A Nominal Theory of Objects with Dependent Types

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Abstract

We design and study νObj , a calculus and dependent type system for objects and classes which can have types as members. Type members can be aliases, abstract types, or new types. The type system can model the essential concepts of JAVA's inner classes as well as virtual types and family polymorphism found in BETA or GBETA. It can also model most concepts of SML-style module systems, including sharing constraints and higher-order functors, but excluding applicative functors. The type system can thus be used as a basis for unifying concepts that so far existed in parallel in advanced object systems and in module systems. The paper presents results on confluence of the calculus, soundness of the type system, and undecidability of type checking.

1 Introduction

The development in object and module systems has been largely complementary. Module systems in the style of SML or CAML excel in abstraction; they allow very precise control over visibility of names and types, including the ability to partially abstract over types. Object-oriented languages excel in composition; they offer several composition mechanisms lacking in module systems, including inheritance and unlimited recursion between objects and classes. On the other hand, object-oriented languages usually express abstraction only in a coarse grained way, e.g. through modifiers **private** or **protected** which limit accessibility of a name to some predetermined part of a system. There is usually no analogue to the signatures with abstract types in module systems, which can hide information about a binding outside the unit defining it.

Recently, we see a convergence of the two worlds. Module systems have acquired a form of inheritance through mixin modules [DS96, AZ99, AZ02, BL92, Bra92], first-class modules [Rus00] can play a role similar to objects, and recursive modules are also being investigated [CHP99]. On the object side, nested classes with virtual or abstract types [MMP89, Tho97, BOW98] can model the essential properties of signatures with abstract types in ML-like module systems [Mac84]. In principle, this is not a new development. Class nesting has been introduced already in SIMULA 67 [DMN70], whereas virtual or abstract types are present in BETA [MMPN93], as well as more recently in GBETA [Ern99], RUNE [Tor02] and SCALA [Ode02]. An essential ingredient of these systems are objects with type members. There is currently much work that explores the uses of this concept in object-oriented programming [SB98, TT99, Ern01, Ost02]. But its type theoretic foundations are just beginning to be investigated.

As is the case for modules, dependent types are a promising candidate for a foundation of objects with type members. Dependent products can be used to represent functors in SML module systems as well as classes in object systems with virtual types [IP02]. But where the details in ML module systems build on a long tradition, the corresponding foundations of object systems with abstract and virtual types have so far been less well developed. One possible approach would be to extend the formalizations of ML module systems to object systems, but their technical complexity makes this a difficult task. An alternative would be to apply the intuitions of dependent types to a smaller calculus of objects and classes, with the aim of arriving on a combined foundation for objects and classes as well as modules. This is what we want to achieve in this paper. Our main contribution is a formal study of a type theory for objects based on dependent types. The theory developed here can be used as a type-theoretic foundation for languages such as BETA, GBETA or SCALA, as well as for many concepts that have so far been presented only in an informal way.

A characteristic of our calculus and type system is that it is *nominal*. Nominality comes into play in two respects. First, objects are given unique names in the reduction system. It is always the name of an object which is passed, instead of a copy of the object itself. A name passing strategy for objects is necessary because our regime of dependent types is based on object identity: If L is a type label then x.L and y.L are the same type only if x and y can be shown to refer to the same object. If objects were copied, type equalities would not be maintained during reduction.

Second, we introduce a nominal binding for types: $L \prec T$ defines L as a name of a new type which unfolds to type T. Two such definitions always define two different types, even if they unfold to the same type. This corresponds closely to the notion of interfaces in a language like JAVA. An interface defines a new type whose structure is completely known. It is possible to define values of an interface type by giving implementations of all members of the interface. In our type system we represent the members of an interface by a record type T. The relationship between the interface name I and its unfolding T is then neither an equality I = T (because then I would not represent a new type), nor is I an abstract type I <: T (because then one could not create new values of I from implementations of type T). Hence, the need of the third type binding $I \prec T$.

A perhaps more standard alternative to our nominal newtype bindings would be *branding*. That is, one would define type equality and subtyping structurally and introduce a binder to create new type names. Branding then means creating a new type by combining a structurally defined type and a freshly created type name. An advantage of the branding approach is that it is orthogonal to traditional structural type systems for objects or modules. A disadvantage is that it corresponds less well to the definitions and implementations of existing object-oriented languages (with the exception of MODULA-3 [CDG⁺92]).

A more technical reason for abandoning the structural types with brands approach has to do with recursion: In a system with dependent types, type recursion can involve terms, which means that recursive types are not necessarily regular trees. For instance if p is a qualified identifier of an object with a term member l and a type member L, then the type p.L might depend on the type p.l.L. The resulting tree would then not be regular. There is little hope that practical semi-algorithms for checking equality and subtyping of non-regular trees can be found. To sidestep these problems we follow the strategy of many existing programming languages: we restrict ourselves to non-recursive type aliases, and introduce a new kind of type definition that makes the defined type a subtype of its right-hand side. Note that similar problems for type-checking are caused by parameterized algebraic types where recursive use of a type constructor can also lead to non-regular trees. The common approach to deal with such types is again to make them nominal.

In summary, we design and study in this paper νObj , a core calculus and type system for objects and classes with type members. Type members can be aliases, abstract types, or new types. Classes are first-class and can be composed using mixin-composition. Our type system supports via encodings:

- Most concepts of SML-style module systems, including sharing constraints and higher-order functors, but excluding applicative functors.
- System $F_{\leq:}$ [CMMS94], with the full subtyping rule.
- Virtual types and family polymorphism [Ern01].

Because all these constructs are mapped to the same small language core, it becomes possible to express unified concepts. In particular, our theory promotes the following identifications.

Object	=	Module	
Object type	=	Signature	
Class	=	Method =	Functor

The same identifications are made in BETA and GBETA, where classes and methods are subsumed under the notion

of "patterns". Our own language SCALA follows the same approach, except that it maintains a distinction between methods and classes on the syntactical level.

The main technical results of the paper are

- Confluence of the reduction relation.
- Undecidability of type checking by reduction to the problem in $F_{<:}$.
- Type soundness a well-typed program that does not diverge reduces to an answer of the same type.

Other related work Nominal type systems have also been formalized in the Java context, examples are [FKF98, IPW99, DE97, NvO98]. A difference between these approaches and ours is that they rely on a global class graph that describes membership and inheritance. Another difference is that these systems are almost completely nominal, in the sense that most types can be described by a name (exceptions are only array types and generic types in FGJ [IPW99]). By contrast, classes can be local in νObj and nominal types are just one construction in an otherwise structural type system.

There are two other attempts at formalizations of virtual or abstract types in object-oriented programming that we are aware of. The first, by Torgersen [Tor98], sketches a nominal type system for virtual types. It argues informally that if certain restrictions are imposed on the usage of virtual types (which in fact makes them equivalent to abstract types in our terminology), type soundness can be ensured. Igarashi and Pierce [IP99] proposed a foundation of virtual types using a type system that adds dependent types to an $F_{\leq:}$ core. However, no formal study of the type system's properties was attempted, and in fact their initial formalization lacked the subject reduction property (that formalization was dropped in the journal version of their paper [IP02]).

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents context-free syntax, operational semantics, and type assignment rules of our object calculus, νObj . Section 3 illustrates in a series of examples how the calculus expresses common object-oriented idioms. Section 4 presents the type structure of νObj types, including derivation rules for well-formedness, equality and subtyping. Section 5 presents an encoding of $F_{<:}$ in νObj . Section 6 presents the meta-theory of νObj with results on confluence, soundness and undecidability. Section 7 concludes. Complete typing rules are given in Appendix A.

2 The νObj Calculus

We now present a core language for objects and classes. Compared to the standard theory of objects [AC96], there are three major differences. First, we have classes besides objects as a primitive concept. Classes are even "first-class" in the sense they can result from evaluation of a term and they may be associated with a label. Second, the calculus has a notion of object identity in that every object is referenced by a name and it is that name instead of the object record which is passed around. Third, we can express object types with type components, and some of these components can be nominal.

Syntax Name x, y, zTerm label L, M, NType label l, m, nS, T, U ::=s, t, u ::=Term Type Variable Singleton p.typext.lSelection $T \bullet L$ Type selection New object $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}$ $\nu x \leftarrow t ; u$ Record type (=:: R) $[x:S \mid \overline{d}]$ Class template $[x:S \mid \overline{D}]$ Class type $t \&_S u$ Composition T & UCompound type d ::=Definition D::= Declaration l = tTerm definition l:TTerm declaration $L \preceq T$ Type definition $L \preceq: T$ Type declaration ::= Path Type binder <u>≺</u>: ::= p $x \mid p.l$ Type alias = \prec New type ::=Value v<: Abstract type $x \mid [x:S \mid \overline{d}]$ Concrete type binder <u>≺</u> ::= = | ≺ Structural Equivalence α -renaming of bound variables x, plus $e\langle \nu x \leftarrow t ; u \rangle \equiv \nu x \leftarrow t ; e\langle u \rangle$ if $x \notin fn(e), bn(e) \cap fn(x,t) = \emptyset$ (extrude) Reduction $\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle x.l \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle v \rangle \quad \text{if } bn(e) \cap fn(x,v) = \emptyset$ (select) $[x:S_1 \mid \overline{d}_1] \&_S [x:S_2 \mid \overline{d}_2] \rightarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}_1 \uplus \overline{d}_2]$ (mix)where evaluation context $e \quad ::= \quad \langle \rangle \mid e.l \mid e \&_S t \mid t \&_S e \mid \nu x \leftarrow t ; e \mid \nu x \leftarrow e ; t \mid \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = e] ; t$ Type Assignment $\frac{x \colon T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ x \colon T}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash t:T, \quad T \ni (l:U)}{\Gamma \vdash t.l:U}$ (VAR) (Sel) (VARPATH) $\frac{\Gamma \vdash x : R}{\Gamma \vdash x : x.type}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: p.\mathbf{type}, t.l: R}{\Gamma \vdash t.l: p.l.\mathbf{type}}$ (SelPath) $\Gamma \vdash t : [x:S \mid \overline{D}], \quad S \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}\}$ $\begin{array}{c|c} \Gamma \ \vdash \ t:T, & T \leq U \\ \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ t:U \end{array}$ $\frac{\Gamma, x: S \vdash u: U \qquad x \notin \operatorname{fn}(U)}{\Gamma \vdash (\nu x \leftarrow t; u): U}$ (SUB) (NEW) $\Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf} \quad \Gamma, x: S \vdash \overline{D} \text{ wf}, t_i: T_i$ $\Gamma \vdash t_i : [x : S_i \mid \overline{D}_i]$ $\frac{t_i \ contractive \ in \ x}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ [x:S \mid \overline{D}, l_i = t_i^{\ i \in 1..n}] : [x:S \mid \overline{D}, l_i:T_i^{\ i \in 1..n}]}$ $\Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf}, S \leq S_i \qquad (i=1,2)$ (CLASS) (&) $\Gamma \vdash t_1 \&_S t_2 : [x:S \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2]$

Figure 1: The νObj Calculus

2.1 Context-Free Syntax

Figure 1 presents the νObj calculus in terms of its abstract syntax, and its structural equivalence and reduction relations, and its rules for type assignment. There are three alphabets. Proper term names x, y, z are subject to α -renaming, whereas term labels l, m, n and type labels L, M, N are fixed.

A term denotes an object or a class. It can be of the following five forms.

- A simple name x, which denotes an object.
- A *selection t.l*, which can denote either an object or a class.
- An object creation $\nu x \leftarrow t$; u, which defines a fresh instance x of class t. The scope of this object is the term u.
- A class template [x : S | d] where d is a sequence of definitions which associate term labels with values and type labels with types. This acts as a template to construct objects with the members defined by the definitions. The name x of type S stands for "self", i.e. the object being constructed from the template. Its scope is the definition sequence d. A term or type can refer via x.l to some other member of that object. No textual sequence constraint applies to such references; in particular it is possible that a binding refers to itself or to bindings defined later in the same record. This distinguishes our type system from earlier type systems for records [CM91] or modules [HL94].
- A mixin composition $t \&_S u$, which forms a combined class from the two classes to which t and u evaluate. Here, S is the type of "self" in the combined class.

A value is a simple name or a class template. A path p is a name x followed by a possibly empty sequence of selections, e.g. $x.l_1. \ldots .l_n$.

The syntax of *types* in our system closely follows the syntax of terms. A type can be of the following five forms.

- A singleton type p.type. This type represents the set of values which has as only element the object referenced by the path p. Singleton types are the only way a type can depend on a term in νObj .
- A type selection $T \bullet L$, which represents the type component labelled L of type T.
- A record type $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}$ where \overline{D} is a sequence of declarations which can be value bindings or type bindings. A value binding l : T associates a term label l with its type T. Type bindings come in three different forms:

First, the binding L = T defines L to be an *alias* for T. Second, the binding $L \prec T$ defines L to be a *new* type which expands to type T. That is, L is a subtype of T which has exactly the members defined by T; furthermore, one can create objects of type L from a class which defines all members of T. Third, the binding L <: T defines L to be an abstract type which is known to be a subtype of its bound T.

We let the meta-variable \leq range over = and \prec , and let \leq : range over =, \prec , and <:. The name x stands for "self"; its type is assumed to be the record type itself. We let the letter R range over record types.

- A compound type T & U. This type contains all members of types T and U. The subtyping relation for compound types is the same as the one for intersection types [BCDC83], but the formation rules are more restrictive. Where T and U have a member with the same label, the compound type contains the member defined in U. That member definition must be more specific (see Section 4) than the corresponding member definition in T.
- A class type $[x : S \mid \overline{D}]$, which contains as values classes that instantiate to objects of type $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}$, or some subtype of it. x is again the name for "self". It now comes with an explicit type S which may be different from $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}$. Definitions in S which are missing from \overline{D} play the role of abstract members. Such members can be referred to from other definitions in the class, but they are not defined in the class itself. Instead, these members must be defined in other classes which are composed with the class itself in a mixin composition. Definitions which are present in \overline{D} but missing in S play in some sense the role of non-virtual members they are not referred to via "self" from inside the class, so overriding them does not change existing behavior. Definitions present in both S and \overline{D} play the role of virtual members.

Discussion Most notably missing from the core language are functions, including polymorphic ones, and parameterized types. In fact, type variables are missing completely – the only α -renamable identifiers denote ν -bound terms. However, these omitted constructs can still be expressed in νObj using context-free encodings. This will be shown later in the paper. Section 3 explains how named monomorphic functions are encoded. Section 5 generalizes the encoding to system $F_{\leq i}$.

The type syntax defines a singleton type p.type and a selection $T \bullet L$ which operates on types T. More conventional would have been a type selection p.L which operates on terms p instead of types. The latter selection operation can be expressed in our syntax as $p.type \bullet L$. Besides having some technical advantages, this decomposition can express two concepts which the conventional type selection p.L cannot. First, the self-type of a class can be expressed as a singleton type this.type. This can accurately model covariant self-types. For contravariant self-types one would need a matching operation [BFP97, Bru02] instead of - or in addition to - the subtyping relation that we introduce. Second, an inner class of the kind it exists in JAVA [GJSB00, Iga00] can be referenced by a type selection Outer • Inner where Outer and Inner are types. Such a selection risks being nonsensical in the presence of abstract type members in the outer class Outer. Consequently, our typing rules prevent formation of the type $T \bullet L$ if L's definition depends on some abstract member of T. Note that this is not a problem for JAVA, which does not have abstract type declarations.

