igarashi et al. 2017]