Higher-Order Modules and the Phase Distinction

Robert Harper *
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

John C. Mitchell †
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Eugenio Moggi ‡
University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB2 3QG, UK
(on leave from Univ. of Edinburgh)

Abstract

In earlier work, we used a typed function calculus, XML, with dependent types to analyze several aspects of the Standard ML type system. In this paper, we introduce a refinement of XML with a clear compile-time/run-time *phase distinction,* and a direct compile-time type checking algorithm. The calculus uses a finer separation of types into universes than XML and enforces the phase distinction using a nonstandard equational theory for module and signature expressions. While unusual from a type-theoretic point of view, the nonstandard equational theory arises naturally from the well-known Grothendieck construction on an indexed category.

1 Introduction

The module system of Standard ML [HMM86] provides a convenient mechanism for factoring ML programs into separate but interrelated program units. The basic constructs are *structures*, which are a form of generalized "records" with type, value and structure components, and *functors*, which may be regarded as parameterized structures or functions from structures to structures. The types of structures and functors are called *signatures.* The signature of a structure lists the component names and their types, while the signature of a functor also includes the types of all parameters. Typically, program units are represented as structures that are linked together by functor application. When two structure parameters of a functor must share a common substructure, this is specified using a "sharing" constraint within the functor parameter list. In Standard ML as currently implemented, there are no functors with functor parameters. In this respect, the current language only uses "first-order" modules.

There are two formal analyses of the module system, one operational and the other a syntactic translation leading to a denotational semantics. The structured operational semantics of [HMT87b, HMT87a, Tof87] includes a computational characterization of the type checker. This gives a precise, implementation-independent definition of the Standard ML language that may be used for a variety of purposes. The second formal analysis is a type-theoretic description of ML, which leads to a denotational semantics to the language. The second line of work, beginning with [Mac86] and continued in [MH88], uses dependent sum types $\Sigma x{:}A.B$ to explain structures and dependent function types $\Pi x{:}A.B$ for functors. In addition to providing some insight into the functional behavior of the module constructs, the XML calculus introduced in [MH88] establishes a framework for studying a class of *ML-like* languages. Because variants of Standard ML may be considered as XML theories, the emphasis of this approach is on properties of Standard ML that remain invariant under extensions of the language. In addition, XML is most naturally defined with higher-order modules, suggesting a useful extension of Standard ML. However, some important aspects of Standard ML are not accurately reflected in the XML analysis.

*Supported by the Office of Naval Research under contract N00014-84-K-0415 and by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DOD), ARPA Order No. 5404, monitored by the Office of Naval Research under the same contract.

†Partially supported by an NSF PYI Award, matching funds from Digital Equipment Corporation, Xerox Corporation and the Powell Foundation and by NSF grant CCR-8814921.

‡Supported by ESPRIT Basic Research Action No. 3003, Categorical Logic In Computer Science.

Although ML is designed to allow compile-time type checking, it is not clear how to "statically" type check versions of XML with certain additional type constructors or with higher-order modules. This is particularly unfortunate for higher-order modules, since these seem useful in supporting separate compilation or as an alternative to ML's "sharing" specifications [BL84, Mac86]. In this paper, we redesign XML so that compile-time type checking is an intrinsic part of the type-theoretic framework. Since it is difficult to characterize the difference between compile-time and run-time precisely, we focus on establishing a *phase distinction*, in the terminology of [Car88]. However, to give better intuition, we generally refer to these phases as *compile-time* and *run-time*. The main benefit of our redesign is that type checking becomes decidable, even in the presence of higher-order functors and arbitrary equational axioms between "run-time" expressions.

The main difficulty with higher-order functors may be illustrated by considering an expression e containing a "functor" variable F which maps $type, int$ pairs (representing structures) to $type, int$ pairs. Such an expression e might occur as the body of a higher-order functor, with functor parameter F. In type checking e, we might encounter a type expression of the form $Fst(F[int,e_1])$, referring to the type component of the structure obtained by applying the functor parameter F to structure $[int,e_1]$. Since F is a formal parameter, we cannot hope to evaluate this type expression without performing functor application, which we consider a "run-time," or second phase, operation. However, in type checking e, we might need to decide whether two such type expressions, say $Fst(F[int,e_1])$ and $Fst(F[int,e_2])$, are equal. The natural equality to consider involves deciding whether structure components e_1 and e_2 are equal. However, if these are complicated integer expression, perhaps containing recursive functions, then it is impossible to algorithmically compare two such expressions for equality. While it is possible to simplify type checking using syntactic equality of possibly divergent expressions, this is too restrictive in practice.

In this paper, we present a typed calculus λ^{ML} which includes both higher-order modules and a clear separation into "phases" which correspond intuitively to compile-time and run-time. The new calculus is at once a refinement and an extension of XML. The universe structure of XML is refined so that the core language (*i.e.*, the language without modules) possesses a natural phase distinction. Then the language is extended in a systematic way to include dependent types for representing structures and functors. In order to preserve the phase distinction a non-standard formulation of the rules for dependent types is needed. Rather than restrict the syntax of structures and functors, as one might initially expect, we adopt non-standard equational axioms that allow us to simplify each structure or functor into separate "compile-time" and "run-time" parts. Referring back to the example above, we test whether $Fst(F[int,e_1])$ and $Fst(F[int,e_2])$ are equal essentially by simplifying F to a pair of maps, one compile-time and the other run-time. This allows us to compute compile-time (type) values of these expressions without evaluating run-time expressions e_1 or e_2. This approach follows naturally from the development of [Mog89a], which defines the *category of modules* over any suitable indexed category representing a typed language. In categorical terms, the category of modules is the Grothendieck construction on an indexed category, which is proved relatively cartesian closed when certain natural assumptions about the indexed category are satisfied. Our λ^{ML} calculus is a concrete outgrowth of Moggi's categorical development, providing an explicit lambda notation for the category of modules.

Like XML, λ^{ML} may be extended with any typed constants and corresponding equational axioms. In contrast to XML, constants and non-logical λ^{ML} axioms only affect the "run-time" theory of the language and do not interact with type checking. We show that λ^{ML} typing is decidable for any variant of the calculus based on any (possibly undecidable) equational theory for "run-time" expressions. A similar development may be carried out using the computational λ-calculus approach of [Mog89b] in place of equational axioms, but we will not go into that in this paper.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we introduce the core calculus, λ^{ML}, which we later extend to include modules. λ^{ML} is essentially the HML calculus given in [Mog89a] and closely related to the *Core*-XML calculus given in [MH88]. In Section 3 we introduce λ^{ML}_{mod}, the full calculus of higher-order modules. We prove that λ^{ML}_{mod} is a definitional extension of a simpler "structures-only" calculus and use this result to establish decidability and compile-time type checking for the full calculus of modules. Brief concluding remarks appear in Section 4.

2 Core Calculus

We begin by giving the definition of the λ^{ML} core calculus, λ^{ML}, which is essentially the calculus HML of [Mog89a]. This calculus captures many of the essential features of the ML type system, but omits,

for the sake of simplicity, ML's concrete and abstract types (which could be modeled using existential types [MP88]), recursive types (which can be described through a λ^{ML} theory), and record types. We also do not consider pattern matching, or computational aspects such as side-effects and exceptions. A promising approach toward integrating these features is described in [Mog89b].