Syntactic Sugar

- 1. The type p.L is a shorthand for $p.type \bullet L$.
- 2. The class type $[x | \overline{D}]$ is a shorthand for $[x : \{x | \overline{D}\} | \overline{D}]$.
- 3. The class template $[x \mid \overline{d}]$ is a shorthand for $[x : \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \mid \overline{d}]$ where \overline{D} is the most specific set of declarations matching definitions \overline{d} .
- 4. The types $\{\overline{D}\}, [\overline{D}]$ and the term $[\overline{d}]$ are shorthands for $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}, [x \mid \overline{D}]$ and $[x \mid \overline{d}]$ where x does not appear in \overline{D} or \overline{d} .
- 5. new t is a shorthand for $\nu x \leftarrow t$; x.
- 6. $t_1 \& t_2$ is a shorthand for $t_1 \&_{S_1 \& (S_2 \& \{x \mid D_1 \oplus D_2\})} t_2$ if t_i has least type $[x : S_i \mid \overline{D}_i]$ for $i \in 1..2$.

The last shorthand implements an overriding behavior for mixin composition where a concrete definition always overrides an abstract definition of the same label. Furthermore, between two abstract definitions or between two concrete definitions of the same label it is always the second which overrides the first. This scheme, which corresponds closely with the rules in Zenger's component calculus [Zen02], is often more useful than the straight "second overrides first" rule of systems where mixins are seen as functions over classes [BG96, FKF98, BPS99].

2.2 Operational Semantics

Figure 1 specifies a structural equivalence and a small-step reduction relation for our calculus. Both relations are based on the notion of an *evaluation context*, which determines where in a term reduction may take place. The grammar for evaluation contexts given in Figure 1 does not yet yield a deterministic reduction relation, but still leaves a choice of a strict or lazy evaluation strategy, or some hybrid inbetween. Particular evaluation strategies are obtained by tightening the grammar for evaluation contexts.

Notation We write \overline{a} for a sequence of entities a_1, \ldots, a_n . We implicitly identify all permutations of such a sequence, and take the empty sequence ϵ as a unit for (,). The domain $dom(\overline{d}), dom(\overline{D})$ of a sequence of definitions \overline{d} or declarations \overline{D} is the set of labels it defines. The restriction $\overline{d}|_{\mathcal{L}}$, $\overline{D}|_{\mathcal{L}}$ of definitions \overline{d} or declarations \overline{D} to a set of labels \mathcal{L} consists of all those bindings in \overline{d} or \overline{D} that define labels in \mathcal{L} . The \uplus operator on definitions or declarations denotes concatenation with overwriting of common labels. That is, $\overline{a} \uplus \overline{b} = \overline{a}|_{dom(\overline{a})\setminus dom(\overline{b})}, \overline{b}$.

A name occurrence x is bound in a type T, a term t, a definition d, a declaration D, or an evaluation context e if there is an enclosing object creation $\nu x \leftarrow u$; t, a class template $[x : S \mid \overline{d}]$, a class type $[x : S \mid \overline{D}]$, or a record type $\{x \mid \overline{D}\}$ which has the occurrence in the scope of the name x. The free names fn(X) of one of the syntactic classes X enumerated above is the set of names which have unbound occurrences in X. The bound names bn(e) of an evaluation context e are all names x bound by a subterm of e such that the scope of x contains the hole $\langle \rangle$ of the context.

Structural Equivalence As usual we identify terms related by α -renaming. We also postulate a scope extrusion rule (extrude), which allows us to lift a ν -binding out of an evaluation context, provided that this does not cause capture of free variable names.

Formally, α -renaming equivalence \equiv_{α} is the smallest congruence on types and terms satisfying the four laws

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \nu x \leftarrow t \ ; u &\equiv \nu y \leftarrow t \ ; [y/x]u & \text{if } y \not\in \text{fn}(u) \\ [x:S \mid \overline{d}] &\equiv [y:S \mid [y/x]\overline{d}] & \text{if } y \not\in \text{fn}(\overline{d}) \\ [x:S \mid \overline{D}] &\equiv [y:S \mid [y/x]\overline{D}] & \text{if } y \not\in \text{fn}(\overline{D}) \\ \{x \mid \overline{D}\} &\equiv \{y \mid [y/x]\overline{D}\} & \text{if } y \not\in \text{fn}(\overline{D}) \end{array}$$

Structural equivalence \equiv is the smallest congruence containing \equiv_{α} and satisfying the (extrude) law in Figure 1.

Reduction The reduction relation \rightarrow is the smallest relation that contains the two rules given in Figure 1 and that is closed under structural equivalence and formation of evaluation contexts. That is, if $t \equiv t' \rightarrow u' \equiv u$, then also $e\langle t \rangle \rightarrow e\langle u \rangle$.

The first reduction rule, (*select*), connects a definition of an object with a selection on that object. The rule requires that the external object reference and the internal "self" have the same name x (this can always be arranged by α -renaming). The second rule, (mix), constructs a class from two operand classes by mixin composition, combining the definitions of both classes with the \forall operator. Multi-step reduction \rightarrow is the smallest transitive relation that includes \equiv and \rightarrow .

2.3 Type Assignment

Figure 1 also gives the rules for assigning types to terms. These are expressed as deduction rules for type judgements $\Gamma \vdash t : T$. Here, Γ is a type environment, i.e. a set of bindings x : T, where all bound names x are assumed to be pairwise different.

There are the usual tautology and subsumption rules. Rule (SEL) assigns to a selection t.l the type U provided t's type has a member l : U. Rules (VARPATH) and (SELPATH) assign singleton types p.type to terms which denote unique objects.

Rule (NEW) types a ν -expression $\nu x \leftarrow t$; u. The term t needs to have a class type $[x:S \mid \overline{D}]$ such that the self type S expands to a record type which contains exactly the declarations \overline{D} . This means that all declarations present in S must be defined in D, with the same type. In particular, classes with abstract members cannot be instantiated. The body u is then typed under an augmented environment which contains the binding x : T. The type of u is not allowed to refer to x.

Rule (CLASS) types class templates. All term definitions $l_i = t_i$ in the template are typed under a new environment which includes a binding x : S for the self-name of the class. However, it is required that all terms t_i are contractive in self. This means that they do not access self during the instantiation of an object of the class. Contractiveness is defined formally as follows.

Definition. The term t is *contractive* in the name x if one of the following holds.

- $-x \notin fn(t)$, or
- t is a class template $[y:S \mid \overline{d}]$, or
- t is a mixin composition $t_1 \&_S t_2$ and t_1, t_2 are contractive in x, or
- t is an object creation $\nu y \leftarrow t_1$; $t_2, x \notin fn(t_1)$ and t_2 is contractive in x.

The contractiveness requirement prevents accesses to fields of an object before these fields are defined. In conventional object-oriented languages this would correspond to the requirement that self can be accessed only from methods, not from initializers of object fields. More liberal schemes are possible [Bou01], but require additional technical overhead in the type assignment rules. One can also envisage to allow accesses to self without restrictions, preinitializing fields to some default value, or raising a run-time exception on access before definition. The first of these schemes is used in JAVA for definitions of instance fields, the second for definitions of static fields.

The last rule, (&) types compositions of class terms. The self type S of the composition is required to be a subtype of the self types of both components. The definitions of the composed class are then obtained by concatenating the definitions of the components.

These deduction rules are based on several other forms of judgements on types, specifically the well-formedness judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}$, the membership judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D$, the expansion judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'$, and the subtyping judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'$. Deduction rules for these judgements are motivated in Section 4 and given in full in Appendix A.

As usual, we assume that terms can be alpha-renamed in type assignments in order to prevent failed type derivations due to duplicate variables in environments. That is, if $\Gamma \vdash t: T$ and $t \equiv_{\alpha} t'$ then also $\Gamma \vdash t': T$.

The type assignment judgement is extended to a judgement relating definitions and declarations as follows.

Definition. A declaration D matches a definition d in an environment Γ written $\Gamma \vdash d : D$, if one of the following holds:

 $\Gamma \vdash (l = t) : (l : T) \text{ if } \Gamma \vdash t : T.$

 $\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq T) : D \text{ if } \Gamma \vdash (L \preceq T) \leq D \text{ (see Section 4.5 for a definition of } \leq \text{ on declarations).}$

2.4 Define-By-Value νObj

The reduction relation defined in Figure 1 allows for a range of reduction strategies. For instance, the fields of an object may be defined eagerly, at the time the object is created. Or the evaluation of all object fields may be delayed until some field of the object is selected. Or evaluation of each individual field might be delayed even further until the field itself is first selected. More determined evaluation schemes can be obtained by tighening the grammar of evaluation contexts in Figure 1. This section presents as an example νObj_V , a variant of νObj which implements the eager evaluation strategy found in most object-oriented languages. First, an auxiliary notion: A *field* is a fully evaluated definition. The syntax of fields f is:

$$f ::= l = v \mid L \preceq T$$

Now, define-by-value evaluation contexts e_V are produced by the following grammar.

$$\begin{array}{rrr} &::= & \langle \rangle \\ & \mid & e_V.l \\ & \mid & e_V \&_S t \\ & \mid & v \&_S e_V \\ & \mid & \nu x \leftarrow e_V ; t \\ & \mid & \nu x \leftarrow [y:S \mid \overline{d}, l = e_V] ; t \\ & \mid & \nu x \leftarrow [y:S \mid \overline{f}] ; e_V \end{array}$$

Then define-by-value reduction is obtained by replacing evaluation contexts e by e_V in the definition of reduction in Figure 1. As can be seen by the last alternative of e_V , an object created by a ν -term in this reduction always has its definitions fully evaluated before evaluation of the scope of the ν -binder is begun. Nothing is imposed on the order in which the definitions of an object are evaluated (note that (,) in the second-to-last alternative of e_V is commutative). It would of course be possible by further restriction of the grammar of evaluation to impose a fixed evaluation order such as left-to-right evaluation.

3 Examples

 e_V

Before presenting the remaining details of the theory, we demonstrate its usage by means of some examples. Since the νObj calculus is quite different from standard objectoriented notations, we first present each example in the more conventional object-oriented language SCALA [Ode02]. SCALA's object model is a generalization of the object model of JAVA. The extensions most important for the purposes of this paper are abstract types, type aliases, and mixin composition of classes. A subset of SCALA maps easily into νObj , and we will restrict the example code to that subset. Other constructs, such as higher-order functions, generics, or pattern matching can be defined by translation into the subset, and, ultimately, into the object calculus.

Modules, Classes and Objects We start with a class for representing points in a one dimensional space. Class *Point* is defined as a member of the module pt. In addition to the coordinate x, it defines a method eq for comparing two points.

```
module pt with {
   abstract class Point with {
     def x: Int;
     def eq(p: Point): Boolean = (x == p.x);
   }
}
```

In the subset of SCALA used here, classes do not have explicit constructor parameters. Instead, parameters are represented as abstract class members. For creating an object, one has to subclass *Point* and provide concrete implementations for the abstract members. In the following code we do this twice by using a mixin composition of class *Point* with an anonymous class that defines the missing coordinate x.

val $a = new pt.Point with \{ def x = 0; \};$ val $b = new pt.Point with \{ def x = 1; \};$ a.eq(b)

We now devise a translation of the previous SCALA code into our calculus. In addition to the syntax defined in Figure 1, we also make use of λ -abstractions and applications. Later in this section we will explain how to encode these constructs in νObj .

```
\begin{array}{l} \nu \ pt \leftarrow [pt \ | \\ Point \prec \ \{x: \ Int, \ eq: \ pt.Point \rightarrow Boolean \ \},\\ point = [this: \ pt.Point \ | \\ eq = \lambda \ (p: \ pt.Point) \ p.x == this.x \\ ] \\ ];\\ \nu \ a \leftarrow \ pt.point \ \&_{pt.Point} \ [x = 0];\\ \nu \ b \leftarrow \ pt.point \ \&_{pt.Point} \ [x = 1];\\ a.eq(b) \end{array}
```

Modules are encoded as singleton objects who's members are the contained classes. A class is represented by two entities: an object type that is used to type instances of the class and a class value, which is used to construct objects. We use the name of the class as the name of the type and the same name, but starting with a lower-case letter, as the name of the class value. While the type includes the signatures of all class members, the class value only provides implementations for the non-abstract members. In general, abstract members are present in the self-type S of a class $[x : S \mid \overline{d}]$, but are missing from the class definitions \overline{d} . Non-abstract members are present in both S and \overline{d} .

Functions For encoding λ -abstractions and applications we use a technique similar to the one for passing parameters during class instantiations. A λ -abstraction $\lambda(x : T) t$ is represented as a class with an abstract member arg for the function argument and a concrete member fun which refers to the expression for computing the function's result:

 $[x: \{arg: T\} \mid fun = [res = t']]$

where t' corresponds to term t in which all occurrences of x get replaced by x.arg. As explained in Section 2, we cannot access arg directly on the right-hand-side of fun. Therefore fun packs the body of the function into another class. The instantiation of this class will then trigger the execution of the function body. For instance, function λ (p: pt.Point) p.x == this.x could be encoded as a class [$p: \{arg: pt.Point\} | fun = [res = p.arg.x == this.x]$] of type [$p: \{arg: pt.Point\} | fun: [res: Boolean]$] that contains an abstract member arg and a concrete member fun.

In νObj , an application g(e) gets decomposed into three subsequent steps:

```
\begin{array}{l} \nu \: g_{app} \leftarrow g \: \& \: [\arg = e]; \\ \nu \: g_{eval} \leftarrow g_{app}. fun; \\ g_{eval}. res \end{array}
```

First we instantiate function g with a concrete argument yielding a thunk g_{app} . Then we evaluate this thunk by creating an instance g_{eval} of it. Finally we extract the result by querying field res of g_{eval} . For instance, the call to function eq from the previous code could be encoded as $\nu g_{app} \leftarrow a.eq \& [arg = b]; \nu g_{eval} \leftarrow g_{app}.fun; g_{eval}.res.$ Abstract Types Suppose we would now like to extend the Point class for defining a new class ColorPoint that includes color information. Since extended classes define subtypes in SCALA, we cannot override method eq contravariantly such that the parameter of eq now has type Color-Point. But exactly this would allow us to compare Color-Points only with ColorPoints. Instead, we have to refactor our code and abstract over the parameter type explicitly in anticipation of future extensions. The following code fragment defines an abstract type This in class Point with bound Point which gets covariantly refined in subclasses like ColorPoint.

We now make use of the two classes and define a *Point* and two *ColorPoint* instances.

```
val c = new pt.Point with
  {type This = pt.Point; def x=0; };
val d = new cpt.ColorPoint with
  {type This = cpt.ColorPoint; def x=1; def col="blue"; };
val e = new cpt.ColorPoint with
  {type This = cpt.ColorPoint; def x=2; def col="green"; };
```

The type system has to ensure that we are able to compare only compatible objects; i.e. we have to be able to execute d.eq(e) and e.eq(d) as well as c.eq(d) and c.eq(e), whereas terms like d.eq(c) are ill-typed and therefore rejected by the typechecker.

