CSE505: Graduate Programming Languages
Lecture 10 — Type-Safety Proof

Dan Grossman
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Outline

- Type-safety proof
  - Also posted in non-slide form
- Discuss the proof
  - Consider lemma dependencies and what they represent
  - Consider elegance of inverting static and dynamic derivations
- Next lecture: Add more constructs to our typed language
  - Pairs, records, sums, recursion, ...
  - For each, sketch proof additions (follow a general approach)
- Further ahead: More flexible typing via polymorphism

Review: Lambda-Calculus with Constants

e ::= \lambda x. e | x | e | c
v ::= \lambda x. e | c

\[(\lambda x. e) v \rightarrow e[v/x] \quad e_1 \rightarrow e'_1 \quad e_2 \rightarrow e'_2\]

\[
\begin{align*}
x[e/x] &= e' \\
y \not\in x &\quad y[e/x] = y \\
\frac{\lambda y. e}{\lambda y. e'_1} &\quad \frac{\lambda y. e_1}{\lambda y. e'_1} \\
\frac{e_1[e/x] = e'_1}{e_2[e/x] = e'_2} &\quad \frac{e_1[e/x] = e'_1}{e_2[e/x] = e'_2}
\end{align*}\]

Stuck states: not values and no step applies...

Avoid stuck states to:
- Catch bugs (why would you want to get to such a state?)
- Ease implementation (no need to check for being stuck)

Review: Typing Judgment

Defined a type system to classify \(\lambda\)-terms

Some terms have types; some don’t

\[
\begin{align*}
\tau &::= \text{int} | \tau \rightarrow \tau \\
\Gamma &::= \cdot | \Gamma, x : \tau
\end{align*}\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\Gamma \vdash c : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} &\quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2} \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_1}
\end{align*}\]

Theorem: A program that typechecks under \(\cdot\) won’t get stuck, i.e.,
If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\) then \(e\) diverges or \(\exists v, n\) such that \(e \rightarrow^n v\)

Preservation and Progress

Theorem (slightly restated): If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\) and \(e \rightarrow^n e'\), then \(e'\) is a value or there exists an \(e''\) such that \(e'' \rightarrow e'\)

Follows from two key lemmas:
- Lemma (Preservation): If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\) and \(e \rightarrow e'\), then \(\cdot \vdash e' : \tau\).
- Lemma (Progress): If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\), then \(e\) is a value or there exists an \(e'\) such that \(e \rightarrow e'\).

Proof of theorem given lemmas:
- “Preservation*”: If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\) and \(e \rightarrow^n e'\), then \(\cdot \vdash e' : \tau\)
  - Trivial induction on \(n\) given Preservation
  - So Progress ensures \(e'\) is not stuck

Progress

Lemma: If \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\), then \(e\) is a value or there exists an \(e'\) such that \(e \rightarrow e'\)

Proof: We first prove this lemma:

Lemma (Canonical Forms): If \(\cdot \vdash v : \tau\), then:
- If \(\tau\) is \text{int}, then \(v\) is some \(c\)
- If \(\tau\) has the form \(\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2\) then \(v\) has the form \(\lambda x. e\)
Proof: By inspection of the form of values and typing rules
- That is, by inversion, only one typing rule applies if \(\tau = \text{int}\)
  - and in that rule \(v\) is a constant, and similarly for \(\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2\)

Now prove Progress by induction on the derivation of \(\cdot \vdash e : \tau\).
Progress: Induction on derivation of $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$

Derivation must end with one of four rules:

- $\cdot \vdash x : \tau$ — impossible because $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$
- $\cdot \vdash c : \text{int}$ — then $e$ is a value
- $\cdot \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau$ — then $e$ is a value
- $\cdot \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau$ where $\exists \tau'$. $\cdot \vdash e_1 : \tau'$ and $\cdot \vdash e_2 : \tau'$

By induction $e_1$ is some $v_1$ or can become some $e'_1$.
If it can become $e'_1$, then $e_1 \vdash e'_1 e_2$.
Else by induction $e_2$ is some $v_2$ or can become some $e'_2$.
If it becomes $e'_2$, then $v_1 e_2 \vdash v_1 e'_2$.
Else $e$ is $v_1 v_2$.

$\cdot \vdash v_1 : \tau' \rightarrow \tau$ and Canonical Forms ensures $v_1$ has the form $\lambda x. e'$.
So $v_1 v_2 \vdash e'[v_2/x]$.

Note: If we add $+\$, we need the other part of Canonical Forms.