2.1 Syntactic Preliminaries

There are four basic syntactic classes in λ^{ML}: *kinds*,*constructors*,*types* and *terms*. The kinds include T, the collection of all monotypes, and are closed under formation of products and function spaces. The constructors, which include monotypes such as *int*, and type constructors such as *list*, are elements of kinds. The types of λ^{ML}, whose elements are terms, include cartesian products, function spaces and polymorphic types. The terms of the calculus correspond to the basic expression forms of ML, but are written in an explicitly-typed syntax, following [MH88]. It is important to note that our "types" correspond roughly to ML's "type schemes," the essential difference being that we require them to be closed with respect to quantification over all kinds (not just the kind of monotypes) and function spaces. These additional closure conditions for type schemes are needed to make the the category of modules for λ^{ML} relatively cartesian closed (*i.e.*, closed under formation of dependent products and sums).

The organization of λ^{ML} is a refinement of the type structure of *Core*-XML[MH88]. The kind T of monotypes corresponds directly to the first universe U_1 of *Core*-XML. However, the second universe, U_2, of *Core*-XML is separated into distinct collections of kinds and types. For technical reasons, the cumulativity of the *Core*-XML universes is replaced by the explicit "injection" of T into the collection of types, written using the keyword *set*.

2.2 Syntax

The syntax of λ^{ML} raw expressions is given in Table 1. The collection of term variables, ranged over by x, and the collection of constructor variables, ranged over by v, are assumed to be disjoint. The metavariable τ ranges over the collection of monotypes (constructors of kind T). Contexts consist of a sequence of *declarations* of the form $v{:}k$ and $x{:}\sigma$ declaring the kind or type, respectively, of a constructor or term variable. In addition to the context-free syntax, we require that no variable be declared more than once in a context Φ so that we may unambiguously regard Φ as a partial function with finite domain $\mathrm{Dom}(\Phi)$ assigning kinds to constructor variables and types to term variables.

2.3 Judgement Forms

There are two classes of judgements in λ^{ML}, the *formation judgements* and the *equality judgements*. The formation judgements are used to define the set of well-formed λ^{ML} expressions. With the exception of the kind expressions, there is one formation judgement for each syntactic category. (Every raw kind expression is well-formed.) The equality judgements are used to axiomatize equivalence of expressions. (There is no equality judgement for kinds; kind equivalence is just syntactic identity.) The equality judgements are divided into two classes, the *compile-time* equations and the *run-time* equations, reflecting the intuitive phase distinction: kind and type equivalence are compile-time, term equivalence is run-time. The judgment forms of λ^{ML} are summarized in Table 2. The metavariable $\mathcal{F}$ ranges over formation judgements, $\mathcal{E}$ ranges over equality judgements, and $\mathcal{J}$ ranges over all forms of judgement. We sometimes write $\Phi \gg \alpha$ to stand for an arbitrary judgement when we wish to make the context part explicit.

2.4 Formation Rules

The syntax of λ^{ML} is specified by a set of inference rules for deriving formation judgements. These resemble rules in [MH88, Mog89a] and are essentially standard. Due to space constraints, they are omitted from this conference paper. We write $\lambda^{ML} \vdash \mathcal{F}$ to indicate that the formation judgement $\mathcal{F}$ is derivable using these rules. The formation rules may be summarized as follows. The constructors and kinds form a simply-typed λ-calculus (with product and unit types) with base kind T, and basic constructors 1, $\times$, and $\rightarrow$. The collection of types is built from base types 1 and $\mathrm{set}(\tau)$, where τ is a constructor of kind T, using the type constructors $\times$ and $\rightarrow$, and quantification over an arbitrary kind. The terms amount to an explicitly-typed presentation of the ML core language, similar to that presented in [MH88]. (The **let** construct is omitted since it is definable here.)

2.5 Equality rules

The rules for deriving equational judgements also resemble rules in [MH88, Mog89a] and are essentially standard. We write $\lambda^{ML} \vdash \mathcal{E}$ to indicate that an equation $\mathcal{E}$ is derivable in accordance with these rules.

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
k & \in \mathit{kind} & ::= 1 \mid T \mid k_1 \times k_2 \mid k_1 \to k_2 \\
u & \in \mathit{constr} & ::= v \mid 1 \mid \times \mid \to \mid * \mid \langle u_1, u_2 \rangle \mid \pi_i(u) \mid (\lambda v{:}k.u) \mid u_1\, u_2 \\
\sigma & \in \mathit{type} & ::= \mathrm{set}(u) \mid \sigma_1 \times \sigma_2 \mid \sigma_1 \to \sigma_2 \mid (\forall v{:}k.\sigma) \\
e & \in \mathit{term} & ::= x \mid * \mid \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \mid \pi_i(e) \mid (\lambda x{:}\sigma.e) \mid e_1\, e_2 \mid (\Lambda v{:}k.e) \mid e[u] \\
\Phi & \in \mathit{context} & ::= \emptyset \mid \Phi, v{:}k \mid \Phi, x{:}\sigma
\end{array}
$$

Table 1: λ^{ML} raw expressions

Φ *context*	Φ is a context
$\Phi \gg u : k$	u is a constructor of kind k
$\Phi \gg \sigma$ *type*	σ is a type
$\Phi \gg e : \sigma$	e is a term of type σ
$\Phi \gg u_1 = u_2\ k$	u_1 and u_2 are equal constructors of kind k
$\Phi \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ *type*	σ_1 and σ_2 are equal types
$\Phi \gg e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$	e_1 and e_2 are equal terms of type schema σ

Table 2: λ^{ML} judgement forms

The λ^{ML} equational rules are formulated so as to ensure that if an equational judgement is derivable, then it is well-formed, meaning that the evident associated formation judgements are derivable. For the sake of convenience we give a brief summary of the equational rules of λ^{ML}

2.5.1 Compile-Time Equality

Constructors Equivalence of constructor expressions is the standard equivalence of terms in the simply-typed λ-calculus based on the following axioms:

$$(1\ \eta) \qquad \frac{\Phi \gg u : 1}{\Phi \gg u = * : 1}$$

$$(\times\ \beta) \qquad \frac{\Phi \gg u_1 : k_1 \quad \Phi \gg u_2 : k_2}{\Phi \gg \pi_i(\langle u_1, u_2 \rangle) = u_i : k_i}\ (i = 1, 2)$$

$$(\times\ \eta) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg u : k_1 \times k_2}{\Phi \gg \langle \pi_1(u), \pi_2(u) \rangle = u : k_1 \times k_2}$$

$$(\to\ \beta) \frac{\Phi \gg u_1 : k_1 \quad \Phi, v{:}k_1 \gg u_2 : k_2}{\Phi \gg (\lambda v{:}k_1.u_2)\, u_1 = [u_1/v]u_2 : k_2}$$

$$(\to\ \eta) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg u : k_1 \to k_2}{\Phi \gg (\lambda v{:}k_1.u\, v) = u : k_1 \to k_2}\ (v \notin \mathrm{Dom}(\Phi))$$