An encoding of the previous two classes in our object calculus is given by the following term.

```
\nu \, pt \leftarrow [pt \mid
    Point \prec {this |
        This <: pt.Point,
        x: Int,
        eq: this. This \rightarrow Boolean
     }.
    point = [this: pt.Point ]
        eq = \lambda (p: this. This) p.x == this.x
];
\nu \, cpt \leftarrow [cpt \mid
    ColorPoint \prec pt.Point & {
        This <: cpt.ColorPoint, col: String
    colorPoint = [this: cpt.ColorPoint]
        eq = \lambda (p: this. This) p.x == this.x &&
                                    p.col == this.col
   ]
];
\nu c \leftarrow \text{pt.point } \& [\text{This} = \text{pt.Point}, x = 0];
\nu d \leftarrow cpt.colorPoint \& [ This = cpt.ColorPoint, x = 1,
                                col = "blue"];
```

c.eq(d)

This example does not only explain how to use abstract types, it also shows that our calculus is expressive enough to model virtual types in a type-safe way.

Generic Types We now present a more evolved example that shows how to use νObj to encode generic classes. The following code defines a module *lst* which contains an implementation for generic lists consisting of three classes *List*, *Nil*, and *Cons*.

```
module lst with {
   abstract class List with {
     type T extends scala.Object;
     def isEmpty: Boolean;
     def head: T;
     def tail: List with {type T = outer.T; };
   }
   abstract class Nil extends List with {
     def isEmpty = True;
     def head: T = error;
     def tail: List with {type T = outer.T; } = error;
     def tail: List with {type T = outer.T; } = error;
   }
   abstract class Cons extends List with {
     def isEmpty = False;
   }
}
```

Since classes are neither parameterized by values nor types, we model the element type of a list with an abstract type T in class *List*. Similarly, class parameters like the head and the tail of a cons-cell are represented by abstract functions. Note that the type of the *tail* value of a list object is a mixin composition of *List* with a record type which consists of the type binding {*type* T = outer.T}. This forces the element type of a list and its tail to be the same. ¹ In general, mixin composition with type bindings has an expressive power analogous to sharing constraints in SML module systems [Ler94].

Class *Nil* provides all the abstract functions of its superclass *List*. For the implementation of *head* and *tail* we make use of a predefined value *error* that produces errors at run-time when accessed. *error* is of any type. Even though our formal treatment does not include such a bottom type, adding one would be straightforward.

Class *Cons* only defines function *isEmpty*. The other abstract functions constitute constructor parameters and have to be provided at instantiation time.

Here is an example how the list abstraction is applied. The following code fragment constructs two lists of integers [] and [1] and returns the *head* of the second list. Again, we use a mixin class composition to emulate parameter passing.

```
val x0 = new lst.Nil with { type T = Int; };
val x1 = new lst.Cons with {
  type T = Int; def head = 1; def tail = x0;
  };
x1.head
```

Here is the translation of the previous SCALA code into our object calculus.

```
\nu \, \text{lst} \leftarrow [\text{lst} \mid
     \begin{array}{ccc} \text{List} \prec & \{\text{this} \mid \\ T <: & \{ \}, \end{array}
         isEmpty: Boolean,
          head: this.T,
          tail: lst.List \& \{T = this.T\}
     \dot{Nil} \prec lst.List.
     Cons \prec lst.List,
     list = [this: lst.List |]
     nil = [this: lst.Nil]
         isEmpty = true, head = error, tail = error
     cons = [this: lst.Cons]
         isEmpty = false
];
\nu x0 \leftarrow \text{lst.nil } \& [T = \text{Int}];
\nu x1 \leftarrow \text{lst.cons \&} [T = \text{Int}, \text{head} = 1, \text{tail} = x0];
x1.head
```

We now augment class *List* of the previous example with a function *len* that computes the length of the list. In SCALA, this can be done without changing the source code of *List*, by using a class as a mixin:

```
module llst with {
   abstract class ListWithLen extends lst.List with {
    def tail: ListWithLen with { type T = outer.T; };
    def len(): Int =
        if (this.isEmpty) 0 else 1 + this.tail.len();
   }
}
```

Class ListWithLen extends class List. It adds a new len member and narrows the type of the existing tail member to ListWithLen. To build lists with len members, we add this class as a mixin. Here is an example usage:

```
val y0 = new lst.Nil with {
   type T = Int;
   def tail: ListWithLen with { type T = outer.T; } = error;
} with llst.ListWithLen;
val y1 = new lst.Cons with {
   type T = Int;
   def head = 1;
   def tail = y0;
} with llst.ListWithLen;
y1.len()
```

The translation of this program into νObj is given in the following code fragment. Please note that this time, we encode function *len* directly as a class, similar to the description given before. This time we can use a slightly simpler encoding since our function is not parameterized.

$$\begin{array}{l} \nu \ llst \leftarrow [llst \mid \\ ListWithLen \prec lst.List \& \ \{this \mid \\ tail: \ llst.ListWithLen \& \ \{T = this.T \ \}, \\ len: [res: Int] \\ \}, \\ listWithLen = [this: \ llst.ListWithLen \mid \\ len = [res = \ \mathbf{if} \ (this.isEmpty) \ 0 \\ else \ 1 + (\nu \ t \leftarrow this.tail.len; \ t.res)] \\] \\]; \\ \nu \ y0 \leftarrow lst.nil \ \& \ [T = Int] \\ \& \ llst.listWithLen; \\ \nu \ y1 \leftarrow lst.cons \& \ [T = Int, \ head = 1, \ tail = y0] \\ \& \ llst.listWithLen; \\ \nu \ llst.listWithLen; \\ \nu \ llst.listWithLen; \\ lres \end{array}$$

¹outer in SCALA denotes the same as this outside the current class or record; as used above it denotes the identity of the enclosing List object.

Note that type *ListWithLen* is represented as a composition of type *List* and a record type containing added and overridden members. This turns type *ListWithLen* into a subtype of type *List*.

4 Type Structure

The type structure of νObj is defined by deduction rules for the following kinds of judgements:

$\begin{array}{l} \Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ wf \\ \Gamma \ \vdash \ D \ wf \end{array}$	Type T is well-formed. Declaration D is well-formed.
$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ni D$	Type T contains declaration D .
$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T = U$	Types T and U are equal.
$\begin{array}{l} \Gamma \ \vdash \ T \prec U \\ \Gamma \ \vdash \ T <: U \end{array}$	Type T expands to type U . Type T is upper-bounded by type U .
$ \Gamma \vdash \frac{T}{D_1} \leq U \\ \Gamma \vdash \overline{D}_1 \leq \overline{D}_2 $	Type T is a subtype of type U . Declarations D_1 are more specific than declarations D_2 .

Compared to standard type systems there are three nonstandard forms of judgements: First, the membership judgment $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D$ factors out the essence of path-dependent types. Second, the expansion judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \prec U$ captures the essential relation between a new type and its unfolding. Third, the upper-binding judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \lt: U$ provides exact type information about which record type is a supertype of a given type. This information is needed for the correct treatment of type bindings in records. The essential typing rules for all these judgements are discussed in the following. A summary of all rules is also given in Appendix A.

Notation We sometimes write judgements with several predicates on the right of the turnstyle as an abbreviation for multiple judgements. E.g. " $\Gamma \vdash T$ wf, T' wf " is an abbreviation for the two judgements " $\Gamma \vdash T$ wf " and " $\Gamma \vdash T'$ wf ".

4.1 Membership

The membership judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D$ states that type T has a member definition D. The judgement is derived by the following two rules, which capture the principles of path-dependent types.

$$(\text{SINGLE-}\ni) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} <: \{x \mid D', D\}}{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} \ni [p/x]D}$$
$$(\text{OTHER-}\ni) \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : T \vdash x.\mathbf{type} \ni D}{\Gamma \vdash T \ni D} \quad x \notin \text{fn}(\Gamma, D)$$

Rule (SINGLE- \ni) defines membership for singleton types. In this case, the self-reference x in the definition is replaced by the path p. Rule (OTHER- \ni) defines membership for arbitrary types in terms of (SINGLE- \ni). To determine a member D of a type T which is not a singleton, invent a fresh variable x of type T and determine the corresponding member of type x.type. The resulting member is not allowed to depend on x. Note that, if T is a singleton type, rule (OTHER- \ni) either fails or yields the same judgements as rule (SINGLE- \ni). **Example 4.1** Consider the type $T \prec (x:T \mid L <: \{\}, l_1: x.L, l_2: Int)$. Further consider a path p and some other term t which is not a path, both of type T. Then p contains the definitions $L <: \{\}, l_1: p.L$, and $l_2: Int$. On the other hand, t contains only the definitions $L <: \{\}$ and $l_2: Int$ since rule (OTHER- \ni) does not derive a binding for l_1 . Indeed, substituting t for the self reference x in the binding for l_1 would yield the type t.L which would not be well-formed.

4.2 Equality

The type equality judgement $\Gamma \vdash T = T'$ states that the two types T and T' are the same or aliases of each other. Type equality is the smallest congruence which is closed under the following two derivation rules.

(ALIAS-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L = U), \ T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = U}$$

(SINGLE-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: q. \mathbf{type}}{\Gamma \vdash p. \mathbf{type} = q. \mathbf{type}}$$

Rule (ALIAS-=) is standard; it states that type $T \bullet L$ is equal to U, provided T has an alias member definition L = U. Rule (SINGLE-=) expresses the following property: if a path p has a singleton type q.type, we know that p and q are aliases, hence the singleton types p.type and q.type should be equal. Without the rule, one would only have that p.typeis a subtype of q.type.

4.3 Expansion

The type expansion judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'$ states that type T expands (or: unfolds) into type T'. Expansion is the smallest transitive relation which contains type equality and is closed under the following three derivation rules.

$$(\text{TSEL-}\prec) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L \prec U)}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \prec U}$$

$$(\& \neg \prec) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T', \ U \prec U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \& U \prec T' \& U'}$$

$$(\text{MIXIN-}\prec) \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2\} \vdash \overline{D}_2 \le \overline{D}_1|_{dom(\overline{D}_2)}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}_1\} \& \{x \mid \overline{D}_2\} \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2\}}$$

Rule (TSEL- \prec) expresses expansion of type selections in the usual way. Rule (MIXIN- \prec) states that the combination of two record types R_1 and R_2 expands to a record type containing the concatenation of the definitions in R_1 and R_2 . If some label is defined in both R_1 and R_2 , the definition in R_2 overrides the definition in R_1 . In this case we must have that the definition in R_2 is more specific than the definition in R_1 .

4.4 Upper Bounds

The upper bound judgement $\Gamma \vdash T <: T'$ states that T' is an expansion of T or a (tight) upper bound of it. The primary use of this relation is in determining for a type T the

least record type which is a supertype of T. This information is needed for deriving the membership judgement by rule (SINGLE- \in).

Upper-binding is the smallest transitive relation which contains expansion and which is closed under the following three derivation rules.

(TSEL-<:)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L <: U)}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L <: U}$$

(VAR-<:)
$$\frac{x : T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x. type <: T}$$

$$(\text{Sel-}{<:}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} \ni (l:U)}{\Gamma \vdash p.l.\mathbf{type} <: U}$$

The first rule (TSEL-<:) defines upper bounds of abstract types in the usual way. The other two rules take as the upper bound of a singleton type p.type the type which p has in the current environment. Note that we could not have replaced these two rules by a simpler rule which states that $\Gamma \vdash p.type <: T$, provided $\Gamma \vdash p: T$. The reason is that the subsumption for type assignments would allow one to forget information about a path's type. Hence, one could not guarantee with the simpler rule that upper bounds are tight.

4.5 Subtyping

The subtyping judgement $\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'$ states that T is a subtype of T'. Subtyping is the smallest transitive relation that contains upper-binding (<:) and that is closed under the following four rules.

$$(\&-\leq) \qquad \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash T_1 \& T_2 \leq T_1 \\ \Gamma \vdash T_1 \& T_2 \leq T_2 \end{array}$$

$$(\leq -\&) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T_1, \ T \leq T_2}{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T_1 \& T_2}$$

$$(\text{Rec-}\leq) \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \vdash \overline{D} \leq \overline{D''}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \leq \{x \mid \overline{D''}\}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} (\text{CLASS-}\leq) & \frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ R \ \text{wf}, \ S \ \& \ R \leq S', \ S' \leq S}{\Gamma, x \colon S' \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \leq \overline{D'}} \\ & \frac{\Gamma, x \colon S' \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \leq \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ [x \colon S \ \mid \overline{D}] \leq [x \colon S' \ \mid \overline{D'}]} \end{array}$$

Rules $(\&-\le)$ and $(\le-\&)$ state that & behaves like type intersection in subtyping: That is, the type $T_1 \& T_2$ is a subtype of both T_1 and T_2 and to show that a type U is a subtype of $T_1 \& T_2$ one needs to show that U is a subtype of both T_1 and T_2 .

The remaining two rules (REC- \leq) and (CLASS- \leq) determine subtyping for record and class types. For record types, subtyping is covariant in the declarations \overline{D} , and declarations in the subtype may be dropped in the supertype. For class types, subtyping is contravariant in the self-type S and covariant in the declarations \overline{D} . However, but both premises are restricted for type checking reasons.

First, unlike for record types, a class type always declares

the same labels as its supertypes, so declared labels may not be forgotten. This ensures that the type of labels in a composition is fully determined. For instance, in $[l = 1] \&_{\{\}} [l = "abc'']$ the label l is always known to be bound to a string, not an integer. If labels could be forgotten, the second operand of the composition could be widened via subsumption to the empty class, which would assign l the integer in an alterantive typing derivation of the composite class term.

Second, contravariance of self types is limited so that the smaller self type S' must result from the larger self type S composed with some record type. On the other hand, it is not allowed to take as S' some nominal subtype of S. This restriction is necessary to ensure that there is always a least type that can be assigned to instances created from a class in a ν -expression.

The (\leq) relation is also defined between declarations. $D \leq D'$ means that declaration D is more specific than declaration D'. This predicate is expressed by the following two derivation rules.

(BIND-
$$\leq$$
)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) \leq (l:T')}$$

(TBIND- \leq)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq : T) \leq (L <: T')}$$

Subtyping on value declarations is defined as usual. For type labels one has that an arbitrary type declaration $L \leq : T$ is more specific than an abstract type declaration L <: T, provided $T \leq T'$. Hence, abstract types can be overridden with other abstract or concrete types as long as the overriding type conforms to the abstract type's bound. Aliases and new types, on the other hand, cannot be overridden.

4.6 Well-formedness

The well-formedness judgement is of the form $\Gamma \vdash T$ wf. Roughly, a type is well-formed if it refers only to names and labels which are defined and if it does not contain any illegal cyclic dependencies. These requirements are formalized in the four rules given below. The remaining rules propagate these requirements over all forms of types; they are given in full in Appendix A.

---f

$$(\text{SINGLE-WF}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash p : R}{\Gamma \vdash p. \text{type } wf}$$
$$\Gamma \vdash T wf \quad T \supseteq (L = U) \quad U$$

$$(\text{TSEL-WF}_1) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{1} \ \vdash \ \mathbf{1} \ \text{wl}, \ \mathbf{1} \ \mathbf{5} \ (L=0), \ \mathbf{0} \ \text{wl}}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ \mathbf{T} \bullet L \ \text{wf}}$$

$$(\text{TSEL-WF}_2) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}, \ T \ni (L \prec U), \ U \prec R}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \text{ wf}}$$

$$(\text{TSEL-WF}_3) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L <: U), \quad U <: R}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \text{ wf}}$$

Rule (SINGLE-WF) states that p.type is well-formed if p is a path referring to some object. The next three rules cover well-formedness of a type selection $T \bullet L$. They distinguish between the form of definition of L in T.

