

Java type unification with wildcards

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Overview

Introduction

Motivation

Subtyping in Java 5.0

Type unification

Type Unification problem

Related work

The algorithm

Conclusion

Motivation

Extensions of the Java 5.0 type-system

- ▶ parametrized types, type variables, type terms, wildcards

e.g.

```
Vector<? extends AbstractList<? super Integer>>
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Complex typings

- ▶ Often it is not obvious, which are the *best* types for methods and variables
- ▶ Sometimes principal types in Java 5.0 are *intersection types*, which are not expressible (contradictive of writing re-usable code)

Motivation

Extensions of the Java 5.0 type-system

- ▶ parametrized types, type variables, type terms, wildcards
e.g.

```
Vector<? extends ArrayList<? super Integer>>
```

Complex typings

- ▶ Often it is not obvious, which are the *best* types for methods and variables
- ▶ Sometimes principal types in Java 5.0 are *intersection types*, which are not expressible (contradictive of writing re-usable code)

⇒ Developing a type-inference-system, which determines principal types

Example: Multiplication of matrices

```
class Matrix extends Vector<Vector<Integer>> {
    Matrix mul(Matrix m) {
        Matrix ret = new Matrix();
        int i = 0;
        while(i < size()) {
            Vector<Integer> v1 = this.elementAt(i);
            Vector<Integer> v2 = new Vector<Integer>();
            int j = 0;
            while(j < v1.size()) {
                int erg = 0;
                int k = 0;
                while(k < v1.size()) {
                    erg = erg + v1.elementAt(k)
                        * m.elementAt(k).elementAt(j); k++; }
                v2.addElement(new Integer(erg)); j++; }
            ret.addElement(v2); i++; }
        return ret; }}

```

System determines the principal typing(s)

```
mul: Matrix → Matrix &  
Matrix → Vector<Vector<Integer>>  
&...&  
Vector<? extends Vector<? extends Integer>>  
→ Vector<? super Vector<Integer>>
```

Purpose: Typless