Types The equivalence relation on types includes the following axioms expressing the interpretation of the basic ML type constructors

$$(1\ T =) \quad \frac{\Phi\ \mathit{context}}{\Phi \gg \mathrm{set}(1) = 1\ \mathit{type}}$$

$$(\times\ T =) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg \tau_1 : T \quad \Phi \gg \tau_2 : T}{\Phi \gg \mathrm{set}(\tau_1 \times \tau_2) = \mathrm{set}(\tau_1) \times \mathrm{set}(\tau_2)\ \mathit{type}}$$

$$(\to\ T =) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg \tau_1 : T \quad \Phi \gg \tau_2 : T}{\Phi \gg \mathrm{set}(\tau_1 \to \tau_2) = \mathrm{set}(\tau_1) \to \mathrm{set}(\tau_2)\ \mathit{type}}$$

2.5.2 Run-Time Equality

Terms There are seven axioms corresponding to the reduction rules associated with each of the type constructors:

$$(1\ \eta) \qquad \frac{\Phi \gg e : 1}{\Phi \gg e = * : 1}$$

$$(\times\ \beta) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg e_1 : \sigma_1 \quad \Phi \gg e_2 : \sigma_2}{\Phi \gg \pi_i(\langle e_1, e_2 \rangle) = e_i : \sigma_i}\ (i = 1, 2)$$

$$(\times\ \eta) \quad \frac{\Phi \gg e : \sigma_1 \times \sigma_2}{\Phi \gg \langle \pi_1(e), \pi_2(e) \rangle = e : \sigma_1 \times \sigma_2}$$

$$(\to\ \beta) \frac{\Phi \gg e_1 : \sigma_1 \quad \Phi, x{:}\sigma_1 \gg e_2 : \sigma_2}{\Phi \gg (\lambda x{:}\sigma_1.e_2)\, e_1 = [e_1/x]e_2 : \sigma_2}$$

$$(\rightarrow\ \eta)\ \frac{\Phi \gg e : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2}{\Phi \gg (\lambda x{:}\sigma_1.e\,x) = e : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2}\ (x \notin \mathrm{Dom}(\Phi))$$

$$(\forall\ \beta)\ \frac{\Phi \gg u : k \quad \Phi, v{:}k \gg e : \sigma}{\Phi \gg (\Lambda v{:}k.e)[u] = [u/v]e : [u/v]\sigma}$$

$$(\forall\ \eta)\ \frac{\Phi \gg e : (\forall v{:}k.\sigma)}{\Phi \gg (\Lambda v{:}k.e[v]) = e : (\forall v{:}k.\sigma)}\ (v \notin \mathrm{Dom}(\Phi))$$

2.6 Theories

The λ^{ML} calculus is defined with respect to an arbitrary *theory* $\mathcal{T} = (\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{T}})$ consisting of a well-formed context $\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}$ and a set $\mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{T}}$ of run-time equational axioms of the form $e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$ with $\Phi_0 \gg e_i : \sigma$ derivable for $i = 1, 2$. A theory corresponds to the programming language notion of standard prelude, and might contain declarations such as *int* : T and *fix* : $\forall t{:}T.\,\mathrm{set}((t \rightarrow t) \rightarrow t)$, and axioms such as expressing the fixed-point property of *fix*. For $\mathcal{T} = (\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{T}})$, we write $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}$ to indicate that the judgement $\mathcal{J}$ is derivable in λ^{ML}, taking the variables declared in $\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}$ as basic constructors and terms, and taking the equations in $\mathcal{E}^{\mathcal{T}}$ as non-logical axioms. We write $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct} \mathcal{J}$ to indicate that the judgement $\mathcal{J}$ is derivable from theory $\mathcal{T}$ using only the compile-time equational rules and equational axioms of $\mathcal{T}$.

2.7 Properties of λ^{ML}

We will describe the phase distinction in λ^{ML} by separating contexts into sets of "compile-time" and "run-time" declarations. If Φ is a λ^{ML} context, we let Φ^{c} be the context obtained by omitting all term variable declarations from Φ and let Φ^{r} be the context obtained by eliminating all constructor variable declarations from Φ. The following lemma expresses the compile-time type checking property of λ^{ML}:

Lemma 2.1 *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be any theory. The following implications hold:*

If $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$	*then* $\lambda^{ML}[\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \emptyset] \vdash_{ct}$
Φ context	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}}, \Phi^{\mathsf{r}}$ context
$\Phi \gg u : k$	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}} \gg u : k$
$\Phi \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}} \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$
$\Phi \gg \sigma$ type	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}} \gg \sigma$ type
$\Phi \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ type	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}} \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ type
$\Phi \gg e : \sigma$	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}}, \Phi^{\mathsf{r}} \gg e : \sigma$
$\Phi \gg e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$	$\Phi^{\mathsf{c}}, \Phi^{\mathsf{r}} \gg e_i : \sigma$

Since the constructors and kinds form a simply-typed λ-calculus, it is a routine matter to show that equality of well-formed constructors (and, consequently, types) in λ^{ML} is decidable. It is then easy to show that type checking in λ^{ML} is decidable. This is a well-known property of the polymorphic lambda calculus F_ω (*c.f.* [Gir71, Gir72, Rey74, BMM89]), which may be seen as an impredicative extension of the λ^{ML} calculus.

Lemma 2.2 *There is a straightforward one-pass algorithm which decides, for an arbitrary well-formed theory $\mathcal{T}$ and formation judgement $\mathcal{F}$, whether or not $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{F}$.*

The main technical accomplishment of this paper is to present a full calculus encompassing the module expressions of ML which has a compile-time decidable type checking problem.

3 Modules Calculus

3.1 Overview

In the XML account of Standard ML modules [Mac86, MH88] (see also [NPS88, C+86, Mar84] for related ideas), a structure is an element of a *strong sum* type of the form $\Sigma x{:}A.B$. For example, a structure with one type and one value component is regarded as a pair $[\tau, e]$ of type $S = \Sigma t{:}T.\sigma$. Although Standard ML structures bind names to their components, component selection in XML is simplified using the projections *Fst* and *Snd*. Functors are treated as elements of *dependent function* types of the form $\Pi x{:}A.B$. For example, a functor mapping structures with signature S to structures with the same signature would have type $\Pi s{:}(\Sigma t{:}T.\sigma).(\Sigma t{:}T.\sigma)$. In XML, functors are therefore written as λ-terms mapping structures to structures. As discussed in the introduction, the standard use of dependent types conflicts with compile-time type checking since a type expression (which we expect to evaluate a compile time) may depend on an arbitrary (possibly run time) expression. For example, if F is a functor variable of signature $S \rightarrow S$ (where S is as above), then $Fst(F\,[int, 3])$ is an irreducible type expression involving a run-time sub-expression.