If L is defined to be an alias of some type U, $T \bullet L$ is wellformed only if U is well-formed. This requirement excludes recursive types, where a type label is defined to be an alias of some type containing itself. Such a recursive type would not have a finite proof tree for well-formedness. On the other hand, if L is defined to be a new type which expands to some type U, one requires only that U in turn expands to some record type. This requirement excludes cyclic definitions such as $\{x \mid L \prec x.L \& R\}$. But recursive references to the label from inside a record or class are allowed; e.g. $\{x \mid L \prec$ $\{next: x.L\}$. Finally, if L is defined to be an abstract type bounded by U, one requires that U in turn is bounded by a record type. This requirement excludes situations where a type is bounded directly or indirectly by itself, such as in $\{x \mid L_1 <: x.L_2, L_2 <: x.L_1\}$. But it admits F-bounded polymorphism, where the abstract type appears inside its bound, as in $\{x \mid L \leq \{next : x.L\}\}$.

5 Relationship with $F_{<:}$

System $F_{<:}$ can be encoded in νObj by the translation $\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle$, which is defined on types, terms, and environments. The translation of $F_{<:}$ types into νObj types is defined as follows.

The translation of $F_{<:}$ terms into νObj terms is defined as follows.

Finally, here is the translation of $F_{<:}$ environments into νObj environments.

In the translation, we use letters x and X for names, words consisting of lower-case letters for value labels, and words consisting of upper-case letters for type labels. Specifically, arg labels a value parameter, Arg labels a type parameter, res labels a function result, and val labels a class value.

Given this translation, here is how $F_{\leq:}$'s polymorphic identity function $\Lambda X <: \top . \lambda x : X.x$ is expressed in our calculus.

$$\begin{array}{ll} new \; [val = [X: \; \{Arg <: \; \{ \; \} \; \} \; | \\ fun = [res = \\ new \; [val = [x: \; \{arg: X.Arg \; \} \; | \; fun = [res = x.arg]]] \\]]] \end{array}$$

To give some sense to our encoding we can easily show the following properties.

Lemma 1 For any environment Γ , types T and U, term t in $F_{\leq:}$:

1.
$$\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} T <: U \text{ implies } \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle.$$

2. $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} t: T \text{ implies } \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle t \rangle\!\rangle : \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle.$

Lemma 2 $\vdash_{F_{\leq i}} t : T \text{ and } t \to u \text{ implies } \langle\!\langle t \rangle\!\rangle \to^+ e_G \langle\!\langle \langle u \rangle\!\rangle \rangle$, where e_G is a "garbage context" of the form $\nu x_1 \leftarrow u_1 ; \ldots ; \nu x_n \leftarrow u_n ; \langle \rangle$ such that no name x_i is free in $\langle\!\langle u \rangle\!\rangle$.

The introduction of the garbage context e_G in the previous lemma is necessary because translation of λ -abstraction and λ -application involves the creation of objects, which are persistent, contrary to the λ s that disappear during the lambda reduction rule.

Lemma 3 $\langle\!\langle t \rangle\!\rangle \to implies t \to$.

The reduction relation \rightarrow that we use for $F_{\leq:}$ in 3 is the call-by-value small-step semantics, i.e. we never reduce under the λ s and an argument has to be reduced to a value before being passed to a function. Together with the previous lemma, this lemma has as corollary that if a well-typed term reduces to an irreducible term then its translation reduces to the translation of this term, which is also irreducible.

6 Meta-Theory

In this chapter, we establish three results for νObj . First, that the reduction relation is confluent. Second, that the typing rules are sound with respect to the operational semantics. Third, that the subtyping relation (and with it type checking) is undecidable.

6.1 Confluence

Theorem 6.1 The \rightarrow relation is confluent: If $t \rightarrow t_1$ and $t \rightarrow t_2$ then there exists a term t' such that $t_1 \rightarrow t'$ and $t_2 \rightarrow t'$.

Proof Sketch: It is sufficient to show that the relation \rightarrow satisfies the diamond property.

The reduction relation of νObj could be compared to the call-by-value λ -calculus without reduction under the λ s because only values can be substituted by the rule (select) and there is no reduction inside class templates.

It is straightforward to show that this variant of operational semantics for the λ -calculus satisfies the diamond property. The only difficulty with our calculus, compared to the λ -calculus, is that we have a structural equivalence which goes beyond the usual alpha-renaming and that prevents us of reasoning by case on the shape of a term, precisely because two structurally equivalent terms can have different structures.

So the idea of the proof is not to take into account in a first time this annoying structural equivalence and prove that the simple reduction relation (without structural equivalence) satisfies the diamond property.

Then we define another reduction relation \rightarrow_{ν} intended to compute the canonical form of a term w.r.t. to the structural equivalence, and we show that:

- 1. $\equiv = (\rightarrow_{\nu} \cup \leftarrow_{\nu})^*$
- 2. \rightarrow_{ν} is confluent (strong normalization + local confluence).
- 3. if $t \to u$ and $t \to_{\nu} t'$ then there exists u' s.t. $t' \to u'$ and $u \to_{\nu} u'$.

We can now finish the proof as shown in the following diagram.



The full proof of confluence can be found in Appendix B. \Box

6.2 Type Soundness

We establish soundness of the νObj type system using the syntactic technique of Wright and Felleisen [WF94]. We first show a subject reduction result which states that typings are preserved under reduction. We then characterize a notion of evaluation result called an *answer* and show that every well-typed, non-direverging term reduces to an answer that has the same type as the original term.

First, some auxiliary definitions and lemmata.

6.2.1 Environments

Before stating first results, let us extend the notion of wellformedness to environments. Well-formedness of environments will be a necessary invariant in the induction proofs of the following sections. **Definition.** Well-formedness of environments, $\vdash \Gamma$ wf is defined inductively in the following way:

• the empty environment is well-formed, i.e., $\vdash \epsilon wf$;

• adding a well-formed type assignment preserves well-formedness, i.e., $\vdash \Gamma \text{ wf} \land \Gamma, x : T \vdash T \text{ wf} \land x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma) \Rightarrow \vdash (\Gamma, x : T) \text{ wf.}$

Provided the typing environment is well-formed, the wellformedness of a type given to a term is guaranteed by the typing derivation. This will allow us later on to assume well-formedness tacitly.

Proof: By rule induction on equality, expansion, tight and loose subtyping, and type assignment. In the case of (SINGLE-=), well-formedness of q.type and derivability of $\Gamma \vdash p: q.type$ imply that there exists a record R such that $\Gamma \vdash p: R$. Hence, with (SINGLE-WF), we can infer $\Gamma \vdash p.type$ wf. \Box

In most of the proofs it is necessary to add type assignments to or remove them from the environment Γ . When removing type assignments, one only has to take care that Γ remains *consistent*, that is, that still all references are considered in the reduced environment.

Definition. Consistency of environments, $C(\Gamma)$ is defined inductively as follows:

• the empty environment is consistent, i.e., $C(\epsilon)$;

• adding a type assignments that does not introduce new names, preserves consistency, i.e., $\mathcal{C}(\Gamma) \land \operatorname{fn}(T) \subseteq \{x\} \cup \operatorname{dom}(\Gamma) \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\Gamma, x : T).$

An environment Σ is consistent wrt. a set S, written $C_S(\Sigma)$ if $C(\Sigma)$ and $S \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma)$.

In the sequel, let Stm refer to all kinds of statements on the righthand side of a typing judgement, such as T wf, or T = T', or t: T.

Lemma 5 (Weakening of environments) If $\Gamma \vdash Stm$, then $\Gamma, \Sigma \vdash Stm$.

Proof: By a straightforward rule induction. \Box

Lemma 6 (Strengthening of environments) If $\Gamma \vdash Stm$ for $\vdash \Gamma$ wf, and $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$ such that $C_{fn(T)}(\Sigma)$, then $\Sigma \vdash Stm$.

Proof: In fact, we prove the following two results together: Let $\vdash \Gamma$ wf. If $\Gamma \vdash Stm$ and $\Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$ such that $\mathcal{C}_{\mathrm{fn}(T)}(\Sigma)$, then $\vdash \Sigma$ wf and $\Sigma \vdash Stm$. By rule induction, using the following additional result about free names of statements, for $\vdash \Gamma$ wf (also by rule induction):

if $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D$ then $\forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$. $\mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(T)}(\Sigma) \Rightarrow \operatorname{fn}(D) \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma);$ if $\Gamma \vdash T = T'$ then $\forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma$. $\mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(T)}(\Sigma) \Leftrightarrow \operatorname{fn}(T') \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma);$
$$\begin{split} & \text{if } \Gamma \vdash T \prec T' \text{ then } \forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma. \ \mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(T)}(\Sigma) \ \Rightarrow \ \operatorname{fn}(T') \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma); \\ & \text{if } \Gamma \vdash T <: T' \text{ then } \forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma. \ \mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(T)}(\Sigma) \Rightarrow \operatorname{fn}(T') \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma); \\ & \text{if } \Gamma \vdash T \subseteq T' \text{ then } \forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma. \ \mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(T)}(\Sigma) \ \Rightarrow \ \operatorname{fn}(T') \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma); \\ & \text{if } \Gamma \vdash t : T \text{ then } \forall \Sigma \subseteq \Gamma. \ \mathcal{C}_{\operatorname{fn}(t)}(\Sigma) \ \Rightarrow \ \operatorname{fn}(T) \subseteq \operatorname{dom}(\Sigma). \ \Box \end{split}$$

6.2.2 Weakening

One main result on which type soundness is built is that typing judgements can be weakened in the sense that the environment Γ specifies bounds that are more exact than, that is subtypes of, the original type assignments. In this section, we derive the underlying result for the *weakening* lemma presented below (see lemma 9).

Definition. *Subsumption* of environments:

• the empty environment subsumes itself, i.e., $\vdash \epsilon \leq \epsilon$; • one can add definitions of subtypes, i.e., if $\Gamma \leq \Gamma'$ and $\Gamma, \Gamma \vdash T \leq T'$, then $\vdash (\Gamma, x : T) \leq (\Gamma', x : T')$.

Note that we do not need to add further type assignments to the subsumed environment, as this can be dealt with by applying strengthening of the environment (see lemma 6).

Lemma 7 Let
$$\vdash \Gamma$$
 wf, Γ' wf, $\Gamma' \leq \Gamma$. Then,
 $\Gamma \vdash T$ wf, D wf implies $\Gamma' \vdash T$ wf, D wf;
 $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D$ implies $\Gamma \vdash T \ni D'$, $D' \leq D$;
 $\Gamma \vdash T = T'$ implies $\Gamma' \vdash T' = T$;
 $\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'$ implies $\Gamma' \vdash T \prec T''$, $T'' \leq T'$;
 $\Gamma \vdash T <: T'$ implies $\Gamma' \vdash T <: T''$, $T'' \leq T'$;
 $\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'$, $D \leq D'$ implies $\Gamma' \vdash T \leq T'$, $D \leq D'$;
 $\Gamma \vdash t: T$ implies $\Gamma' \vdash t: T$.

Proof: By rule induction. Note that in the case of (ALIAS=), subsumbtion implies equality, because the supertype in (TBIND- \leq) has to be an abstract bound. \Box

Definition. An context c generates an environment Γ' in some environment Γ , written $\Gamma \vdash c : \Gamma'$, if there is a term t and a type T such that a typing of $c\langle t \rangle$ in Γ can be derived using a subderivation $\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash t : T$.

Lemma 8 (Replacement) For any type environments Γ , Γ' , context c with $\Gamma \vdash c : \Gamma'$, terms t and t':

If $\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash t : T$ implies $\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash t' : T$ for all types T, then also $\Gamma \vdash c\langle t \rangle : U$ implies $\Gamma \vdash c\langle t' \rangle : U$, for all types U.

Proof: By induction over the structure of c and the depth of the derivation. The latter is necessary, because not all of the rules are structural (note in particular (SELPATH)). \Box

Lemma 9 (Weakening) If $\Gamma, x : T', \Gamma' \vdash T' \leq T$, and $\Gamma, x : T, \Gamma' \vdash u : U$ then also $\Gamma, x : T', \Gamma' \vdash u : U$.

Proof: By rule induction. Indeed, similar statements hold for equality, expansion, and subtyping, and are applied in the type derivations. See lemma 7 above for the concrete proof. Note that the result has to be read modulo the usual well-formedness assumptions. \Box

6.2.3 Subject reduction

Note that we tacitly assume well-formedness of the environment Γ . This is not a serious restriction, since usually typing judgements are derived for closed terms and types, starting with the empty environment ϵ , which is a priori well-formed.

Lemma 10 If $\Gamma \vdash t : T$ and $t \equiv t'$ then $\Gamma \vdash t' : T$.

Proof: If $t \equiv_{\alpha} t'$, then the lemma holds by definition. If $t \equiv t'$ by an application of rule (extrude), the assumption follows by an induction on the context e and the depth of the derivation. The latter is used in particular in the case of selection, where the non-structural rule (SELPATH) might have been applied. Further, environments are suitably augmented. See lemmas 5 and 6 on weakening and strengthening of environments. Note that the lemma implicitely assumes Γ to be well-formed, which entails consistency of the environment. The proposition is lifted to the whole \equiv relation by the replacement lemma and an induction on the number of applications of basic (extrude) steps. \Box

Theorem 6.2 [Subject Reduction] Let Γ be an environment. Let t, t' be terms such that $bn(t,t') \cap dom(\Gamma) = \emptyset$ and let T be a type. If $\Gamma \vdash t : T$ and $t \to t'$, then $\Gamma \vdash t' : T$.

Proof: We first show the theorem for the two reduction rules, (select) and (mix). In the case of (select), assume that we have a term

$$t_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle x.l \rangle$$

such that $\Gamma \vdash t_0 : T$. We need to show that the right hand side of the reduction,

$$t_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l=v]; e\langle v \rangle$$

has the same type in Γ . The derivation of t_0 contains a subderivation $\Gamma' \vdash x.l : U$, for some environment Γ' , type U. We need to show that $\Gamma' \vdash v : U$. The proposition then follows from the replacement lemma. To show $\Gamma' \vdash v : U$, we distinguish two cases.

First, if $U \neq x.l.type$, then we must have $x : S' \in \Gamma'$, $\Gamma' \vdash S' \leq S'', S'' \ni (l : U)$, for some types S' and S''. Because of the weakening lemma, we can assume w.l.o.g. that S' is minimal wrt \leq . By (NEW) this means that $S' \prec \{x \mid \overline{d}, l : T_v\}$ where T_v is the least type of v. Hence, by (SINGLE- \ni), $\Gamma' \vdash T_v \leq U$. Therefore, using subsumption, we also have $\Gamma' \vdash v : U$.