```
class Matrix extends Vector<Vector<Integer>> {
    mul(m) {
        ret = new Matrix();
        i = 0;
        while(i < size()) {
            v1 = this.elementAt(i);
            v2 = new Vector<Integer>();
            j = 0;
            while(j < v1.size()) {
                erg = 0;
                k = 0;
                while(k < v1.size()) {
                    erg = erg + v1.elementAt(k)
                        * m.elementAt(k).elementAt(j); k++; }
                v2.addElement(new Integer(erg)); j++; }
            ret.addElement(v2); i++; }
        return ret; }}}
```


Inheritance hierarchy

extends/implements relation: \leq (declared by the extends resp. implements declarations)

Example: $\text{Stack}\langle x \rangle \leq \text{Vector}\langle x \rangle$

(declared by class `Stack<x>` extends `Vector<x>`)

subtyping relation: \leq^* (ordering of the Java 5.0 type terms)

Example:

$\text{Stack}\langle \text{Vector}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle \text{Vector}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \rangle$

Inheritance hierarchy cont.

Definition: Finite closure $\mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

- ▶ reflexive and transitive closure of relationships in the subtyping ordering, where in the left hand sides all arguments are **type variables**.

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(declared by class `Matrix<x> extends Vector<Vector<x>>`)

$\text{myLi}\langle b, a \rangle \leq^* \text{List}\langle a \rangle$

(declared by class `myLi<b,a> extends List<a>`)

Inheritance hierarchy cont.

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Lemma

The finite closure is a finite relation.

Wildcards

Subtyping relation: $\text{Integer} \leq^* \text{Number}$
 $\text{Stack}\langle a \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle a \rangle$

It holds $\text{Stack}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle$

but $\text{Stack}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \not\leq^* \text{Vector}\langle \text{Number} \rangle$

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Introduction of wildcards

- ▶ $\text{Stack}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle ? \text{ extends } \text{Number} \rangle$
 ? extends Number: all subtypes of Number are allowed
- ▶ $\text{Stack}\langle \text{Number} \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle ? \text{ super } \text{Integer} \rangle$
 ? super Integer: all supertypes of Integer are allowed

Abbreviation for wildcard-types

Instead of `A<? extends B>` we write

`A<?B>`

and instead of `C<? super D>` we write

`C<?D>`.

Type Unification problem

For two type terms θ_1 and θ_2 a substitution σ is demanded such that:

$$\sigma(\theta_1) \leq^* \sigma(\theta_2).$$

TEL [Smolka 1989]

- ▶ Type system without any restrictions
- ▶ Type unification algorithm is incomplete
- ▶ Open problem mentioned: infinite chains in the type term ordering
For $\text{List}(a) \leq \text{myLi}(a,b)$ holds:

$\text{List}(a) \leq \text{myLi}(a, \text{List}(a)) \leq \text{myLi}(a, \text{myLi}(a, \text{List}(a))) \leq \dots$

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For $\text{nat} \leq \text{int}$ holds

$$\{\text{nat} \triangleleft a, \text{int} \triangleleft a\} \Rightarrow a \mapsto \text{nat} \Rightarrow \{\text{int} \triangleleft \text{nat}\} \Rightarrow \text{fail}$$

But there is a unifier $a \mapsto \text{int}$.

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But there is a unifier $a \mapsto \text{int}$.

The algorithm is incomplete even for types without infinite chains

[Hill, Topor 1992]

- ▶ subtype relationships only of type constructors with the same arity
- ▶ *most general type unifier (mgtu)* defined as an upper bound of different principal type unifiers

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For $\text{nat} \leq \text{int}$, $\text{neg} \leq \text{int}$ holds

The mgtu of $\{\text{nat} \triangleleft a, \text{neg} \triangleleft a\}$ is $\{a \mapsto \text{int}\}$

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Extension: $\text{int} \leq \text{index}$ and $\text{int} \leq \text{expr}$:

There are three unifiers $a \mapsto \text{int}$, $a \mapsto \text{index}$, and $a \mapsto \text{expr}$, but none of them is a mgtu.

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In general there is no mgtu in the sense of [Hill, Topor 1992].

PROTOS-L [Beierle 1995]

- ▶ no subtype relationship between polymorphic type constructors
- ▶ type unification algorithm complete
- ▶ unification problem indeed not unitary, but finitary
- ▶ the algorithm is also complete for the type system of [Hill, Topor 1992]

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For $\text{nat} \leq \text{int}$, $\text{neg} \leq \text{int}$, $\text{int} \leq \text{index}$, $\text{int} \leq \text{expr}$ and

$$\{ \text{nat} \triangleleft a, \text{neg} \triangleleft a \}$$

there are three general unifiers

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The algorithm do not work on subtype relationships where the constructors have different arities.

Java type unification [Plümicke 2004, Unif'04, Cork]

- ▶ no wildcards
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For $\text{myLi}\langle b, a \rangle \leq \text{List}\langle a \rangle$ and $\{\text{myLi}\langle \text{Integer}, a \rangle \triangleleft \text{List}\langle \text{Boolean} \rangle\}$
the general unifier

$$\{ a \mapsto \text{Boolean} \}$$

is determined.

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the algorithm **fails**, as indeed $\text{Integer} \leq \text{Number}$, but subtyping in the arguments is prohibited.

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the algorithm **fails**, as indeed $\text{Integer} \leq \text{Number}$, but subtyping in the arguments is prohibited.

No infinite chains appears.

Base of Hindley/Milner approach: (Type) unification algorithm [Martelli, Montanari 1982]

$$\text{(reduce)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{ C \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \doteq C \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_1 \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_n \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$

$$\text{(erase)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{ \theta \doteq \theta' \}}{Eq} \quad \theta = \theta'$$

$$\text{(swap)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{ \theta \doteq a \}}{Eq \cup \{ a \doteq \theta \}} \quad a \in TV$$

$$\text{(subst)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{ a \doteq \theta \}}{Eq[a \mapsto \theta] \cup \{ a \doteq \theta \}} \quad a \text{ occurs in } Eq \text{ but not in } \theta$$

Type unification algorithm for Java 5.0 type terms without wildcards [Plümicke 2004, Unif'04, Cork]

(adapt)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto \theta_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with

- ▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

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(reduce1)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ C \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_{\pi(1)} \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_{\pi(n)} \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$
where

- ▶ $C \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle$
- ▶ $\{ a_1, \dots, a_n \} \subseteq TV$
- ▶ π is a permutation

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(subst)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ a \doteq \theta \}}{Eq[a \mapsto \theta] \cup \{ a \doteq \theta \}}$$
 where

- ▶ a occurs in Eq but not in θ

(reduce2)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ C \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \doteq C \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_1 \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_n \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$

Type unification rules

$$(\text{redUp}) \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq ?\theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}}$$

$$(\text{redUpLow}) \frac{Eq \cup \{?\theta \leq ?\theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}}$$

Wildcards in outermost position

$$(\text{redLow}) \frac{Eq \cup \{?\theta \leq \theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}}$$

Type unification rules

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (\text{redUp}) \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq ?\theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}} &
 (\text{redUpLow}) \frac{Eq \cup \{?\theta \leq ?\theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}} &
 (\text{redLow}) \frac{Eq \cup \{?\theta \leq \theta'\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}}
 \end{array}$$

Wildcards in outermost position

$$(\text{red1}) \frac{Eq \cup \{C \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle\}}{Eq \cup \{\theta_{\pi(1)} \leq ?\theta'_1, \dots, \theta_{\pi(n)} \leq ?\theta'_n\}}$$

Reduce rule for outermost
 type constructor

where

- $C \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle$
- $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \subseteq BTV$
- π is a permutation

Type unification rules

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{(redUp)} \frac{Eq \cup \{ \theta \leq ? \theta' \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta \leq \theta' \}} \quad \text{(redUpLow)} \frac{Eq \cup \{ ? \theta \leq ? \theta' \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta \leq \theta' \}} \quad \text{(redLow)} \frac{Eq \cup \{ ? \theta \leq \theta' \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta \leq \theta' \}}
 \end{array}$$

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where

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- π is a permutation

$$\text{(redExt)} \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq ? ? Y \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_{\pi(1)} \leq ? \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_{\pi(n)} \leq ? \theta'_n \}}$$

Reduce rule for
 extends wildcards

where

- $? Y \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle \in \text{grArg}(X \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle)$
- $\{ a_1, \dots, a_n \} \subseteq BTV$

Type unification rules

$$(\text{redSup}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \triangleleft ? Y \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta'_1 \triangleleft ? \theta_{\pi(1)}, \dots, \theta'_n \triangleleft ? \theta_{\pi(n)} \}}$$

Reduce rule for
 super wildcards

where

- $? Y \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle \in \text{grArg}(X \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle)$
- $\{ a_1, \dots, a_n \} \subseteq \text{BTV}$
- π is a permutation

Type unification rules

$$(\text{redSup}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \triangleleft ? Y \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta'_1 \triangleleft ? \theta_{\pi(1)}, \dots, \theta'_n \triangleleft ? \theta_{\pi(n)} \}}$$

Reduce rule for
 super wildcards

where

- $? Y \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle \in \text{grArg}(X \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle)$
- $\{ a_1, \dots, a_n \} \subseteq \text{BTV}$
- π is a permutation

$$(\text{redEq}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \triangleleft ? X \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_{\pi(1)} \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_{\pi(n)} \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$

Reduce rule for
 equal type constructors

Type unification rules

$$(\text{redSup}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \triangleleft^? Y \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta'_1 \triangleleft^? \theta_{\pi(1)}, \dots, \theta'_n \triangleleft^? \theta_{\pi(n)} \}}$$

where

- $? Y \langle a_{\pi(1)}, \dots, a_{\pi(n)} \rangle \in \text{grArg}(X \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle)$
- $\{ a_1, \dots, a_n \} \subseteq \text{BTV}$
- π is a permutation

Reduce rule for
 super wildcards

$$(\text{redEq}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ X \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \triangleleft^? X \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_{\pi(1)} \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_{\pi(n)} \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$

Reduce rule for
 equal type constructors

$$(\text{reduce2}) \frac{Eq \cup \{ C \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \doteq C \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ \theta_1 \doteq \theta'_1, \dots, \theta_n \doteq \theta'_n \}}$$

Original reduce rule

Type unification rules

(adapt)

$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$

where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with outermost adapt rule

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

Type unification rules

(adapt)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with outermost adapt rule

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

(adaptExt)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq_{??} D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq_{??} D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with adapt rule: extends wildcard

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

Type unification rules

(adapt)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with outermost adapt rule

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

(adaptExt)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \leq_{??} D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq_{??} D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with adapt rule: extends wildcard