In this section we develop a calculus λ^{ML}_{mod} of higher-order modules with a phase distinction based on the categorical analysis of [Mog89a]. We begin with a simpler "structures-only" calculus that is primarily a technical device used in the proofs. The full calculus of higher-order modules has a standard syntax for dependent strong sums and functions, resembling

XML, but a non-standard equational theory inspired by the categorical interpretation of program modules [Mog89a]. The calculus also employs a single non-standard typing rule for structures that we conjecture is not needed for decidable typing, but which allows a more generous (and simple) type-checking algorithm without invalidating the categorical semantics. Although inspired by a categorical construction, we prove our main results directly using only standard techniques of lambda calculus. The non-standard aspects of λ^{ML}_{mod} calculus are justified by showing that this calculus is a definitional extension of the "structures-only" calculus, which itself bears a straightforward relationship to the core calculus. This definitional extension result is used to prove that λ^{ML}_{mod} type equivalence is decidable and that the language therefore has a practical type checking algorithm.

3.2 The Calculus of Structures

In this section, we extend λ^{ML} with structures and signatures. The resulting calculus, λ^{ML}_{str}, has a straightforward phase distinction and forms the basis for the full calculus of modules. We assume we have some set of structure variables that are disjoint from the constructor and term variables, and use s, s', s_1, ...as metavariables for structure variables. The additional syntax of λ^{ML}_{str} is given in Table 3. Note that contexts are extended to include declarations of structure identifiers, but structures are required to be in "split" form $[u, e]$. (A variable s is not a structure and there is no need for operations to select the components of a structure.)

The judgement forms of λ^{ML} are extended with two additional formation judgements, and two additional equality judgements, summarized in Table 4. The rules for deriving judgements in λ^{ML}_{str} are obtained by extending the rules of λ^{ML} (taking contexts now in the extended sense) with the obvious rules for structures in "split" form, in particular the following two rules governing the use of structure variables:

$$([]\ E_1) \qquad \frac{\Phi\ context}{\Phi \gg s^{\mathsf{c}} : k}\ (\Phi(s) = [v{:}k, \sigma])$$

$$([]\ E_2) \qquad \frac{\Phi\ context}{\Phi \gg s^{\mathsf{r}} : [s^{\mathsf{c}}/v]\sigma}\ (\Phi(s) = [v{:}k, \sigma])$$

The notion of theory and derivability with respect to a theory are the same as in λ^{ML}.

The calculus of structures may be understood in terms of a translation into the core calculus, which amounts to showing that λ^{ML}_{str} may be interpreted into the category of modules of [Mog89a]. For Φ a λ^{ML}_{str} context, define Φ^* to be the λ^{ML} context obtained by replacing all structure variable declarations $s : [v{:}k, \sigma]$ by the pair of declarations $s^{\mathsf{c}} : k$ and $s^{\mathsf{r}} : [s^{\mathsf{c}}/v]\sigma$.

Lemma 3.1 *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a well-formed λ^{ML} theory.*

1. $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi \gg [v{:}k, \sigma]$ sig *iff* $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi^*, v{:}k \gg \sigma$ type, *and similarly for signature equality.*
2. $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi \gg [u, e] : [v{:}k, \sigma]$ *iff* $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi^* \gg u : k$ *and* $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi^* \gg e : [u/v]\sigma$, *and similarly for structure equality.*
3. $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi \gg \alpha$ *iff* $\lambda^{ML}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi^* \gg \alpha$, *for any judgement α other than of the four forms considered in items 1. and 2. above.*

It is an immediate consequence of this lemma and the decidability of λ^{ML} type equivalence that λ^{ML}_{str} type equivalence is decidable. This will be important for the decidability of type checking in the full modules calculus.

3.3 The Calculus of Modules

The relative cartesian closure of Moggi's category of modules implies that higher-order functors are *definable* in λ^{ML}_{str}. This may seem surprising, since λ^{ML}_{str} is a rather minimal calculus of structures, with nothing syntactically resembling lambda abstraction over structures. The key idea in understanding this phenomenon is to regard *all* modules as "mixed-phase" entities, consisting of a compile-time part and a run-time part. For basic structures of the form $[u, e]$, the partitioning is clear: u, a constructor, may be evaluated at compile-time, while e, a term, is left until run-time . For more complex module expressions such as functors, the separation requires further explanation.

Consider the signature $S = [v{:}T, \mathrm{set}(v)]$, and let $F{:}S \to S$ be a functor. Since this functor lies within the first-order fragment of λ^{ML}, we may rely on Standard ML for intuition. The functor F takes a structure of signature S as argument, and returns a structure, also of signature S. On the face of it, F might compute the type component of the result as a function of *both* the type and term component of the argument. However, no such computation is possible in ML since there are no primitives for building types from terms. Thus we may regard F as consisting of two parts, the compile-time part, which computes the type component of the result as a function of the type component of the argument, and the run-time part, which computes the term component of the result as a function of both the type and term component of the argument. (Since we are working in

k	$\in$ *kind*	$::=$	$\ldots$
u	$\in$ *constr*	$::=$	$\ldots \mid s^{\mathsf{C}}$
σ	$\in$ *type*	$::=$	$\ldots$
e	$\in$ *term*	$::=$	$\ldots \mid s^{\mathsf{r}}$
S	$\in$ *sig*	$::=$	$[v{:}k, \sigma]$
M	$\in$ *mod*	$::=$	$[u, e]$
Φ	$\in$ *context*	$::=$	$\ldots \mid \Phi, s{:}S$

Table 3: λ_{str}^{ML} raw expressions

$\Phi \gg S\ sig$	S is a signature
$\Phi \gg M : S$	M is a structure of signature S
$\Phi \gg S_1 = S_2\ sig$	S_1 and S_2 are equal signatures
$\Phi \gg M_1 = M_2 : S$	M_1 and M_2 are equal modules of signature S

Table 4: λ_{str}^{ML} judgement forms

a typed framework with explicit polymorphism, the term component may contain type information that depends on the compile-time functor argument.) For a more concrete example, suppose I is the identity functor $\lambda s{:}S.s$. Separated into compile time and run time parts, I becomes the structure

$$[\lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}T.s^{\mathsf{C}}, \Lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}T.\lambda s^{\mathsf{r}}{:}\mathrm{set}(s^{\mathsf{C}}).s^{\mathsf{r}}]$$

of signature

$$[f{:}T{\to}T, \forall s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}T.\,\mathrm{set}(s^{\mathsf{C}}{\to}fs^{\mathsf{C}})].$$

In other words, I may be represented by the structure consisting of the identity constructor on types, and the polymorphic identity on terms. (A technical side comment is that the structure corresponding to I has more than one signature, as we shall see.)

With functors represented by structures, functor application becomes a form of "structure application." In keeping with the above discussion, structure application is computed by applying the first component of the functor to the first component of the argument, and the second component of the functor to both components of the argument. More precisely, if $[u, e]$ is a structure of signature $[f{:}k' \to k, \forall v'{:}k'.\sigma' \to [fv'/v]\sigma]$, and $[u', e']$ is a structure of signature $[v'{:}k', \sigma']$, then the application $[u, e]\,[u', e']$ is defined to be the structure $[uu', eue']$ of signature $[v{:}k, \sigma]$. As we shall see below, the appropriate typing conditions are satisfied whenever the first structure is the image of a functor under the translation sketched in the next paragraph. Moreover, both type correctness and equality are preserved under the translation.