Second, assume that $U = x.l.\mathbf{type}$. Then the type derivation of x.l starts with rule (SELPATH). By the hypothesis of (SELPATH), we must have $\Gamma' \vdash x.l : R$, for some record type R. This means that there is an $x : S' \in \Gamma'$ such that $\Gamma' \vdash S' \leq S'', S'' \ni l : R$, for some types S' and S''. Again because of weakining, we can assume w.l.o.g. that $S' \prec \{x \mid \overline{d}, l : T_v\}$ where T_v is the least type of v and that $\Gamma' \vdash T_v \leq R$. It follows that v is not a class value, since class values always have class types, and a class type is never a subtype of a record type. Hence, v must be a name, say v = y. The least type of y is then $y.\mathbf{type}$. By rule (SEL), $\Gamma' \vdash x.l : y.\mathbf{type}$. Using rule (SINGLE-=), we get

 $\Gamma \vdash x.l.type = y.type$. Using subsumption, we conclude that $\Gamma' \vdash y : x.l.type$. This shows the proposition for all (select) reductions.

To show type preservation for (mix) reductions, suppose we have a term

$$t_0 \stackrel{\text{der}}{=} [x \colon S_1 \mid \overline{d}_1] \&_S [x \colon S_2 \mid \overline{d}_2]$$

1 0

of type T in some environment Γ . We need to show that the right hand side of the reduction,

$$t_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [x \colon S \mid \overline{d}_1 \uplus \overline{d}_2]$$

also has type T in Γ . Assume first that the typing of t_0 ends in an application of rule (&). The derivation must contain two subderivations for typing $[x:S_i \mid \overline{d}_i]$ for $(i \in 1, 2)$. The only applicable rules on these terms are (CLASS) and (SUB). Hence, t_i is assigned some type $[x:S'_i \mid \overline{D}_i]$ where $S'_i \leq S_i$ and $\Gamma \vdash \overline{d}_i : \overline{D}_i$. Furthermore, by the precondidition of rule (&), $\Gamma \vdash S \leq S'_i$ for $i \in 1, 2$. It follows by (&) that $T = [x:S \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus D_2]$. The right-hand side t_1 also has type T under Γ , using a derivation that ends in an application of (CLASS) and a possible subsumption step.

On the other hand, if the typing of t_0 does not end in an application of (&), it must end in a subsumption step. In this case, we use the theorem for the hypotheses the subsumption rule and apply the same subsumption step in the derivation of t_1 . Hence, the theorem is established for rule (mix).

The theorem is lifted to the whole reduction relation using the replacement lemma to account for closure with an evaluation context, and using Lemma 10 to account for structural equivalence. \Box This establishes subject reduction as the first pillar of type soundness. For the second pillar, we still need to show that well-typed non-diverging terms reduce to answers. These notions are defined as follows.

Definition. A term t diverges, written $t \Uparrow$ if there exists an infinite reduction sequence $t \to t_1 \to \ldots \to t_n \to \ldots$ starting in t.

Definition. An *answer* is a value, possibly nested in ν binders from classes all of whose definitions are fully evaluated. Thus, the syntax of answers *a* is:

$$a \quad ::= \quad v \mid \nu x \leftarrow [x : S \mid \overline{f}] ; a ,$$

where fields f are as defined in Section 2.4.

6.2.4 Type soundness

Theorem 6.3 [Type Soundness] If $\epsilon \vdash t : T$ then either $t \uparrow$ or $t \twoheadrightarrow a$, for some answer a such that $\epsilon \vdash a : T$.

Proof: Assume that t is a well-typed term with $\epsilon \vdash t : T$ which is not an answer. W.l.o.g. assume that all ν -bindings are maximally propagated outwards in t using rule (extrude). We show that t is reducible.

Since t is not an answer, it must be of one of the following three forms.

$$\begin{array}{ll} t &\equiv& e_p \langle u \rangle \ , \mbox{ or } \\ t &\equiv& e_p \langle \nu y \leftarrow u \ ; \ u' \rangle \ , \mbox{ or } \\ t &\equiv& e_p \langle \nu y \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l=u] \ ; \ u' \rangle \ , \end{array}$$

where u is neither a value nor a $\nu\text{-expression}$ and e_p is a context of the form

$$\nu x_1 \leftarrow [y_1:S_1 \mid \overline{f}_1]; \ldots; \nu x_n \leftarrow [y_n:S_n \mid \overline{f}_n]; \langle \rangle$$

Let Γ_p be arbitrary such that $\epsilon \vdash e_p : \Gamma_p$. We make a case distinction according to the three forms of t.

If $t \equiv e_p \langle u \rangle$, we show by structural induction on u that t is reducible. There are the following three sub-cases.

Case $u \equiv x.l$. Well-typedness of t implies that there must be a binding for x in Γ_p , say $x \leftarrow [x : S \mid \overline{f}]$. Furthermore, by (NEW), t.l is well-typed only if \overline{f} contains a definition l = v. So, t is reducible by rule (select).

Case $u \equiv p.l.m$. By the induction hypothesis, $e_p \langle p.l \rangle$ is reducible. Therefore, since $\langle \rangle .m$ is an evaluation context, $e_p \langle p.l.m \rangle$ is also reducible.

Case $u \equiv u_1 \&_S u_2$. If u_1 is not a value, then, by the induction hypothesis, $e_p \langle u_1 \rangle$ is reducible. Therefore, since $\langle \rangle \&_S u_2$ is an evaluation context, $e_p \langle u_1 \&_S u_2 \rangle$ is also reducible. The case where u_2 is not a value is treated analogusly. Finally, if u_1 and u_2 are both values, well-typedness demands that they are class templates. That is, each u_i is of the form $[x:S_i \mid \overline{d}_i]$. Therefore $e_p \langle u_1 \&_S u_2 \rangle$ is reducible by rule rule (mix).

This proves the case $t \equiv e_p \langle u \rangle$. The other two forms of t are handled analogously, observing that in each case u appears in the hole of some evaluation context. \Box

6.3 Undecidability of Type Checking

Theorem 6.4 There exists no algorithm that can decide if a judgement $\Gamma \vdash t: T$ is derivable or not.

Proof Sketch: First we notice that the undecidability of subtyping implies the undecidability of typing, because for any environment Γ and types T and U, it is not difficult to find a term which is well-typed if and only if $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ is derivable. One such term is $[L \prec \{M \leq : U\} \& \{M = T\}]$. So we can limit ourselves to show the undecidability of subtyping.

The idea is to define a translation $\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle$ from $F_{<:}$ types and environments to νObj types and environments and to prove that $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{<:}} T <: U$ iff $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle Q \rangle\!\rangle$. As subtyping in $F_{<:}$ has been shown undecidable by Pierce [Pie94], this will prove that subtyping is undecidable for a part of the possible judgements (namely those that are the translation of a $F_{<:}$ judgement), hence a fortiori for all subtyping judgements in νObj .

The translation we use is a simplification of the one introduced in section 5 because we do not have to translate terms and because we are no more interested in simulating the reduction relation here, so we can avoid an indirection in the translation of function types.

1) $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} T <: U \implies \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \le \langle\!\langle Q \rangle\!\rangle$ is shown by a simple induction on the derivation of $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} T <: U$ and by case on the last rule that was used.

2) To show the other direction

$$\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \le \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash_{F_{<:}} T <: U$$

, we define a partial "inverse" function $\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ from νObj types and environments to $F_{<:}$ types and environments and we show that the following properties hold:

1.
$$\forall T, \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \in dom(\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}) \text{ and } \langle\!\langle \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle\rangle\!\rangle^{-1} = T$$

2. $\forall \Gamma, \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \in dom(\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}) \text{ and } \langle\!\langle \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle\rangle\!\rangle^{-1} = \Gamma$
3. $\forall \Gamma, T, U \in dom(\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}),$
 $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U \Rightarrow \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash_{F < :} \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle Q \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$

To show the last property we would like to do a simple induction on the derivation of $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle$ and reason by case on the last rule that was used, as previously. But the rules of transitivity in subtyping and of subsumption in typing are annoying because they introduce in the proof types about which we know nothing.

To avoid this problem we define a new type system that we have to prove equivalent to the old one and in which these rules have been removed. Among the remaining rules we have to modify those that implicitly used the erased rules in their premisses to get an appropriate supertype. The full undecidability proof can be found in Appendix C. \Box

7 Conclusion

This paper develops a calculus for reasoning about classes and objects with type members. We define a confluent notion of reduction, as well as a sound type system based on dependent types.

There are at least three areas where future work seems worthwhile. First, there is the problem of undecidability of νObj . We need to develop decidable subsystems, or describe type reconstruction algorithms that are incomplete but can be shown to work reasonably well in practice. Second, we would like to explore extensions of the calculus, such as with imperative side effects or with richer notions of information hiding. Third, we would like to study in more detail the relationships between νObj and existing objectoriented languages and language proposals. We hope that the work presented here can be used as a foundation for these research directions.

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A Summary of Typing Rules

$\Gamma \vdash T wf \Gamma$	$\vdash D wf$		
(Single-wf)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: R}{\Gamma \vdash p. \mathbf{type } wf}$	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ wf, T \ni (L = U), U \ wf}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \bullet L \ wf}$	$(Tsel-wF_1)$
$(TSEL-WF_2)$	$\label{eq:generalized_states} \frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ \text{wf}, \ \ T \ni (L \prec U), \ \ U \prec R}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \bullet L \ \text{wf}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ \text{wf,} T \ni (L <: U), U <: R}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \bullet L \ \text{wf}}$	(TSEL-WF3)
(&-wf)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T' \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \& T' \text{ wf}}$	$\frac{ \Gamma, x: \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \vdash \overline{D} \text{ wf} }{ \Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \text{ wf} }$	(Rec-wf)
(CLASS-WF)	$\begin{tabular}{cccc} \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ S \ wf & \Gamma, x: S \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \ wf \\ \hline \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ [x: S \ \mid \ \overline{D}] \ wf \end{tabular}$		
(Bind-wf)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) \text{ wf}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash (L = T) \text{ wf}}$	(Tbind-wf_1)
(Tbind-wf_2)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T \prec R}{\Gamma \vdash (L \prec T) \text{ wf}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T <: R}{\Gamma \vdash (L <: T) \text{ wf}}$	(TBIND-WF3)
$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ni D$			
$(SINGLE-\ni)$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} <: \{x \mid \overline{D'}, D\}}{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} \ni [p/x]D}$	$\frac{\Gamma, x: T \vdash x. \mathbf{type} \ni D \qquad x \notin fn(\Gamma, D)}{\Gamma \vdash T \ni D}$	$(OTHER-\ni)$
$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T = T'$			
(Refl-=)	$\frac{T \equiv T'}{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T', \ T' = T''}{\Gamma \vdash T = T''}$	(Trans-=)
(Symm-=)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T' = T}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L = U), \ T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = U}$	(Alias-=)
(TSEL-=)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = T' \bullet L}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T', U = U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \And U = T' \And U'}$	(&-=)
(Rec-=)	$\frac{\Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \vdash \overline{D} = \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}\} = \{x \mid \overline{D'}\}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ S = S' \qquad \Gamma, x : S \ \vdash \ \overline{D} = \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ [x : S \ \mid \overline{D}] = [x : S' \ \mid \overline{D'}]}$	(Class-=)
(SINGLE-=)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: q.\mathbf{type}}{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} = q.\mathbf{type}}$		
(Bind-=)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) = (l:T')}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq : T) = (L \preceq : T')}$	(TBIND-=)
$(\text{Refl} \prec T')$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T', \ T' \prec T''}{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T''}$	$(\text{Trans-}\prec)$
$(Tsel-\prec)$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L \prec U)}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \prec U}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \& U \prec T' \& U'}$	(&-≺)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T', \ U \prec U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \& U \prec T' \& U'} \tag{\&-\prec}$$

$$(\text{MIXIN-}\prec) \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2\} \vdash \overline{D}_2 \leq \overline{D}_1|_{dom(\overline{D}_2)}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}_1\} \& \{x \mid \overline{D}_2\} \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2\}}$$

$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T <: T'$			
(Refl-<:)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'}{\Gamma \vdash T <: T'}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T <: T', \ T' <: T''}{\Gamma \vdash T <: T''}$	(Trans-<:)
(VAR-<:)	$\frac{x:T\in\Gamma}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ x.\mathbf{type} <: T}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} \ni (l:U)}{\Gamma \vdash p.l.\mathbf{type} <: U}$	(Sel-<:)
(TSEL-<:)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L <: U)}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L <: U}$		
$\label{eq:gamma-field} \Gamma \ \vdash \ T \leq T'$	$\Gamma \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \leq \overline{D'}$		
$(\text{Refl-}\leq)$	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T <: T'}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \leq T'}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T', \ T' \leq T''}{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T''}$	$(\text{Trans-}\leq)$
(&-≤)	$\begin{array}{rcl} \Gamma \ \vdash \ T_1 \ \& \ T_2 \leq T_1 \\ \Gamma \ \vdash \ T_1 \ \& \ T_2 \leq T_2 \end{array}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T_1, \ T \leq T_2}{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T_1 \& T_2}$	(≤-&)
$(\text{Rec-}\leq)$	$\frac{\Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \vdash \overline{D} \leq \overline{D''}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \leq \{x \mid \overline{D''}\}}$	$ \begin{array}{c c} \Gamma \ \vdash \ R \ \text{wf}, & S \ \& \ R \leq S', & S' \leq S \\ \hline \Gamma, x : S' \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \leq \overline{D'} \\ \hline \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ [x : S \ \mid \overline{D}] \leq [x : S' \ \mid \overline{D'}] \\ \end{array} $	$(CLASS-\leq)$
$(Bind-\leq)$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) \leq (l:T')}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq : T) \leq (L <: T')}$	$(\text{Tbind-}\leq)$
$\ \ \Gamma \ \vdash \ t:T$			
(VAR)	$\frac{x:T\in\Gamma}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ x:T}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: T, \ T \ni (l:U)}{\Gamma \vdash t.l:U}$	(Sel)
(VARPATH)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x:R}{\Gamma \vdash x:x.\mathbf{type}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: p.\mathbf{type}, t.l: R}{\Gamma \vdash t.l: p.l.\mathbf{type}}$	(SelPath)
(SUB)	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ t:T, \ T \leq U}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ t:U}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : [x:S \mid \overline{D}], S \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}\}}{\Gamma, x:S \vdash u : U \qquad x \not\in fn(U)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash (\nu x \leftarrow t ; u) : U}{\Gamma \vdash (\nu x \leftarrow t ; u) : U}$	(NEW)
(CLASS)	$ \begin{array}{c c} \Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf} & \Gamma, x : S \vdash \overline{D} \text{ wf}, \ t_i : T_i \\ \hline t_i \ contractive \ in \ x & (i \in 1n) \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \ [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i = t_i^{\ i \in 1n}] : [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i : T_i^{\ i \in 1n}] \end{array} $	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_i : [x:S_i \mid \overline{D}_i]}{\Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf, } S \leq S_i \qquad (i = 1, 2)} \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf, } S \leq S_i \qquad (i = 1, 2)}{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \&_S t_2 : [x:S \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2]}$	(&)

B Confluence Proof

B.1 Notations

Definition. If \rightarrow is a binary relation, we write

- $\rightarrow^{=}$ for its reflexive closure,
- \rightarrow^+ for its transitive closure, and
- \rightarrow^* for its reflexive transitive closure.

