

Refinement Kinds

Type-safe Programming with Practical Type-level Computation

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Motivation

Why Refinement Kinds / Another-Fancy-Kind-System?

- ▶ Modern software computes with both values and types:
 - ▶ Types as data (e.g. reflection, ad-hoc polymorphism)
 - ▶ Meta-programming (e.g. toolchains, web apps, etc)



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 - ▶ Meta-programming (e.g. toolchains, web apps, etc)
- ▶ Such idioms move outside the boundaries of type safety.
- ▶ ... but we would really like to have type safety!

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An Example

- ▶ Consider a generic function `genConstr` that for **any** non-empty record type R returns a function to initialise a mutable record with the field types of R .



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- ▶ We want `genConstr Person` to work like:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{genConstr Person} \\ & \quad \longrightarrow^* \\ & \lambda x:\text{String}.\lambda y:\text{Int}.\langle \text{age} = \mathbf{ref} \ y; \text{name} = \mathbf{ref} \ x \rangle \\ & : \text{String} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \langle \text{age} : \mathbf{ref} \ \text{Int}; \text{name} : \mathbf{ref} \ \text{String} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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Desiderata:

- ▶ Static type-checking of such “highly plastic” code idioms.
- ▶ Clean, expressive and practical.
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Refinement Kinds:

- ▶ Natural transposition of refinement types to the kind level.
- ▶ Structural properties of types as kind refinements.

Outline

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Key Idea

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Types and Kinds

Types classify expressions:

- ▶ $0 : \text{Int}$
- ▶ $\text{succ} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$
- ▶ $\text{joe} : \langle \mathbf{name} : \text{String}; \mathbf{age} : \text{Int} \rangle$



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Kinds classify types:

- ▶ $\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} :: \text{Type}$
- ▶ $\langle \mathbf{name} : \text{String}; \mathbf{age} : \text{Int} \rangle :: \text{Type}$
- ▶ $\text{List} :: \mathbf{Type} \rightarrow \mathbf{Type}$

Refinement Types

Refinement types [FP91,BBFGM11]:

- ▶ $M : \{x:T \mid \varphi(x)\}$
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- ▶ Types **declaratively** specify properties of their inhabitants.

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Extending a Record Type

Generically extending a record **type** with a new field:

- ▶ Nm – the kind of record labels
- ▶ $\text{lab}(s)$ – the set of labels in record type s
- ▶ $\langle \ell : T \rangle @S$ – record type constructor (i.e. type-level lists)

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Generic Constructor Generator

Easier to use an accumulator parameter:

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genConstr Person ⟨⟩ ⟨⟩ →* λx:String.λy:Int.⟨age = ref y; name = ref x⟩
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$$\begin{aligned} \text{genConstr} &\triangleq \Lambda R::\{r::\text{Rec} \mid \neg \text{empty}(r)\}. \\ &\Lambda C::\{c::\text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(c)\#\mathbf{lab}(R)\}.\lambda v:C. \\ &\lambda x:\mathbf{headType}(R).\mathbf{case} R \mathbf{of} \\ &\quad \langle \ell : T \rangle @ \langle \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \ell = \mathbf{ref} x \rangle @ v \\ &\quad \mid \langle \ell : T \rangle @ R' \Rightarrow \text{genConstr } R' (\langle \ell : \mathbf{ref} T \rangle @ V) \end{aligned}$$

Generic Constructor Generator

Easier to use an accumulator parameter:

$$\text{genConstr Person } \langle \rangle \langle \rangle \rightarrow^* \lambda x:\text{String}.\lambda y:\text{Int}.\langle \text{age} = \mathbf{ref} y; \text{name} = \mathbf{ref} x \rangle$$

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Generic Constructor Generator

Typing

genConstr :



Generic Constructor Generator

Typing

$$\text{genConstr} : \forall R::\{r::\text{Rec} \mid \neg\text{empty}(r)\}.$$
$$\forall C::\{v::\text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(v)\#\mathbf{lab}(R)\}.$$