Although λ_{str}^{ML} already "has" higher-order modules, the syntax for representing them forces the user to explicitly decompose every functor into distinct compile-time and run-time parts, even for the first-order functors of Standard ML. This is syntactically cumbersome. In keeping with the syntax of Standard ML, and practical programming considerations, we will consider a more natural notation based on [Mac86, MH88]. However, our calculus will nonetheless respect the phase distinction inherent in representing functors as structures. This is achieved by employing a non-standard equational theory that, when used during type checking, makes explicit the underlying "split" interpretation of module expressions, and hence eliminates apparent phase violations. For example, if A is a functor of signature $[t{:}T, \mathrm{set}(int)]{\to}[t{:}T, 1]$, then the type expression $\sigma = Fst(A\,[int, 3])$ is equal, using the non-standard rules, to $Fst(A)\,int$, which is free of run-time subexpressions. As a result, if e is a term of type σ, then the application

$$(\lambda x{:}\,\mathrm{set}(Fst(A\,[int, 5])).x)\,e$$

is type-correct, whereas in the absence of the non-standard equations this would not be so (assuming $3 \neq 5 : int$).

The raw syntax of λ_{mod}^{ML} is an extension of that of λ^{ML}; the extensions are given in Table 5. The judgement forms are the same as for λ_{str}^{ML}, and are axiomatized by standard structure and functor rules, as in [MH88]. The λ_{mod}^{ML} calculus is parametric in a the-

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
k & \in \mathit{kind} & ::= \ \ldots \\
u & \in \mathit{constr} & ::= \ \ldots \mid \mathit{Fst}(M) \\
\sigma & \in \mathit{type} & ::= \ \ldots \\
e & \in \mathit{term} & ::= \ \ldots \mid \mathit{Snd}(M) \\
S & \in \mathit{sig} & ::= \ [v{:}k, \sigma] \mid 1 \mid (\Sigma s{:}S_1.S_2) \mid (\Pi s{:}S_1.S_2) \\
M & \in \mathit{mod} & ::= \ s \mid [u, e] \mid * \mid \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \mid \pi_i(M) \mid (\lambda s{:}S.M) \mid M_1\, M_2 \\
\Phi & \in \mathit{context} & ::= \ \ldots \mid \Phi, s{:}S
\end{array}
$$

Table 5: λ^{ML}_{mod} raw expressions

ory, defined as in λ^{ML} (*i.e.*, we do not admit module constants, or axioms governing module expressions.)

The formation rules of λ^{ML}_{mod} are essentially the standard rules for dependent strong sums and dependent function types. The equational rules include the expected rules for dependent types, together with the non-standard rules summarized in Table 6.

Beside the non-standard equational rules (and "orthogonal" to them), there is also a non-standard typing rules for structures:

$$\frac{\Phi \gg M : [v{:}k, \sigma] \qquad \Phi, v{:}k \gg \sigma' \ \mathit{type} \qquad \Phi \gg \mathit{Snd}\ M : [\mathit{Fst}\ M/v]\sigma'}{\Phi \gg M : [v{:}k, \sigma']}$$

The non-standard typing rule is *consistent* with the interpretation in the category of modules [Mog89a], but (we conjecture that) without it the main properties of λ^{ML}_{mod}, namely the compile-time type checking theorem and the decidability of typing judgements, would still hold. The reason for having such rule is mainly pragmatic: to have a simple type checking algorithm (see Definition 3.9). Moreover, this additional typing rule captures a particularly natural property of Σ-types (once uniqueness of type has been abandoned), namely that a structure M should be *identified* with its expansion $[\mathit{Fst}\, M, \mathit{Snd}\, M]$. A typical example of typing judgement derivable by the non-standard typing rule is $s{:}[v{:}k, \sigma] \gg s : [v{:}k, [\mathit{Fst}\, s/v]\sigma]$.

3.4 Translation of λ^{ML}_{mod} into λ^{ML}_{str}

The non-standard equational theory used in the definition of λ^{ML}_{mod} is justified by proving that λ^{ML}_{mod} is a *definitional extension* of λ^{ML}_{str}, in a sense to be made precise below. This definitional extension result will then play an important role in establishing the decidability and compile-time type checking property of λ^{ML}_{mod}.

We begin by giving a translation $\_^\flat$ from raw λ^{ML}_{mod} expressions into raw λ^{ML}_{str} expressions. This translation is defined by induction on the structure of λ^{ML}_{mod} expressions. Apart from the cases given in Table 7, the translation is defined to commute with the expression constructors. For the basis we associate with every module variable s a constructor variable s^{c} and a term variable s^{r} in λ^{ML}_{str}. For convenience in defining the translation we fix a constructor variable $\mathbf{v}$ that may occur in expressions of λ^{ML}_{str}, but not in expressions of λ^{ML}_{mod}. Signatures of λ^{ML}_{mod} will be translated to λ^{ML}_{str} signatures of the form $[\mathbf{v}{:}k, \sigma]$. The translation is extended "declaration-wise" to contexts: $\Phi^\flat$ is obtained from Φ by replacing declarations of the form $x{:}\sigma$ by $x{:}\sigma^\flat$, and declarations of the form $s{:}S$ by $s{:}S^\flat$. Note that the translation leaves λ^{ML} expressions fixed; consequently, the translation need not be extended to theories.

Lemma 3.2 (Substitutivity) *The translation $\_^\flat$ commutes with substitution.*
In particular if $M^\flat = [u, e]$, then $([M/s]\_)^\flat = [u, e/s^{\mathsf{c}}, s^{\mathsf{r}}](\_^\flat)$.

Theorem 3.3 ($\_^\flat$ interpretation) *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a well-formed theory, and let $\mathcal{J}$ be a λ^{ML}_{mod} judgement. If $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}$, then $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}^\flat$.*

Conversely, λ^{ML}_{str} is essentially a sub-calculus of λ^{ML}_{mod}, differing only in the treatment of structure variables. To make this precise, define the embedding $\_^{\mathsf{e}}$ of λ^{ML}_{str} raw expressions into λ^{ML}_{mod} raw expressions by replacing all occurrences of s^{c} by $\mathit{Fst}(s)$, and all occurrences of s^{r} by $\mathit{Snd}(s)$.