Definition. We say that a binary relation \rightarrow satisfies the *diamond property* iff $t \rightarrow t_1$ and $t \rightarrow t_2$ implies there exists a term t' such that $t_1 \rightarrow t'$ and $t_2 \rightarrow t'$. In this case we write $\rightarrow \vdash \diamond$ or



B.2 Preliminary definitions

Definition. Evaluation context.

$$e ::= \langle \rangle \mid e.l \mid e \&_S t \mid t \&_S e \mid \nu x \leftarrow t; e \mid \nu x \leftarrow e; t \mid \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = e]; t \mid v \in [x$$

Definition. Reduction relation.

$$(\text{SELECT}) \qquad \frac{bn(e) \cap fn(x,v) = \emptyset}{\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle x.l \rangle \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle v \rangle}$$

(MIX)
$$\overline{[x:S_1 \mid \overline{d}_1] \&_S [x:S_2 \mid \overline{d}_2]} \xrightarrow{\epsilon} [x:S \mid \overline{d}_1 \uplus \overline{d}_2]$$

$$(\text{CONTEXT}) \qquad \frac{t \stackrel{\leftarrow}{\to} u}{e\langle t \rangle \rightarrow e\langle u \rangle}$$

Definition. General context.

$$C ::= \langle \rangle \mid C.l \mid C \&_S t \mid t \&_S C \mid \nu x \leftarrow t; C \mid \nu x \leftarrow C; t \mid [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = C]$$

Definition. Structural equivalence.

The relation \equiv is the smallest equivalence relation (reflexive, symmetric, transitive) that satisfies the two following rules.

(EXTRUDE) $\frac{x \notin fn(e), bn(e) \cap fn(x, t) = \emptyset}{e \langle \nu x \leftarrow t ; u \rangle \equiv \nu x \leftarrow t ; e \langle u \rangle}$

 $(\text{CONTEXT}) \qquad \frac{t \ \equiv \ u}{C[t] \ \equiv \ C[u]}$

Definition. Multi-step reduction.

 \twoheadrightarrow is $(\rightarrow \cup \equiv)^+$ (or equivalently $(\rightarrow \cup \equiv)^*$ because \equiv is already reflexive).

B.3 Main goal

We want to prove the following theorem:

Theorem B.1 \rightarrow \vdash \diamond .

B.4 General idea of the proof

We define the following relation.

Definition. One step reduction.

$$(\text{ONE-STEP}) \qquad \frac{t \equiv t' \rightarrow u' \equiv u}{t \stackrel{\cdot}{\rightarrow} u}$$

We can easily remark that $\rightarrow^* \vdash \diamond$ implies $\rightarrow \rightarrow \vdash \diamond$. So we will show that \rightarrow^* satisfies the diamond property. One way of doing it is to show that



I.e. if we can go from s to t_1 and t_2 using one \rightarrow reduction step, then we can join t_1 and t_2 with at most one \rightarrow reduction step possibly with the help of a preliminary equivalence step. That is what we are going to prove.

The only complication in this proof is introduced by the notion of structural equivalence in νObj . This is taken into account by defining and working with canonical forms of terms.

The reduction relation of νObj could be compared to the call-by-value λ -calculus without reduction under the λ s because only values can be substituted by the rule (*SELECT*) and there is no reduction inside class templates as specified through the definition of evaluation contexts.

It is straightforward to show that this variant of operational semantics for the λ -calculus satisfies the diamond property. The only difficulty with our calculus, compared to the λ -calculus, is that we have a structural equivalence which goes beyond the usual alpharenaming and that prevents us of reasoning by case on the shape of a term, precisely because two structurally equivalent terms can have different structures.

So the idea of the proof is not to take into account in a first time this annoying structural equivalence and prove that the simple reduction relation (without structural equivalence) satisfies the diamond property.

Then we define another reduction relation $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ intended to compute the canonical form of a term w.r.t. to the structural equivalence, and we show the following properties.



4.



We can then finish the proof as shown in the following diagram.



In the diagram, step (1) is a direct consequence of properties (1) and (2), steps (2) and (3) are a direct consequence of property (3), and step (4) corresponds exactly to property (4).

In the next sections we will prove successively each of these main properties.

Property 1

Definition. The extrusion reduction relation $\xrightarrow{\nu}$

$$(E_{1}) \qquad \overline{(\nu x \leftarrow t; u).l} \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x \leftarrow t; u.l}$$

$$(E_{2}) \qquad \overline{(\nu x \leftarrow t; u).k_{S} s} \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x \leftarrow t; u.k_{S} s}$$

$$(E_{3}) \qquad \overline{sk_{S}(\nu x \leftarrow t; u)} \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x \leftarrow t; sk_{S} u}$$

$$(E_{4}) \qquad \overline{sk_{S}(\nu x \leftarrow t; u)} \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x \leftarrow t; \nu y \leftarrow s; u}$$

$$(E_{5}) \qquad \overline{sk_{S}(\nu x \leftarrow t; u)} \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x \leftarrow t; v y \leftarrow u; s}$$

$$(E_{6}) \qquad \overline{sk_{S}(u)} \xrightarrow{x \notin fn(\overline{d})} y \notin fn(t)}$$

$$(E_{-C_{1}}) \qquad \overline{t} \xrightarrow{\nu} t' t'.l} \qquad \overline{tk_{S} u} \xrightarrow{\nu} t' k_{S} u'} \qquad (E_{-C_{2}})$$

$$(E_{-C_{3}}) \qquad \overline{t} \xrightarrow{u} t' t' k_{S} u'} \qquad \overline{tk_{S} u'} \qquad (E_{-C_{4}})$$

$$(E_{-C_{5}}) \qquad \overline{tk_{S} u} \xrightarrow{\nu} t' t'.u$$

$$(E_{-C_{5}}) \qquad \overline{tk_{S} u} \xrightarrow{\nu} t' t'.u$$

$$(E_{-C_{5}}) \qquad \overline{tk_{S} u} \xrightarrow{\nu} t' t'.u$$

$$(E_{-C_{6}})$$

Lemma 11 $\equiv is \ (\xrightarrow{\nu} \cup \xleftarrow{\nu})^*$

Proof: Simple inductions. \Box

Property 2

We want to prove that $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ is confluent. We can easily prove that $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ is locally confluent by examining all the cases:

Lemma 12 Local confluence.



Proof: By structural induction over s and by case on the shape of s, then by case on the rules that can have been used. \Box

An idea to finish the proof would be to show that $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ is terminating (see Newmann's lemma). Unfortunately this is not the case, because the rule (E_4) is symmetric:

 $\nu x_1 \leftarrow t_1 ; \nu x_2 \leftarrow t_2 ; u \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x_2 \leftarrow t_2 ; \nu x_1 \leftarrow t_1 ; u \xrightarrow{\nu} \nu x_1 \leftarrow t_1 ; \nu x_2 \leftarrow t_2 ; u \xrightarrow{\nu} \dots$

So we split the relation $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ into a relation $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ that allows only to reduce a redex (E_4) and a relation $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ that allows to reduce any redex from (E_1) to (E_6) except for a redex (E_4) .

Definition. $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ and $\xrightarrow{\succ}$

- 1. $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ is obtained by keeping from the rules of $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ the rules (E_4) and the rules $(E C_1)$ to $(E C_6)$.
- 2. $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ is obtained by keeping all the rules of $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ except for the rule (E_4) .

It is trivial to show the following lemma.

Lemma 13 $\xrightarrow{\nu} = \xrightarrow{\sim} \cup \xrightarrow{\succ}$.

It is also clear that the relation $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ and consequently its reflexive transitive closure are symmetric.

Lemma 14 Symmetry of $t \xrightarrow{\sim} u$.

1. $t \xrightarrow{\sim} u$ implies $u \xrightarrow{\sim} t$. 2. $t \xrightarrow{\sim} u$ implies $u \xrightarrow{\sim} t$.

Proof:

- 1. By induction over the relation $t \xrightarrow{\sim} u$.
- 2. By induction over the number of $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ steps using 1.

Now we define an interpretation function I(.) from terms to integers.

Definition. Interpretation function I(.).

We want to use it for doing proof by induction over the interpretation of a term. We can prove the following properties. Lemma 15 Properties of I(.).

- 1. For all term t, I(t) > 2.
- 2. For all terms t and u, $t \xrightarrow{\sim} u$ implies I(t) = I(u).
- 3. For all terms t and u, $t \xrightarrow{\succ} u$ implies I(t) > I(u).

Proof:

- 1. By structural induction over t.
- 2. By induction over the relation $\xrightarrow{\sim}$.
- 3. By induction over the relation $\xrightarrow{\succ}$.

The following lemma will help us to show that w.l.g. we can consider that a reduction sequence which contains a $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ step always starts with a $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ step.

Lemma 16



Proof: By examining all the possible cases. \Box

Under some conditions, we can generalize this property by allowing an arbitrary number of $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ steps before the first $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ step and an arbitrary number of $\xrightarrow{\nu}$ steps after.

Just before we introduce a useful definition.

Definition. A term s is said confluent (with respect to $\xrightarrow{\nu}$) if for all terms t_1 and t_2 such that $s \xrightarrow{\nu}{*} t_1$ and $s \xrightarrow{\nu}{*} t_2$, there exists a term u such that $t_1 \xrightarrow{\nu}{*} u$ and $t_2 \xrightarrow{\nu}{*} u$.

Lemma 17 If each term s' s.t. I(s') < I(s) is confluent, then



Proof: By induction over the number of $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ steps before the first $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ step. If there is no $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ step, we conclude immediately. Otherwise we use in that order (1) the induction hypothesis, (2) the lemma 16 and (3) the pre-condition of the lemma as shown in the following diagram.



Note that I(s') < I(s) which makes s' a confluent term according to the pre-condition. \Box

Lemma 18 Confluence of $\xrightarrow{\nu}$.



Proof: By induction over I(s). The induction hypothesis is that every term s' that satisfies I(s') < I(s) is confluent.

Case 1: One of the reduction sequences $s \xrightarrow[*]{}{*} t_1$ and $s \xrightarrow[*]{}{*} t_2$ is composed only of $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ steps (maybe none).

Then, by using the symmetry of $\xrightarrow{\sim}$ (lemma 14) it is easy to conclude.

Case 2: There is in $s \xrightarrow[*]{} t_1$ and in $s \xrightarrow[*]{} t_2$ at least one $\xrightarrow{\succ}$ step.

We use then in that order (1) twice the lemma 17, (2) once the lemma 12 and (3) twice the induction hypothesis (as in the Newmann's lemma) as shown in the following diagram.



Property 3

Lemma 19



Proof: By structural induction over t and by case on the shape of t. \Box

Property 4

Lemma 20 We give an equivalent definition for \rightarrow :

$$(\text{SELECT}) \qquad \frac{bn(e) \cap fn(x,v) = \emptyset}{\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle x.l \rangle \ \rightarrow \ \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e\langle v \rangle}$$

(MIX)
$$\overline{[x:S_1 \mid \overline{d}_1] \&_S [x:S_2 \mid \overline{d}_2]} \to [x:S \mid \overline{d}_1 \uplus \overline{d}_2]$$

$$(C_5) \qquad \frac{t \to t'}{\nu x \leftarrow t ; u \to \nu x \leftarrow t' ; u} \qquad \frac{t \to t'}{\nu x \leftarrow [x : S \mid \overline{d}, l = t] ; u \to \nu x \leftarrow [x : S \mid \overline{d}, l = t'] ; u} \qquad (C_6)$$

Proof: We call $\xrightarrow{1}$ the initial formulation of the reduction relation and $\xrightarrow{2}$ the second one.

1) To prove that $t \xrightarrow{1} u$ implies $t \xrightarrow{2} u$, we show that $t \xrightarrow{\epsilon} u$ implies $e\langle t \rangle \xrightarrow{2} e\langle u \rangle$ by simple induction over the evaluation context e.

2) To prove that $t \xrightarrow{2} u$ implies $t \xrightarrow{1} u$, we use a simple induction over the derivation of $t \xrightarrow{2} u$. \Box

Lemma 21 For all terms s, t_1 and t_2 , if $t \to t_1$ and $t \to t_2$ then there exists a term u such that $t_1 \xrightarrow{=} u$ and $t_2 \xrightarrow{=} u$. Which can be summarized in the following diagram.



Proof:

We will use mainly the second formulation of \rightarrow . We do the proof by structural induction over s and by case on the shape of s. Each time we reason by inspecting the reduction rules looking for a matching rule.

Case s = x or $[x:S \mid \overline{d}]$. There is no matching reduction rule, these terms are thus irreducible.

Case s = s'.l. $t \to t_1$ and $t \to t_2$ can only be instances of rule (C_1) . So there are t'_1 and t'_2 such that $t_1 = t'_1.l$, $t_2 = t'_2.l$, $s' \to t'_1$ and $s' \to t'_2$. By induction hypothesis on s' there exists a term u' such that $t'_1 \xrightarrow{=} u'$ and $t'_2 \xrightarrow{=} u'$. We can then take u = u'.l and conclude. Case $s = s_1 \&_S s_2$. We have three matching rules at our disposal: $(MIX), (C_2)$ and (C_3) .

Below we write $(R_1) + (R_2)$ to speak of the case when one of the reduction rules is R_1 and the other R_2 . We write *disjoint redexes* to express that the reductions that take place occur in separate parts of the term which make it easy to reduce them in one step to a same term.

- (MIX) + (MIX): Only one possible reduction.
- $(MIX) + ((C_2) \text{ or } (C_3))$: Impossible because if rule (MIX) is applicable then s_1 and s_2 are class templates, so they are irreducible (because there is no rule allowing to reduce a class template) and it follows that (C_2) or (C_3) are not applicable.
- $(C_2) + (C_3)$: Disjoint redexes.
- $(C_2) + (C_2)$ or $(C_3) + (C_3)$: We conclude using the induction hypothesis as in the case of x.l.

Case $s = \nu x \leftarrow s'$; s'': The only possible rules are (SELECT), (C₄), (C₅) and (C₆).

- $(C_4) + (C_4)$: With induction hypothesis.
- $(C_5) + (C_5)$: With induction hypothesis.
- $(C_6) + (C_6)$: With induction hypothesis or disjoint redexes depending on if we deal with a same label or different labels.
- $(C_4) + (C_5)$: Disjoint redexes.
- $(C_4) + (C_6)$: Disjoint redexes.
- $(C_5) + (C_6)$: Impossible case. Because if rule (C_6) is applicable it means that s' is a class template, so it can be reduced in the premise of rule (C_5) .
- (SELECT) + (SELECT): We have to distinguish several cases but none causes problem.