Generic Constructor Generator

Typing

$$\text{genConstr} : \forall R::\{r::\text{Rec} \mid \neg\text{empty}(r)\}.$$
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Generic Constructor Generator

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$$\text{GenConst} :: \Pi R::\{r::\text{Rec} \mid \neg\text{empty}(r)\}.$$
$$\Pi C::\{c::\text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(c)\#\mathbf{lab}(R)\}. \text{Fun}$$
$$\text{GenConst} \triangleq$$

Generic Constructor Generator

Typing

$$\text{genConstr} : \forall R :: \{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \neg \text{empty}(r)\}.$$
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$$\text{GenConst} :: \prod R :: \{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \neg \text{empty}(r)\}.$$
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$$\lambda C::\{v::\text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(v)\#\mathbf{lab}(R)\}.\mathbf{headType}(R) \rightarrow$$

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$\text{GenConst} :: \Pi R::\{r::\text{Rec} \mid \neg\text{empty}(r)\}.$
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 $\lambda C::\{v::\text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(v)\#\mathbf{lab}(R)\}.\mathbf{headType}(R) \rightarrow$
case R **of**
 $\langle \ell : T \rangle @ \langle \rangle \Rightarrow$
 $\mid \langle \ell : T \rangle @ R' \Rightarrow$

Generic Constructor Generator

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$\text{genConstr} : \forall R :: \{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \neg \text{empty}(r)\}.$
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case R **of**
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case R of

$$\langle \ell : T \rangle @ \langle \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \ell : \mathbf{ref } T \rangle @ C$$
$$\mid \langle \ell : T \rangle @ R' \Rightarrow \text{GenConst } R' \langle \ell : \mathbf{ref } T \rangle @ C$$
$$\text{GenConst } \langle L_1 : T_1; \dots; L_n : T_n \rangle \langle \rangle \longrightarrow^*$$
$$T_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow T_n \rightarrow \langle L_n : \mathbf{ref } T_n; \dots; L_1 : \mathbf{ref } T_1 \rangle$$

Generic Record Type Map

Uniformly changing the fields of a record **type**:

Map ::

Map \triangle

Generic Record Type Map

Uniformly changing the fields of a record **type**:

$$\text{Map} :: \Pi G :: (\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}).$$
$$\text{Map} \triangleq$$

Generic Record Type Map

Uniformly changing the fields of a record **type**:

$$\text{Map} :: \prod G :: (\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}). \prod R :: \text{Rec.}$$
$$\text{Map} \triangleq$$


Generic Record Type Map

Uniformly changing the fields of a record **type**:

$$\text{Map} :: \prod G :: (\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}). \prod R :: \text{Rec}. \{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(r) = \mathbf{lab}(R)\}$$
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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Map} &:: \Pi G::(\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}). \Pi R::\text{Rec}. \{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(r) = \mathbf{lab}(R)\} \\ \text{Map} &\triangleq \lambda G::(\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}). \end{aligned}$$

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The kind $\{r :: \text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(r) = \mathbf{lab}(R)\}$ expresses the weakest invariant needed to kind Map.

Generic Record to HTML Table Generator

Generating a table-rendering function for a record type:

XForm $:: \text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

XForm $\triangleq \lambda t :: \text{Type}. \langle \text{tag} : \text{String}; \text{toStr} : t \rightarrow \text{String} \rangle$



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XForm :: Type \rightarrow Type
XForm $\triangleq \lambda t :: \text{Type}. \langle \text{tag} : \text{String}; \text{toStr} : t \rightarrow \text{String} \rangle$