Theorem 3.4 ($\_^{\mathsf{e}}$ interpretation) *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a well-formed theory, and let $\mathcal{J}$ be a λ^{ML}_{str} judgement. If $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}$, then $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}^{\mathsf{e}}$.*

Theorem 3.5 (Definitional extension) *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a well-formed theory.*

- *For any formation judgement $\mathcal{F}$ of λ^{ML}_{str}, if $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{F}$, then $(\mathcal{F}^{\mathsf{e}})^\flat$ is syntactically equal to $\mathcal{F}$, modulo the names of bound variables.*

Non-standard equational rules for signatures

$$(1>) \qquad \frac{\Phi \ context}{\Phi \gg 1 = [v{:}1, 1] \ sig}$$

$$(\Sigma>) \quad \frac{\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type}{\Phi \gg (\Sigma s{:}[v_1{:}k_1, \sigma_1].[v_2{:}k_2, [Fst(s)/v_1]\sigma_2]) = [v{:}k_1 \times k_2, [\pi_1 v/v_1]\sigma_1 \times [\pi_1 v, \pi_2 v/v_1, v_2]\sigma_2] \ sig}$$

$$(\Pi>) \quad \frac{\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type}{\Phi \gg (\Pi s{:}[v_1{:}k_1, \sigma_1].[v_2{:}k_2, [Fst(s)/v_1]\sigma_2]) = [v{:}k_1 \to k_2, (\forall v_1{:}k_1.\sigma_1 \to [v\, v_1/v_2]\sigma_2)] \ sig}$$

Non-standard equational rules for modules

$$(1\ I>) \qquad \frac{\Phi \ context}{\Phi \gg * = [*, *]\ [v{:}1, 1]}$$

$$(\Sigma\ I>) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c}\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type \\ \Phi \gg u_1 : k_1 \quad \Phi \gg e_1 : [u_1/v_1]\sigma_1 \\ \Phi \gg u_2 : k_2 \quad \Phi \gg e_2 : [u_1, u_2/v_1, v_2]\sigma_2\end{array}}{\Phi \gg \langle [u_1, e_1], [u_2, e_2]\rangle = [\langle u_1, u_2\rangle, \langle e_1, e_2\rangle] : [v{:}k_1 \times k_2, [\pi_1 v/v_1]\sigma_1 \times [\pi_1 v, \pi_2 v/v_1, v_2]\sigma_2]}$$

$$(\Sigma\ E_1>) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c}\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type \\ \Phi \gg u : k_1 \times k_2 \quad \Phi \gg e : [\pi_1 u/v_1]\sigma_1 \times [\pi_1 u, \pi_2 u/v_1, v_2]\sigma_2\end{array}}{\Phi \gg \pi_1[u, e] = [\pi_1 u, \pi_1 e] : [v_1{:}k_1, \sigma_1]}$$

$$(\Sigma\ E_2>) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c}\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type \\ \Phi \gg u : k_1 \times k_2 \quad \Phi \gg e : [\pi_1 u/v_1]\sigma_1 \times [\pi_1 u, \pi_2 u/v_1, v_2]\sigma_2\end{array}}{\Phi \gg \pi_2[u, e] = [\pi_2 u, \pi_2 e] : [v_2{:}k_2, [\pi_1 u/v_1]\sigma_2]}$$

$$(\Pi\ I>) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c}\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type \\ \Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg u : k_2 \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, x{:}\sigma_1 \gg e : [u/v_2]\sigma_2\end{array}}{\begin{array}{r}\Phi \gg (\lambda s{:}[v_1{:}k_1, \sigma_1].[Fst\, s, Snd\, s/v_1, x])[u, e]) = [(\lambda v_1{:}k_1.u), (\Lambda v_1{:}k_1.\lambda x{:}\sigma_1.e)] : \\ [v{:}k_1 \to k_2, (\forall v_1{:}k_1.\sigma_1 \to [v\, v_1/v_2]\sigma_2)]\end{array}}$$

$$(\Pi\ E>) \quad \frac{\begin{array}{c}\Phi, v_1{:}k_1 \gg \sigma_1 \ type \quad \Phi, v_1{:}k_1, v_2{:}k_2 \gg \sigma_2 \ type \\ \Phi \gg u_1 : k_1 \quad \Phi \gg e_1 : [u_1/v_1]\sigma_1 \\ \Phi \gg u : k_1 \to k_2 \quad \Phi \gg e : (\forall v_1{:}k_1.\sigma_1 \to [v\, v_1/v_2]\sigma_2)\end{array}}{\Phi \gg [u, e]\,[u_1, e_1] = [u\, u_1, e[u_1]\, e_1] : [v_2{:}k_2, [u_1/v_1]\sigma_2]}$$

Table 6: Non-standard equations

expression	*translation*	*induction hypotheses*
$Fst(M)$	u	where $M^\flat = [u, e]$
$Snd(M)$	e	where $M^\flat = [u, e]$
s	$[s^{\mathsf{C}}, s^{\mathsf{r}}]$	
$[v{:}k, \sigma]$	$[\mathbf{v}{:}k, [\mathbf{v}/v]\sigma^\flat]$	
1	$[\mathbf{v}{:}1, 1]$	
$(\Sigma s{:}S_1.S_2)$	$[\mathbf{v}{:}(k_1 \times k_2), ([\pi_1\mathbf{v}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma_1 \times [\pi_1\mathbf{v}, \pi_2\mathbf{v}/s^{\mathsf{C}}, \mathbf{v}]\sigma_2)]$	where $S_i^\flat = [\mathbf{v}{:}k_i, \sigma_i]$
$(\Pi s{:}S_1.S_2)$	$[\mathbf{v}{:}(k_1 \to k_2), \forall s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k_1.[s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma_1 \to [\mathbf{v}\ s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma_2]$	where $S_i^\flat = [\mathbf{v}{:}k_i, \sigma_i]$
$*$	$[*, *]$	
$\langle M_1, M_2\rangle$	$[\langle u_1, u_2\rangle, \langle e_1, e_2\rangle]$	where $M_i^\flat = [u_i, e_i]$
$\pi_i M$	$[\pi_i u, \pi_i e]$	where $M^\flat = [u, e]$
$(\lambda s{:}S.M)$	$[(\lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k.u), (\Lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k.\lambda s^{\mathsf{r}}{:}[s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma.e)]$	where $S^\flat = [\mathbf{v}{:}k, \sigma]$ and $M^\flat = [u, e]$
$M_1\, M_2$	$[u_1\, u_2, e_1[u_2]\, e_2]$	where $M_i^\flat = [u_i, e_i]$

Table 7: Translation of λ^{ML}_{mod} into λ^{ML}_{str}

- *If* $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \Phi \gg M : S$, *then the following equality judgements are derivable in* $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}]$*:*
  - $\Phi_s \gg \Phi(s) = (\Phi(s)^\flat)^{\mathsf{e}}$ sig, *for all* $s \in \mathrm{Dom}(\Phi)$, *where* $\Phi \equiv \Phi_s, s{:}\Phi(s), \Phi^s$ *(and similarly for* x *and* v *in* $\mathrm{Dom}(\Phi)$*)*
  - $\Phi \gg S = (S^\flat)^{\mathsf{e}}$ sig
  - $\Phi \gg M = (M^\flat)^{\mathsf{e}} : S$

  (and similarly for the other formation judgements.)

Corollary 3.6 (Conservative extension) *Let* $\mathcal{T}$ *be an arbitrary well-formed theory. For any* λ^{ML}_{str} *judgement* $\mathcal{J}$, $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}^{\mathsf{e}}$ *iff* $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash \mathcal{J}$.

3.5 Compile-Time Type Checking for λ^{ML}_{mod}

The compile-time equational theory of λ^{ML}_{mod} and λ^{ML}_{str} is determined using a restricted equational proof system, defined as follows.