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

(adaptSup)
$$\frac{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \leq_{??} D \langle \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \rangle \}}{Eq \cup \{ D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle [a_i \mapsto CC(\theta_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n] \leq_{??} D' \langle \theta'_1, \dots, \theta'_m \rangle \}}$$
 where there are $\bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m$ with adapt rule: super wildcard

▶ $(D \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \leq^* D' \langle \bar{\theta}'_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}'_m \rangle) \in \mathbf{FC}(\leq)$

Type unification rules

$$\text{(erase1)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq \theta'\}}{Eq} \quad \theta \leq^* \theta'$$

$$\text{(erase2)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \leq ? \theta'\}}{Eq} \quad \theta' \in \mathbf{grArg}(\theta)$$

$$\text{(erase3)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \doteq \theta'\}}{Eq} \quad \theta = \theta'$$

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$$\text{(swap)} \quad \frac{Eq \cup \{\theta \doteq a\}}{Eq \cup \{a \doteq \theta\}} \quad \theta \notin BTV, a \in BTV$$

$$\text{(subst)} \quad \frac{Eq' \cup \{a \doteq \theta\}}{Eq'[a \mapsto \theta] \cup \{a \doteq \theta\}} \quad a \text{ occurs in } Eq' \text{ but not in } \theta$$

Type unification algorithm with wildcards

1. Repeated application of the *reduce* rules, the *erase* rules, the *swap* rule, and the *adapt* rules.

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5. Application of the *subst* rule
6. For all changed sets of type terms start again with step 1.
7. Summarize all results.

Example

Subtyping relation:

$\text{Integer} \leq^* \text{Number}$

$\text{Stack}\langle a \rangle \leq^* \text{Vector}\langle a \rangle \leq^* \text{AbstractList}\langle a \rangle \leq^* \text{List}\langle a \rangle$

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Subtyping relation:

`Integer` \leq^* `Number`

`Stack<a>` \leq^* `Vector<a>` \leq^* `AbstractList<a>` \leq^* `List<a>`

Application of the algorithm:

`{ (Stack<a> < Vector<?Number>), (AbstractList<Integer> < List<a>)`

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Application of the algorithm:

$\{ (\text{Stack}\langle a \rangle \triangleleft \text{Vector}\langle ? \text{Number} \rangle), (\text{AbstractList}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \triangleleft \text{List}\langle a \rangle) \}$

$\xrightarrow{\text{(red1)}}$ $\{ a \triangleleft ? ? \text{Number}, \text{Integer} \triangleleft ? a \}$

$\xrightarrow{2./3./4.}$ $\{ \{ a \doteq ? \text{Number}, a \doteq \text{Integer} \}, \{ a \doteq ? \text{Number}, a \doteq ? \text{Number} \},$
 $\{ a \doteq ? \text{Number}, a \doteq ? \text{Integer} \}, \{ a \doteq ? \text{Number}, a \doteq ? \text{Integer} \},$
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 $\{ a \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq ? \text{Integer} \}, \{ a \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq ? \text{Integer} \} \}$

Example cont.

5. step (*subst*)
 \implies

$$\{ \{ \text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Number}, a \doteq \text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Number} \doteq ?\text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Number} \}, \\ \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \\ \{ \text{Integer} \doteq \text{Number}, a \doteq \text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Number} \doteq \text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Number} \}, \\ \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq \text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq \text{Number}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \\ \{ \text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Integer}, a \doteq \text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Number} \doteq ?\text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Number} \}, \\ \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq ?\text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \}, \\ \{ \text{Integer} \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq \text{Integer} \}, \{ ?\text{Number} \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Number} \}, \\ \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \} \{ ?\text{Integer} \doteq \text{Integer}, a \doteq ?\text{Integer} \} \}$$

(*erase3*)
 $\implies \{ \{ a \mapsto ?\text{Number} \}, \{ a \mapsto ?\text{Integer} \}, \{ a \mapsto \text{Integer} \} \}$

Example: Infinite chains

Subtyping relation:

`myLi<b, a> ≤ List<a>`

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Subtyping relation:

$$\text{myLi}\langle b, a \rangle \leq \text{List}\langle a \rangle$$

There is an infinite chain:

$$\dots \leq^* \text{myLi}\langle \text{myLi}\langle \text{List}\langle a \rangle, a \rangle, a \rangle \leq^* \text{myLi}\langle \text{List}\langle a \rangle, a \rangle \leq^* \text{List}\langle a \rangle$$

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Application of the algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{List}\langle x \rangle \triangleleft \text{List}\langle ?\text{List}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \rangle \} \\ \stackrel{\text{(red1)}}{\Rightarrow} & \{ x \triangleleft ?\text{List}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \} \\ \stackrel{\text{3.step}}{\Rightarrow} & \{ \{ x \mapsto \text{List}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \}, \{ x \mapsto ?\text{List}\langle \text{Integer} \rangle \}, \\ & \{ x \mapsto \text{myLi}\langle b, \text{Integer} \rangle \}, \{ x \mapsto ?\text{myLi}\langle b, \text{Integer} \rangle \} \}. \end{aligned}$$

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Although, there are infinite subtypes of x only a finite number of general unifiers is determined.

Results

Theorem (Soundness und Completeness)

The type unification algorithm is sound and complete.

Corollary (Finitary)

The type unification of Java 5.0 type terms with wildcards is finitary.

Corollary (Termination)

The type unification algorithm terminates.

The finitary corollary means that the open problem of [Smolka 1989] is solved by our type unification algorithm.

Conclusion and future work

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- ▶ Java 5.0 type unification problem corresponds to the type unification problem of logical programming languages
- ▶ Type unification algorithm for subtype relationships
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Future work

- ▶ Integration of the extended type unification algorithm into the Java 5.0 type inference algorithm
- ▶ Completion of the implementation