Tablifier :: $\Pi r :: \text{Rec}. \{ r :: \text{Rec} \mid \mathbf{lab}(r) = \mathbf{lab}(R) \}$
Tablifier $\triangleq \lambda r :: \text{Rec}. \text{Map } \mathbf{XForm} \ r$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tablify} &: \forall R::\text{Rec}. (\text{Tablifier } R) \rightarrow R \rightarrow \text{String} \\ \text{Tablify} &\triangleq \end{aligned}$$

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$$\text{Tablify} : \forall R::\text{Rec}. (\text{Tablifier } R) \rightarrow R \rightarrow \text{String}$$
$$\text{Tablify} \triangleq \Lambda R::\text{Rec}.$$

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Generating a table-rendering function for a record type:

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$$\text{Tablify} \triangleq \Lambda R::\text{Rec}. \lambda \text{Tab}:(\text{Tablifier } R). \lambda r::R.$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \rangle \Rightarrow \text{""} \\ &| \langle \ell = v \rangle @ r' \Rightarrow \text{"<tr><th>} + \text{Tab.l.tag} + \text{"</th><td>} + \end{aligned}$$

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Generating a table-rendering function for a record type:

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$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \rangle \Rightarrow \text{""} \\ &| \langle \ell = v \rangle @ r' \Rightarrow \text{"<tr><th>} + \text{Tab.l.tag} + \text{"</th><td>} + \\ &\quad \text{Tab.l.toStr } v + \text{"</td></tr>} + \end{aligned}$$

Generic Record to HTML Table Generator

Generating a table-rendering function for a record type:

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Generic Record to HTML Table Generator

Generating a table-rendering function for a record type:

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Generic Record to HTML Table Generator

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Examples

More examples in the paper...

- ▶ Ad-hoc polymorphism and type transformations.
- ▶ Generic (record) table lookup.
- ▶ Object Pairing.



Outline

Motivation

Key Idea

Putting It In Practice

Technical Overview

Conclusion



Kinds, Types and Refinements

$$K, K' ::= \mathcal{K} \mid \{t::\mathcal{K} \mid \varphi\} \mid \Pi t:K.K'$$

Kinds, Types and Refinements

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Kinds, Types and Refinements

$$\begin{aligned} K, K' & ::= \mathcal{K} \mid \{t::\mathcal{K} \mid \varphi\} \mid \Pi t:K.K' \\ \mathcal{K} & ::= \text{Rec} \mid \text{Col} \mid \text{Fun} \mid \text{Ref} \mid \text{Nm} \mid \text{Type} \mid \text{Gen}_K \end{aligned}$$


Kinds, Types and Refinements

$K, K' ::= \mathcal{K} \mid \{t::\mathcal{K} \mid \varphi\} \mid \Pi t:K.K'$

$\mathcal{K} ::= \text{Rec} \mid \text{Col} \mid \text{Fun} \mid \text{Ref} \mid \text{Nm} \mid \text{Type} \mid \text{Gen}_K$

$T, S, R ::= t \mid \lambda t::K.T \mid TS$

Kinds, Types and Refinements

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- ▶ ML-like core language (records, polymorphism, references, general recursion).

Sample Rules

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All the magic happens here:

$$\text{(CONV)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : U \quad \Gamma \Vdash U \equiv T :: \mathbf{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash M : T}$$

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Typechecker / Kindchecker + Evaluator

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- ▶ Implicits (e.g. $\text{genConstr } R' (\langle \ell : \mathbf{ref } T \rangle @V) (\langle \ell = \mathbf{ref } x \rangle @v)$)
- ▶ Reifying type-level functions automatically (e.g. genConstr from genConst)
 - ▶ When can we do it?
 - ▶ Can we define a general mechanism?

Conclusion

- ▶ A framework of type-safe meta-programming.
- ▶ Uniformly view types as data with simple constructor/destructor patterns.
- ▶ Expressive, flexible and simple (enough).

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Questions?

(more!) Examples

A non-obviously cool function:

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- ▶ Getter/Setter generator
- ▶ Generic object pairing
- ▶ ...