Definition 3.7 (Compile-time calculus) *Compile-time provability in* λ^{ML}_{mod} *and* λ^{ML}_{str} *is defined by disallowing the use of all* β *and* η *rules for term equivalence, and all* β *and* η *rules for module equivalence, apart from those related to "basic" signatures* $[v{:}k, \sigma]$.

Let us designate the β and η axioms for terms of λ^{ML} by $\beta\eta$, then the full λ^{ML}_{mod} calculus may be recovered by working in the theory $(\emptyset, \beta\eta)$, since the β and η axioms for modules are derivable in such a theory.

It may be easily verified that the variants of Theorems 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 obtained by considering compile-time derivability hold.

Theorem 3.8 (Compile-time type checking) *Given any well-formed theory* $\mathcal{T} = (\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{T}})$, *the following implications hold:*

If $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$	*then* $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \emptyset] \vdash_{ct}$
Φ context	Φ context
$\Phi \gg \sigma$ type	$\Phi \gg \sigma$ type
$\Phi \gg S$ sig	$\Phi \gg S$ sig
$\Phi \gg u : k$	$\Phi \gg u : k$
$\Phi \gg e : \sigma$	$\Phi \gg e : \sigma$
$\Phi \gg M : S$	$\Phi \gg M : S$

If $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$	*then* $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \emptyset] \vdash_{ct}$
$\Phi \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ type	$\Phi \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ type
$\Phi \gg S_1 = S_2$ sig	$\Phi \gg S_1 = S_2$ sig
$\Phi \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$	$\Phi \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$
$\Phi \gg e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$	$\Phi \gg e_i : \sigma$
$\Phi \gg M_1 = M_2 : S$	$\Phi \gg M_i : S$ $\Phi \gg [Fst\, M_1, Snd\, M_1] = [Fst\, M_2, Snd\, M_1] : S$

3.6 Decidability of λ^{ML}_{mod}

The decidability of λ^{ML}_{mod} is proved by giving an algorithm that "flattens" structures and signatures during type checking. As a result, checking signature equivalence is reduced to checking type equivalence in λ^{ML}_{str}, and this is, as we have already argued, decidable. The main complication in the algorithm stems from the failure of unicity of types. For example, the structure $[int, 3]$ has both of the inequivalent signatures $[t{:}T, \mathrm{set}(t)]$ and $[t{:}T, int]$. Our approach is to compute the "most specific" signature for a structure (in the foregoing example this would be the second)

which will always have the form $[v{:}k, \sigma]$ where v does not occur free in σ. As a notational convenience, we will usually omit explicit designation of the non-occurring variable, and write such signatures in the form $[{:}k, \sigma]$. The algorithm defined below takes as input a raw context Φ and, for instance, a raw module expression M of λ^{ML}_{mod} and produces one of the following results:

- The context $\Phi^\flat$ and $M^\flat \equiv [u, e]{:}[{:}k, \sigma]$, meaning that $\Phi \gg M : [{:}k, \sigma]$ is derivable in λ^{ML}_{mod}.
- An error, meaning that Φ *context* is not derivable in λ^{ML}_{mod} or that $\Phi \gg M : S$ is not derivable in λ^{ML}_{mod} for any S.

Definition 3.9 (Type-checking algorithm) *The type-checking algorithm TC is given by a deterministic set of inference rules to derive judgements of the following form:*

input		*output*
Φ	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat$ context
$\Phi \gg \sigma$	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat$ type
$\Phi \gg S$	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat \gg S^\flat$ sig
$\Phi \gg u$	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat \gg u^\flat : k$
$\Phi \gg e$	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat \gg e^\flat : \sigma$
$\Phi \gg M$	$\rightarrowtail$	$\Phi^\flat \gg M^\flat : [{:}k, \sigma]$

In the last three cases TC not only computes the translation, but also a kind/type/signature. A sample of the inference rules that constitute the algorithm is given in Table 8.

TC is parametric in a theory $\mathcal{T}$, and we write $TC[\mathcal{T}]$ for the instance of the algorithm in which the constants declared in $\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}$ are regarded as variables. More precisely, $\Phi \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat$ *context* in $TC[\mathcal{T}]$ iff $\Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \Phi \rightarrowtail \Phi^{\mathcal{T}}, \Phi^\flat$ *context* in *TC*.

Theorem 3.10 (Soundness) *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be a well-formed theory. The following implications hold:*

If $TC[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$	*then* $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct}$
$\Phi \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat$ context	Φ context
$\Phi \gg \sigma \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat$ type	$\Phi \gg \sigma$ type
$\Phi \gg S \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg S^\flat$ sig	$\Phi \gg S$ sig
$\Phi \gg u \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg u^\flat : k$	$\Phi \gg u : k$
$\Phi \gg e \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg e^\flat : \sigma$	$\Phi \gg e : \sigma^{\mathrm{e}}$
$\Phi \gg M \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k, \sigma]$	$\Phi \gg M : [{:}k, \sigma^{\mathrm{e}}]$

Theorem 3.11 (Completeness) *Let $\mathcal{T}$ be any well-formed theory. The following implications hold:*

If $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct}$	*then* $TC[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$ & $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct}$
Φ context	$\Phi \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat$ context
$\Phi \gg \sigma$ type	$\Phi \gg \sigma \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat$ type
$\Phi \gg S$ sig	$\Phi \gg S \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg S^\flat$ sig
$\Phi \gg u : k$	$\Phi \gg u \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg u^\flat : k$
$\Phi \gg e : \sigma$	$\Phi \gg \sigma \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat$ type $\Phi \gg e \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg e^\flat : \sigma'$ $\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat = \sigma'$ type
$\Phi \gg M : S$	$\Phi \gg S \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg [\mathrm{v}{:}k, \sigma]$ sig $\Phi \gg M \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k, \sigma']$ $\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma' = [u/\mathrm{v}]\sigma$ type

If $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct}$	*then* $TC[\mathcal{T}] \vdash$ & $\lambda^{ML}_{str}[\mathcal{T}] \vdash_{ct}$
$\Phi \gg \sigma_1 = \sigma_2$ type	$\Phi \gg \sigma_i \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma_i^\flat$ type $\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma_1^\flat = \sigma_2^\flat$ type
$\Phi \gg S_1 = S_2$ sig	$\Phi \gg S_i \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg S_i^\flat$ sig $\Phi^\flat \gg S_1^\flat = S_2^\flat$ sig
$\Phi \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$	$\Phi \gg u_i \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg u_i^\flat : k$ $\Phi^\flat \gg u_1^\flat = u_2^\flat : k$
$\Phi \gg e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$	$\Phi \gg \sigma \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat$ type $\Phi \gg e_i \rightarrowtail \Phi^\flat \gg e_i^\flat : \sigma_i$ $\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma^\flat = \sigma_i$ type $\Phi^\flat \gg e_1^\flat = e_2^\flat : \sigma^\flat$
$\Phi \gg M_1 = M_2 : S$	$\Phi \gg S \rightarrowtail$ $\Phi^\flat \gg [\mathrm{v}{:}k, \sigma]$ sig $\Phi \gg M_i \rightarrowtail$ $\Phi^\flat \gg [u_i, e_i] : [{:}k, \sigma_i]$ $\Phi^\flat \gg u_1 = u_2 : k$ $\Phi^\flat \gg \sigma = [u_i/\mathrm{v}]\sigma_i$ type $\Phi^\flat \gg e_1 = e_2 : \sigma$