- Either the reduction is the same.
- Either $s = \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v]$; $E\langle x.l \rangle \langle x.l \rangle$ where E is an evaluation context with two holes. We can join t_1 and t_2 in one step in a similar way as if we were dealing with disjoint redexes.
- Either $s = \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v, m = w]$; $E\langle x.l \rangle \langle x.m \rangle$. We proceed the same way.
- $(SELECT) + (C_5)$: Impossible case. For the same reason as for $(C_5) + (C_6)$.
- $(SELECT) + (C_6)$: The reduced term in the premise of (C_6) can not be the value replacing x.l in the rule (SELECT) (because values are irreducible). So we have $s = \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = t, m = v]$; e(x.m) with $t \to t'$, and we can easily join t_1 and t_2 .
- $(SELECT) + (C_4)$: It is the only interesting case.

$$\begin{array}{c} \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; \; e \langle x.l \rangle \\ & \underbrace{bn(e) \cap fn(x,v) = \emptyset} \\ \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; \; e \langle v \rangle \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; \; t \end{array}$$

 $e\langle x.l\rangle \rightarrow t$ means there is a (SELECT) redex or a (MIX) redex reduction inside $e\langle x.l\rangle$. We write it $r \xrightarrow{\epsilon} r'$. We can then consider two cases:

1. Either x.l and this redex are disjoint and there is then no problem to join the resulted terms:

$$\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; E\langle x.l \rangle \langle r \rangle$$

$$\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; E\langle v \rangle \langle r \rangle$$

$$\nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; E\langle x.l \rangle \langle r' \rangle$$

(we write $E\langle t \rangle \langle u \rangle$ to express an evaluation context with two holes filled with terms t and u)

2. either x.l comes inside the reduced redex.

First remark that then it can not be a (MIX) redex because x.l would not be in a evaluation position as is required when we write $e\langle x.l \rangle$.

So the redex which is reduced and which contains x.l is a (SELECT) redex. We write it $\nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w]$; $e_1 \langle y.m \rangle$. So there exists a context e' such that $s'' = e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w]$; $e_1 \langle y.m \rangle \rangle$.

Once again we have to consider two cases: either x.l is inside \overline{d}_1 (it can not be inside w which is a variable x or a class template $[x:S \mid \overline{d}]$ in which x.l could not be in an evaluation position), either it is inside $e_1\langle y.m \rangle$.

If it is inside \overline{d}_1 then $\overline{d}_1 = \overline{d}_2$, $n = e_2 \langle x.l \rangle$ and we can join t_1 and t_2 :

$$\begin{array}{rcl} s & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid d, l = v] \; ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid d_2, n = e_2 \langle x.l \rangle, m = w] \; ; e_1 \langle y.m \rangle \rangle \\ s_1 & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_2, n = e_2 \langle v \rangle, m = w] \; ; e_1 \langle y.m \rangle \rangle \\ s_2 & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_2, n = e_2 \langle x.l \rangle, m = w] \; ; e_1 \langle w \rangle \rangle \\ u & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] \; ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_2, n = e_2 \langle v \rangle, m = w] \; ; e_1 \langle w \rangle \rangle \end{array}$$

If it is inside $e_1(y.m)$, we know that x.l is not y.m because $x \notin bn(e)$ by hypothesis and $y \in bn(e)$, so $x \neq y$. It follows that there exists an evaluation context with two holes E such that $e_1(y.m) = E\langle x.l \rangle \langle y.m \rangle$. And we can once again join t_1 and t_2 :

$$\begin{array}{rcl} s & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w] ; E\langle x.l \rangle \langle y.m \rangle \rangle \\ t_1 & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w] ; E\langle v \rangle \langle y.m \rangle \rangle \\ t_2 & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w] ; E\langle x.l \rangle \langle w \rangle \rangle \\ u & = & \nu x \leftarrow [x:S \mid \overline{d}, l = v] ; e' \langle \nu y \leftarrow [y:T \mid \overline{d}_1, m = w] ; E\langle v \rangle \langle w \rangle \rangle \end{array}$$

C Undecidability Proof

C.1 Main goal

Theorem C.1 There exists no algorithm that can decide if a judgement $\Gamma \vdash t: T$ is derivable or not.

C.2 Outline of the proof

First we notice that the undecidability of subtyping implies the undecidability of typing, because for any environment Γ and types T and U, we can find a term which is well-typed under Γ if and only if $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ is derivable. One such term is $[this: \{\} \mid L \prec \{M \leq U\} \& \{M = T\}]$. So we can limit ourselves to show the undecidability of subtyping.

The idea is to define a translation $\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle$ from $F_{<:}$ types and environments to νObj types and environments and to prove that $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{<:}} T <: U$ iff $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle Q \rangle\!\rangle$. As subtyping in $F_{<:}$ has been shown undecidable by Pierce [Pie94], this will prove that subtyping is undecidable for a part of the possible judgements (namely those that are the translation of a $F_{<:}$ judgement), hence a fortiori for all subtyping judgements in νObj .

Here is this translation of $F_{<:}$ types into νObj types.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \langle \langle \top \rangle \rangle & = & \{ \} \\ \langle \langle X \rangle \rangle & = & X.Arg \\ \langle \langle T \rightarrow U \rangle \rangle & = & \{ val : [x : \{ arg : \langle \langle T \rangle \rangle \} \mid res : \langle \langle U \rangle \rangle] \} & (x \ fresh) \\ \langle \langle \forall X <: S.T \rangle \rangle & = & \{ val : [X : \{ Arg <: \langle S \rangle \rangle \} \mid res : \langle \langle T \rangle \rangle] \} \end{array}$$

And here is the translation of $F_{\leq :}$ environments into νObj environments.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \langle\!\langle\epsilon\rangle\!\rangle &=& \epsilon \\ \langle\!\langle\Gamma,X<:T\rangle\!\rangle &=& \langle\!\langle\Gamma\rangle\!\rangle, X:\{Arg<:\langle\!\langle T\rangle\!\rangle\} \end{array}$$

In the translation, we use letters x and X for names, words consisting of lower-case letters for value labels, and words consisting of upper-case letters for type labels. Specifically, **arg** labels a value parameter, **Arg** labels a type parameter, **res** labels a function result, and *val* labels a class value.

The translation we use is a simplification of the one introduced in the encoding of $F_{<:}$ because we do not have to translate terms and because we are no more interested in simulating the reduction relation here, so we can avoid an indirection in the translation of function types.

C.3 Reminder about $F_{<:}$ subtyping

We just relate in this section the presentation of B. Pierce in [Pie94].

Types

 $S,T,U \quad ::= \quad X \quad | \quad \top \quad | \quad T \to U \quad | \quad \forall X \leq T.U$

where X ranges over type variables.

Environments

 $\Gamma, \Sigma \quad ::= \quad \epsilon \ \mid \ \Gamma, X \leq T$

Subtyping rules

(F-REFL)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash S \leq T, \ T \leq U}{\Gamma \vdash S \leq U}$$
(F-TRANS)

(F-TOP)
$$\frac{X \leq T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash X \leq T}$$
(F-TVAR)

$$(F-ARROW) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T_2 \leq T_1, \quad U_1 \leq U_2}{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow U_1 \leq T_2 \rightarrow U_2} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T_2 \leq T_1 \quad \Gamma, X \leq T_2 \vdash U_1 \leq U_2}{\Gamma \vdash \forall X \leq T_1.U_1 \leq \forall X \leq T_2.U_2}$$
(F-ALL)

We implicitly assume in the subtyping inference rules that each occurrence of a type variable in the environment or the body of a rule must have been previously bound in the environment.

More formally we write FTV(T) the set of free type variables in a type T. We say a type T is closed with respect to an environment Γ if $FTV(T) \subset dom(\Gamma)$. An environment Γ is said closed if Γ is ϵ or Γ is $\Gamma_1, X \leq T$ with Γ_1 closed and T closed with respect to Γ_1 . A statement $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ is said to be closed if Γ is closed and both T and U are closed with respect to Γ . We assume that all statements under discussion are closed.

C.4 Proof of subgoals

Theorem C.2 $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} T <: U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle Q \rangle\!\rangle$.

Proof:

First we introduce some useful lemmas:

Lemma 22 Reflexivity of \leq in ν Obj is derivable.

Lemma 23 For any environment Γ and record type $R = \{x \mid \overline{D}\}, \Gamma \vdash R \leq \{\}$.

Proof: Using rule $(REC - \leq)$, it is sufficient to show that $\Gamma, \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \vdash \{\} \leq \{\}$ which is immediate with the reflexivity. \Box

Lemma 24 $X : \{Arg \leq T\} \in \Gamma \text{ implies } \Gamma \vdash X.Arg \leq T.$

Proof:

$$\begin{array}{lll} X: \{Arg <: T\} \in \Gamma & \text{ implies } & \Gamma \vdash X. \mathbf{type} <: \{Arg <: T\} & \text{ by rule } (VAR-<:) \\ & \text{ implies } & \Gamma \vdash X. \mathbf{type} \ni (Arg <: T) & \text{ by rule } (SINGLE-\ni) \\ & \text{ implies } & \Gamma \vdash X. \mathbf{type} \bullet Arg <: T & \text{ by rule } (TSEL-<:) \\ & \text{ implies } & \Gamma \vdash X. \mathbf{type} \bullet Arg \leq T & \text{ by rule } (REFL-\leq) \end{array}$$

Lemma 25 For any environment Γ and type T, if Γ is closed and if T is closed with respect to Γ then $\langle\!\langle\Gamma\rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T\rangle\!\rangle \leq R$.

Proof: By structural induction over the environment Γ , then by case on the shape of T.

Case T is \top , $T_1 \rightarrow t_2$ or $\forall X \lt: T_1.T_2$.

In each case $\langle \langle T \rangle \rangle$ is already a record type. We conclude with the reflexivity of νObj subtyping.

Case T is a type variable X.

As T is closed with respect to Γ , there must exist a binding X <: S in Γ . So Γ has the form $\Gamma_1, X <: S, \Gamma_2$. We want to prove that $\langle \langle \Gamma_1 \rangle \rangle, X : \{Arg <: \langle \langle S \rangle \}, \langle \langle \Gamma_2 \rangle \rangle \vdash X. Arg \leq R.$

On one hand, as Γ is closed, S is also closed with respect to Γ_1 . With the induction hypothesis applied to Γ_1 we deduce that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma_1 \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle S \rangle\!\rangle \leq R$.

On the other hand, using the νObj typing rules we can prove that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma_1 \rangle\!\rangle$, $X : \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle S \rangle\!\rangle\}, \langle\!\langle \Gamma_2 \rangle\!\rangle \vdash X.Arg \leq \langle\!\langle S \rangle\!\rangle$.

We then conclude with the transitivity of \leq .

Now we proceed by a simple induction over the derivation of $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{\leq :}} T \leq U$ and by case on the last rule that was used.

Case

(F-REFL) $\overline{\Gamma \vdash T <: T}$

Reflexivity of \leq (lemma 22) implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle$.

Case

(F-TRANS)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash S <: T, \ T <: U}{\Gamma \vdash S <: U}$$

By induction hypothesis we get that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle S \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle$ and we conclude that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle S \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle$ using the transitivity of \leq (rule $TRANS-\leq$).

Case

(F-TOP)
$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash T <: \top}$$

It is implicitly assumed that this statement is closed, so T is closed with respect to Γ . Then using the lemma 25 we get that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq R$. We also get that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash R \leq \{\}$ using lemma 23. And we conclude that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \{\}$ by transitivity of \leq .

Case

(F-TVAR)
$$\frac{X <: T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash X <: T}$$

As $X <: T \in \Gamma$, we know that $X : \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle\} \in \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle$. And by lemma 24, we can conclude that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash X.Arg \leq \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle$ which is exactly what we had to prove.

Case

(F-ARROW)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T_2 <: T_1, \quad U_1 <: U_2}{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow U_1 <: T_2 \rightarrow U_2}$$

We have to prove that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash [x: \{arg: \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle\} \mid res: \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle] \leq [x: \{arg: \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle\} \mid res: \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle]$ where x is a fresh name.

We use rule $(CLASS - \leq)$, so we get two subgoals:

- 1. $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \{ \arg : \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle \} \leq \{ \arg : \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle \}, \text{ and }$
- 2. $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle, x : \{\arg : \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle\} \vdash \{\operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle\} \leq \{\operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle\}, \text{ or simply } \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \{\operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle\} \leq \{\operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle\}$ because x does not appear in $\langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle$ nor in $\langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle$.

These facts are direct consequences of the induction hypothesis $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle$ using the rules $(REC - \leq)$ and $(BIND - \leq)$.

Case

(F-ALL)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T_2 <: T_1 \quad \Gamma, X <: T_2 \vdash U_1 <: U_2}{\Gamma \vdash \forall X <: T_1.U_1 <: \forall X <: T_2.U_2}$$

We have to prove that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash [X : \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle\} \mid res : \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle] \leq [X : \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle\} \mid res : \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle].$

We use rule $(CLASS - \leq)$ and we get two subgoals:

- 1. $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle\} \leq \{Arg : \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle\}, and$
- 2. $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle, X : \{ \operatorname{Arg} <: \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle \} \vdash \{ \operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle \} \le \{ \operatorname{res} : \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle \}.$

These facts are direct consequences of the induction hypothesis $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle, X : \{Arg <: \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle\} \vdash \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle$ using the rules $(REC - \leq)$ and $(TBIND - \leq)$.

Theorem C.3 $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle$ implies $\Gamma \vdash_{F_{<1}} T <: U$.

Proof: We define a partial inverse function $\langle\!\langle \cdot \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ from νObj types and environments to $F_{<:}$ types and environments:

$$\begin{split} \langle\!\langle \{ \} \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} &= \top \\ \langle\!\langle X.Arg \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} &= X \\ \langle\!\langle \{val : [x : \{arg : T\} \mid res : U] \} \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} &= \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \to \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \\ \langle\!\langle \{val : [X : \{Arg <: T\} \mid res : U] \} \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} &= \forall X <: \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}. \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \\ \langle\!\langle \Gamma, X : \{Arg <: T\} \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} &= \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}, X <: \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \\ &= \epsilon \end{split}$$

And we just have to show that the following properties hold:

- 1. For all $F_{\leq:}$ types $T, \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle \in dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$ and $\langle\!\langle \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle\rangle\!\rangle^{-1} = T.$
- 2. For all $F_{\leq i}$ environments Γ , $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \in dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$ and $\langle\!\langle \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} = \Gamma$.
- 3. For all νObj environments Γ , types T and U in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash_{F_{\leq 1}} \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.

Properties 1 and 2 are shown by simple induction over the structure of types and environments, but the property 3 deserves its own lemma.

Lemma 26 $\Gamma, T, U \in dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$ and $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash_{F_{\leq 1}} \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.

Proof:

To show this property we would like to do a simple induction on the derivation of $\langle\!\langle\Gamma\rangle\!\rangle \vdash \langle\!\langle T\rangle\!\rangle \leq \langle\!\langle U\rangle\!\rangle$ and reason by case on the last rule that was used, as previously. But the rules of transitivity in subtyping are annoying because they introduce in the proof types about which we know nothing.

To avoid this problem we define a new type system that we have to prove equivalent to the old one and in which these rules have been removed. Among the remaining rules we have to modify those that implicitly used the erased rules in their premises to get an appropriate supertype.

This modified but equivalent type system is presented in section C.5.

Now before going on we introduce a small lemma.

Lemma 27 $T \equiv T'$ and T, T' in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$ implies $\langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} =_{\alpha} \langle\!\langle T' \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.

Proof: By induction on the relation \equiv with the small lemma $\langle\!\langle T[z/x] \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} = \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}[z/x]$. \Box

Now we will prove together the following statements.

Lemma 28 If $\Gamma, T, U \in dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$ then

- 1. $\Gamma \vdash T = U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.
- 2. $\Gamma \vdash T \prec U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.
- 3. $\Gamma \vdash T <: U \text{ implies } \langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}.$
- 4. $\Gamma \vdash T \leq U$ implies $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.