Preservation

Lemma: If $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$ and $e \rightarrow e'$, then $\cdot \vdash e' : \tau$

Proof: By induction on the derivation of $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$. Bottom rule could conclude:

- $\cdot \vdash x : \tau$ — actually, it can’t; $(x)$ is undefined
- $\cdot \vdash c : \text{int}$ — then $e \rightarrow e'$ is impossible, so lemma holds vacuously
- $\cdot \vdash \lambda x. e : \tau$ — then $e \rightarrow e'$ is impossible, so lemma holds vacuously
- $\cdot \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau$ where $\exists \tau'$. $\cdot \vdash e_1 : \tau'$ and $\cdot \vdash e_2 : \tau'$

There are 3 ways $e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e'$ could be derived.
Subcase for each ...

Where are we

Almost done with Preservation, but in the case where $(\lambda x. e_1) e_2 \rightarrow e_3[e_2/x]$, need:

If $\cdot, x : \tau' \vdash e_3 : \tau$ and $\cdot \vdash e_2 : \tau'$, then $\cdot \vdash e_3[e_2/x] : \tau$.

Intuitive: Replace assumption that $x : \tau'$ with an expression that has type $\tau'$

But we need an inductive proof because $e_3$ can be arbitrarily big and substitution is a subtle thing

Prove this lemma: If $\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash e_1 : \tau$ and $\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau'$, then $\Gamma \vdash e_1[e_2/x] : \tau$.

"Renaming" $e_3$ to $e_1$ in our "helper lemma" (no big deal)

Strengthened induction hypothesis to work for any $\Gamma$

Else the proof will fail

Proving the Substitution Lemma

If $\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash e_1 : \tau$ and $\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau'$, then $\Gamma \vdash e_1[e_2/x] : \tau$

Proof: By induction on derivation of $\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash e_1 : \tau$

$\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash c : \text{int}$. Then $c[e_2/x] = c$ and $\Gamma \vdash c : \text{int}$

$\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash y : (\Gamma, x : \tau')(y)$.
Either $y = x$ or $y \neq x$.
If $y = x$, then $(\Gamma, x : \tau')(x)$ is $\tau'$ (i.e., $\tau = \tau'$) and $x[e_2/x]$ is $e_2$. So $\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau'$ satisfies the lemma.
If $y \neq x$, then $(\Gamma, x : \tau')(y)$ is $\Gamma(y)$ and $y[e_2/x]$ is $y$.
So we can derive $\Gamma \vdash y : \Gamma(y)$.

$\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash e_0 \vdash e_0 : \tau$.
Then $\exists \sigma_0, \tau_0$ where $\Gamma, x : \tau' \vdash e_0 \vdash \tau_0$ and $\Gamma \vdash e_0[e_2/x] \vdash \tau_0$.
So by induction $\Gamma \vdash e_0[e_2/x] \vdash \tau_0$ and $\Gamma \vdash e_0[e_2/x] \vdash \tau_0$.
So we can derive $\Gamma \vdash e_0[e_2/x] e_0[e_2/x] : \tau$.
And $(e_0 e_0)[e_2/x] = e_0[e_2/x] e_0[e_2/x]$.

Only the (nested) function case is left ...
Lemma dependencies

Safety (evaluation never gets stuck)
- Preservation (to stay well-typed)
  - Substitution ($\beta$-reduction stays well-typed)
    - Weakening (substituting under nested $\lambda$s well-typed)
    - Exchange (technical point)
- Progress (well-typed not stuck yet)
  - Canonical Forms (primitive reductions apply where needed)

Comments:
- Substitution strengthened to open terms for the proof
- When we add heaps, Preservation will use Weakening directly

Summary

What may seem a weird lemma pile is a powerful recipe:

Soundness: We don’t get stuck because our induction hypothesis (typing) holds (Preservation) and stuck terms aren’t well typed (contrapositive of Progress)

Preservation holds by induction on typing (replace subterms with same type) and Substitution (for $\beta$-reduction). Substitution must work over open terms and requires Weakening and Exchange.

Progress holds by induction on expressions (or typing) because either a subexpression progresses or we can make a primitive reduction (using Canonical Forms).

Induction on derivations – Another Look

Application cases ($e = e_1 e_2$) are elegant and worth mastering
- Other constructs with eager evaluation of subexpressions would work analogously (e.g., $e_1 + e_2$ or $(e_1, e_2)$)

For Preservation, lemma assumes $\vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau$.

Inverting the typing derivation ensures it has the form:

For Preservation subcase: If $e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e_1' e_2$, inverting that derivation means:

(The app case of the Substitution Lemma is similar but we use induction twice to get the new derivation)