Proof: By mutual induction over the derivation of the statements of kind =, \prec , <: and \leq , then by case on the last rule that was used.

Case (REFL-=). With the lemma 27 and the reflexivity of F<: (F - REFL).
 Case (SYMM-=). Simply using the induction hypothesis on the premise of the rule.
 Case

(ALIAS-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L = U), \quad U = U', \quad T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = U'}$$

As $T \bullet L$ is in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, $T \bullet L$ can only be of the form X.type \bullet Arg. The inference step becomes

(ALIAS-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash X.\mathbf{type} \ni (Arg = U), \quad U = U', \quad T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash X.\mathbf{type} \bullet Arg = U'}$$

But as Γ is in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, the type associated to X in Γ can only be of the shape $\{Arg <: S\}$, so if $\Gamma \vdash X$.type $\ni D$ then D can only be of the shape (Arg <: U) not (Arg = U).

(TSEL-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = T' \bullet L}$$

As $T \bullet L$ and $T' \bullet L$ are in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, they can only be of the form $X.type \bullet Arg$ and $X.type \bullet Arg$. So the premise of the rule becomes $\Gamma \vdash X.type = Y.type$.

Now the rule that have this statement as goal is either (REFL-=) or (SINGLE-=). If it is (REFL-=), it means that X = Y and we can conclude using the reflexivity of $F_{\leq:}$. If it is (SINGLE-=) we can assume w.l.g. that the premise of the rule is $\Gamma \vdash X : Y.type$ with $X \neq Y$. The only possibility is then that $X : Y.type \in \Gamma$ but this is impossible because Γ is in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$. Case (& -=). T & U is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$. Case

(REC-=) $\frac{\Gamma, x : \{\overline{D}\} \vdash \overline{D} = \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}\} = \{x \mid \overline{D'}\}}$

We can distinguish several subcases depending on the shapes of the left and right member:

- $\Gamma \vdash \{\} = \{ val : [x : \{ arg : T \} \mid res : U] \}$ (or symmetric case): Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{\} = \{val : [X : \{Arg <: T\} \mid res : U]\}$ (or symmetric case): Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{val : [x: \{arg : T_1\} \mid res : U_1]\} = \{val : [X: \{Arg <: T_2\} \mid res : U_2]\}$ (or symmetric case): Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{\} = \{\}$: We have well $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \top \leq \geq \top$ using rule (F TOP).
- $\Gamma \vdash \{val : [X : \{Arg <: T_1\} \mid res : U_1]\} \leq \{val : [X : \{Arg <: T_2\} \mid res : U_2]\}$: If we go up in the proof tree, necessarily we will encounter in that order the rules (REC =), (BIND =) and (CLASS =). Premises of the rule $(CLASS \leq)$ will be $\Gamma \vdash T_1 = T_2$ and $\Gamma, X : \{Arg <: T_1\} \vdash U_1 = U_2$.

Applying the induction hypothesis on these two derivations we get that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \leq \geq \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}, X <:$ $\langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \leq \geq \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ from which we can conclude using the rule (F - ALL).

• $\Gamma \vdash \{ \operatorname{val} : [x : \{ \operatorname{arg} : T_1 \} \mid \operatorname{res} : U_1] \} \leq \{ \operatorname{val} : [x : \{ \operatorname{arg} : T_2 \} \mid \operatorname{res} : U_2] \}$: Similar to the previous subcase.

Case (CLASS-=). $[x:S \mid \overline{D}]$ is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

Case (SINGLE-=). p.type is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

 Case (REFL- ≺). Simply using the induction hypothesis on the premise of the rule. Case

(TSEL-
$$\prec$$
)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L \prec U), \quad U \prec U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \prec U'}$$

By replaying the reasoning made for the rule (ALIAS - =). This time we find out that X.type can not contains a binding $(Arg \prec U)$.

Case $(\& - \prec)$. T & U is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

Case (MIXIN \prec). T & U is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

 Case (REFL- <:). Simply using the induction hypothesis on the premise of the rule. Case (VAR- <:). x.type is not in dom(⟨⟨.⟩⟩⁻¹). Case (SEL- <:). p.l.type is not in dom(⟨⟨.⟩⟩⁻¹). Case

(TSEL-<:) $\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L <: U), \quad U <: U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L <: U'}$

As $T \bullet L$ is in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, $T \bullet L$ can only be of the form $X.type \bullet Arg$. The inference step becomes

(TSEL-<:)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash X.\mathbf{type} \ni (Arg <: U), \quad U <: U}{\Gamma \vdash X.\mathbf{type} \bullet Arg <: U'}$$

So necessarily we have $\Gamma \vdash X$.type $\langle : \{x \mid \overline{D}, Arg \langle : U \}$ in the proof tree.

Which is possible only if there exists S s.t. $X : S \in \Gamma$ and $\Gamma \vdash S \leq \{x \mid \overline{D}, Arg <: U\}$. As Γ is in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$, S must be of the shape $\{Arg <: U''\}$.

And from the fact that $\Gamma \vdash \{Arg <: U''\} \leq \{x \mid \overline{D}, Arg <: U\}$ we can deduce that there is $\Gamma \vdash U'' \leq U$ in the proof tree. We want to prove that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash X <: \langle\!\langle U' \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$.

But the binding of X in $\langle\!\langle\Gamma\rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ is $X <: \langle\!\langle U''\rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$, so it is sufficient by using the rule (F-TVAR) to show that $\langle\!\langle\Gamma\rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle U''\rangle\!\rangle^{-1} <: \langle\!\langle U'\rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$, what we get by transitivity og $F_{<:}$ from the induction hypothesis applied to $\Gamma \vdash U'' \leq U$ and to $\Gamma \vdash U <: U'$.

4. Case $(REFL - \leq)$. Simply using the induction hypothesis on the premise of the rule.

Case $(\& - \leq)$. T & U is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

Case $(\leq -\&)$. T & U is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

Case

$$(\operatorname{Rec-}\leq) \qquad \quad \frac{\Gamma, x: \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \leq \overline{D''}}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \leq \{x \mid \overline{D''}\}}$$

We can distinguish several subcases depending of the shapes of the subtype and the supertype.

- $\Gamma \vdash \{\} \leq \{val : [x : \{arg : T\} \mid res : U]\}$: Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{\} \leq \{ val : [X : \{ Arg <: T \} \mid res : U] \}$: Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash T \leq \{\}$: Then $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \leq \top$ using rule (F TOP).
- $\Gamma \vdash \{ val : [x : \{ arg : T_1 \} \mid res : U_1] \} \leq \{ val : [X : \{ Arg <: T_2 \} \mid res : U_2] \}$: Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{ val : [X : \{ Arg <: T_1 \} \mid res : U_1] \} \leq \{ val : [x : \{ arg : T_2 \} \mid res : U_2] \}$: Not derivable.
- $\Gamma \vdash \{ \operatorname{val} : [X : \{\operatorname{Arg} <: T_1\} \mid \operatorname{res} : U_1] \} \leq \{ \operatorname{val} : [X : \{\operatorname{Arg} <: T_2\} \mid \operatorname{res} : U_2] \}$: If we go up in the proof tree, necessarily we will encounter in that order the rules $(REC \leq)$, $(BIND \leq)$ and $(CLASS \leq)$. Premises of the rule $(CLASS \leq)$ will be $\Gamma \vdash T_2 \leq T_1$ and $\Gamma, X : \{\operatorname{Arg} <: T_2\} \vdash U_1 \leq U_2$. Applying the induction hypothesis on these two derivations we get that $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \leq \langle\!\langle T_1 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ and $\langle\!\langle \Gamma \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}, X <:$

Applying the induction hypothesis on these two derivations we get that $\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \vdash \langle\!\langle I_2 \rangle\!\rangle \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \leq \langle\!\langle I_1 \rangle\!\rangle \xrightarrow{\Gamma}$ and $\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle \xrightarrow{\Gamma}, X < \langle\!\langle T_2 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \vdash \langle\!\langle U_1 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1} \leq \langle\!\langle U_2 \rangle\!\rangle^{-1}$ from which we can conclude using the rule (F - ALL).

• $\Gamma \vdash \{ val : [x: \{ arg: T_1 \} \mid res: U_1] \} \leq \{ val : [x: \{ arg: T_2 \} \mid res: U_2] \}$: Similar to the previous subcase.

Case (CLASS- \leq). $[x:S \mid \overline{D}]$ is not in $dom(\langle\!\langle . \rangle\!\rangle^{-1})$.

C.5 νObj Typing Rules without Transitivity

$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ wf \ \ \Gamma$	$\vdash D \text{ wf}$		
(SINGLE-WF)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: R}{\Gamma \vdash p. \mathbf{type} \ wf}$	$\label{eq:constraint} \frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ \mathrm{wf}, T \ \ni (L = U), U \ \mathrm{wf}}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \bullet L \ \mathrm{wf}}$	$(TSEL-WF_1)$
$(TSEL-WF_2)$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T \ni (L \prec U), U \prec R}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \text{ wf}}$	$\label{eq:constraint} \frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \ \text{wf}, \ \ T \ni (L <: U), \ \ U <: R}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ T \bullet L \ \text{wf}}$	$(TSEL-WF_3)$
(&-WF)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T' \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \& T' \text{ wf}}$	$\frac{ \Gamma, x : \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \vdash \overline{D} \text{ wf} }{ \Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \text{ wf} }$	(Rec-wf)
(CLASS-WF)	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ S \ wf \qquad \Gamma, x: S \ \vdash \ \overline{D} \ wf}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ [x: S \ \mid \overline{D}] \ wf}$		
(Bind-wf)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) \text{ wf}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash (L=T) \text{ wf}}$	(Tbind-wf_1)

$$(\text{TBIND-WF}_2) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T \prec R}{\Gamma \vdash (L \prec T) \text{ wf}} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \text{ wf, } T \lt: R}{\Gamma \vdash (L \lt: T) \text{ wf}} \quad (\text{TBIND-WF}_3)$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash T \ni D}$$

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathsf{SINGLE-}\ni) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} <: \{x \mid \overline{D'}, D\}}{\Gamma \vdash p.\mathbf{type} \ni [p/x]D} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x: T \vdash x.\mathbf{type} \ni D \quad x \notin fn(\Gamma, D)}{\Gamma \vdash T \ni D} \quad (\mathsf{OTHER-}\ni)$$

$$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T = T'$$

$$(\text{RefL}=) \qquad \frac{T \equiv T'}{\Gamma \vdash T = T'} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T' = T} \qquad (\text{Symm}=)$$

$$(ALIAS-=) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L = U), \ U = U', \ T \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = U'} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L = T' \bullet L} \qquad (TSEL=)$$
$$(\&-=) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T', \ U = U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \& U = T' \& U'} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : \{\overline{D}\} \vdash \overline{D} = \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}\} = \{x \mid \overline{D'}\}} \qquad (REC=)$$

$$(CLASS-=) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash S = S' \quad \Gamma, x : S \vdash \overline{D} = \overline{D'}}{\Gamma \vdash [x : S \mid \overline{D}] = [x : S' \mid \overline{D'}]} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash p : q.type}{\Gamma \vdash p.type = q.type} \quad (SINGLE-=)$$

(BIND-=)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash (l:T) = (l:T')} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq T) = (L \preceq T')} \qquad (\text{TBIND-=})$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \hline \Gamma \vdash T \prec T' \\ \hline (\text{ReFL-} \prec) & \frac{\Gamma \vdash T = T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'} & \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L \prec U), \ U \prec U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L \prec U'} & (\text{TseL-} \prec) \\ \hline (\& \neg \prec) & \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T', \ U \prec U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \And U \prec T' \And U'} & \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_1\} \quad \Gamma \vdash U \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_2\}}{\Gamma \vdash T \And U \prec T' \And U'} & \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_1\} \quad \Gamma \vdash U \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_2\}}{\Gamma \vdash T \And U \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}_1 \uplus \overline{D}_2\}} & (\text{MIXIN-} \prec) \\ \end{array}$$

$$\Gamma \ \vdash \ T <: T'$$

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$$(\text{RefL-}<:) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \prec T'}{\Gamma \vdash T <:T'} \qquad \frac{x: T \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash x. \text{type} <:T'} \qquad (\text{VAR-}<:)$$

$$(SEL-<:) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash p.type \ni (l:U), \ U <: U'}{\Gamma \vdash p.l.type <: U'} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \ni (L <: U), \ U <: U'}{\Gamma \vdash T \bullet L <: U'} \qquad (TSEL-<:)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'} \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'}{\Gamma \vdash T \leq T'} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \leq T'_1}{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \& T_2 \leq T'_1} \qquad (\&-\leq 1)$$

$$\frac{(\&-\leq 2)}{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \& T_2 \leq T'_2} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T_2 \leq T'_2}{\Gamma \vdash T_1 \& T_2 \leq T'_2} \qquad (\leq-\&)$$

$$(\operatorname{Rec}{-\leq}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : \{\overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} + \overline{D} \le \overline{D''}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x \mid \overline{D}, \overline{D'}\} \le \{x \mid \overline{D''}\}} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash R \text{ wf, } S \& R \le S', S' \le S}{\Gamma, x : S' \vdash \overline{D} \le \overline{D'}} \qquad (\operatorname{CLASS}{-\leq})$$
$$(\operatorname{BIND}{-\leq}) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \le T'}{\Gamma \vdash (l : T) \le (l : T')} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T \le T'}{\Gamma \vdash (L \preceq T) \le (L < : T')} \qquad (\operatorname{TBIND}{-\leq})$$

$\Gamma \vdash t:T$

(VAR)	$\frac{x:T\in\Gamma}{\Gamma\vdash x:T}$	$\frac{\Gamma \ \vdash \ t:T, T \ni (l:U)}{\Gamma \ \vdash \ t.l:U}$	(SEL)
(VARPATH)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x: R}{\Gamma \vdash x: x. \mathbf{type}}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: p.\mathbf{type}, t.l: R}{\Gamma \vdash t.l: p.l.\mathbf{type}}$	(SelPath)
(New)	$ \begin{array}{c c} \Gamma \vdash t : [x:S \mid \overline{D}], & S \prec \{x \mid \overline{D}\} \\ \hline \Gamma, x:S \vdash u : U & x \notin fn(U) \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash (\nu x \leftarrow t \; ; u) : U \end{array} $	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t: p.\mathbf{type}, t.l:R}{\Gamma \vdash t.l: p.l.\mathbf{type}}$	(SelPath)
(CLASS)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash S \text{ wf } \Gamma, x : S \vdash \overline{D} \text{ wf, } t_i : T_i}{t_i \text{ contractive in } x (i \in 1n)} \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i = t_i^{i \in 1n}] : [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i : T_i^{i \in 1n}]}{\Gamma \vdash [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i = t_i^{i \in 1n}] : [x : S \mid \overline{D}, l_i : T_i^{i \in 1n}]}$	$ \begin{array}{c c} \Gamma \ \vdash \ t_i : [x : S_i \ \mid \overline{D}_i] \\ \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ S \ \text{wf}, \ S \leq S_i & (i = 1, 2) \\ \hline \Gamma \ \vdash \ t_1 \ \&_S \ t_2 : [x : S \ \mid \overline{D}_1 \ \uplus \overline{D}_2] \end{array} $	(&)