Theorem 3.12 (Decidability) *It is decidable whether a raw type-checking judgement lhs $\rightarrowtail$ rhs is derivable using the inference rules in Definition 3.9.*

Corollary 3.13 *Given any well-formed theory $\mathcal{T}$, the derivability of formation judgements in $\lambda^{ML}_{mod}[\mathcal{T}]$ is decidable and does not depend on run-time axioms nor the axioms in $\mathcal{T}$.*

4 Conclusion

Although the relatively straightforward ML-like function calculus XML of [MH88] illustrates some important properties of ML-like languages, it does not provide an adequate basis for the design of a compile-time type checker. Similar problems arise in other programming language models based on dependent

$(\Phi, s{:}S)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg S \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg S^\flat \ sig}{\Phi, s{:}S \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat, s{:}S^\flat \ context} \ (s \notin \mathrm{Dom}(\Phi))$$

$([]\ sig)$ $$\frac{\Phi, v{:}k \gg \sigma \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat, v{:}k \gg \sigma^\flat \ type}{\Phi \gg [v{:}k, \sigma] \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [v{:}k, \sigma^\flat] : sig}$$

$([]\ I)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg u \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg u^\flat : k \quad \Phi \gg e \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg e^\flat : \sigma}{\Phi \gg [u, e] \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k, \sigma]}$$

$([]\ E_1)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k, \sigma]}{\Phi \gg Fst(M) \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg u : k}$$

$([]\ E_2)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k, \sigma]}{\Phi \gg Snd(M) \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg e : \sigma}$$

(var) $$\frac{\Phi \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \ context}{\Phi \gg s \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [s^{\mathsf{C}}, s^{\mathsf{r}}] : [{:}k, [s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma]} \ (\Phi^\flat(s) = [\mathbf{v}{:}k, \sigma])$$

$(1\ I)$ $$\frac{\Phi \ context \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \ context}{\Phi \gg * \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [*, *] : [{:}1, 1]}$$

$(\Sigma\ I)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg M_1 \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u_1, e_1] : [{:}k_1, \sigma_1] \quad \Phi \gg M_2 \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u_2, e_2] : [{:}k_2, \sigma_2]}{\Phi \gg \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [\langle u_1, u_2 \rangle, \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle] : [{:}k_1 \times k_2, \sigma_1 \times \sigma_2]}$$

$(\Sigma\ E_i)$ $$\frac{\Phi \gg M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k_1 \times k_2, \sigma_1 \times \sigma_2]}{\Phi \gg \pi_i M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [\pi_i u, \pi_i e] : [{:}k_i, \sigma_i]}$$

$(\Pi\ I)$ $$\frac{\Phi, s{:}S_1 \gg M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat, s{:}[\mathbf{v}{:}k_1, \sigma_1] \gg [u, e] : [{:}k_2, \sigma_2]}{\begin{array}{l}\Phi \gg (\lambda s{:}S_1.M) \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [(\lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k_1.u), (\Lambda s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k_1.\lambda s^{\mathsf{r}}{:}[s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma_1.e)] : \\ \qquad\qquad [{:}k_1 \to k_2, \forall s^{\mathsf{C}}{:}k_1.[s^{\mathsf{C}}/\mathbf{v}]\sigma_1 \to \sigma_2]\end{array}}$$

$(\Pi\ E)$ $$\frac{\begin{array}{l}\Phi \gg M \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u, e] : [{:}k_1 \to k_2, \forall v{:}k_1.\sigma_1 \to \sigma_2] \\ \Phi \gg M_1 \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u_1, e_1] : [{:}k_1, \sigma]\end{array}}{\Phi \gg M\ M_1 \ \longrightarrow\!\!\!\!\!\rightarrow \Phi^\flat \gg [u\,u_1, e[u_1]\,e_1] : [{:}k_2, [u_1/v]\sigma_2]} \ \lambda^{ML}_{str} \vdash \Phi^\flat \gg \sigma = [u_1/v]\sigma_1 \ type$$

Table 8: Type checking algorithm (selected rules)

types. To address this pragmatic issue, we have developed an alternate form of the XML calculus in which there is a clear compile-time/run-time distinction. Essentially, our technique is to add equational axioms that allow us to decompose structures and functors into separate compile-time and run-time components. While the phase distinction in λ^{ML} reduces to the syntactic difference between types and their elements, the general technique seems applicable to other forms of phase distinction.

The basis for our development is the "category of modules" over an indexed category, which is an instance of the Grothedieck construction. General properties of the category of modules are explained in the companion paper [Mog89a]. In the specific case of λ^{ML}, our non-standard equational axioms lead to a calculus which bears a natural relationship to the category of modules. In future work, it would be interesting to explore the exact connection between our calculus and the categorical construction, and to develop phase distinctions for languages whose type expressions may contain "run-time" subexpressions in more complicated ways.

References

[BL84] R. Burstall and B. Lampson. A kernel language for abstract data types and modules. In *Proc. Int. Symp. on Semantics of Data Types, Sophia-Antipolis (France), Springer LNCS 173*, pages 1–50, 1984.

[BMM89] K. B. Bruce, A. R. Meyer, and J. C. Mitchell. The semantics of second-order lambda calculus. *Information and Computation*, 1989. (to appear).

[C+86] Constable et al. *Implementing Mathematics with the Nuprl Proof Development System*, volume 37 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Prentice-Hall, 1986.

[Car88] L. Cardelli. Phase distinctions in type theory. Manuscript, 1988.

[Gir71] J.-Y. Girard. Une extension de l'interpretation de Gödel à l'analyse, et son application à l'élimination des coupures dans l'analyse et la théorie des types. In J.E. Fenstad, editor, *2nd Scandinavian Logic Symposium*, pages 63–92. North-Holland, 1971.

[Gir72] J.-Y. Girard. Interpretation fonctionelle et elimination des coupures de l'arithmetique d'ordre superieur. These D'Etat, Universite Paris VII, 1972.

[HMM86] R. Harper, D.B. MacQueen, and R. Milner. Standard ml. Technical Report ECS-LFCS-86-2, Lab. for Foundations of Computer Science, University of Edinburgh, March 1986.

[HMT87a] R. Harper, R. Milner, and M. Tofte. The semantics of standard ML. Technical Report ECS-LFCS-87-36, Lab. for Foundations of Computer Science, University of Edinburgh, August 1987.

[HMT87b] R. Harper, R. Milner, and M. Tofte. A type discipline for program modules. In *TAPSOFT '87*, volume 250 of *LNCS*. Springer-Verlag, March 1987.

[Mac86] D.B. MacQueen. Using dependent types to express modular structure. In *Proc. 13-th ACM Symp. on Principles of Programming Languages*, pages 277–286, 1986.

[Mar84] P. Martin-Löf. *Intuitionistic Type Theory*. Bibliopolis, Napoli, 1984.

[MH88] J.C. Mitchell and R. Harper. The essence of ML. In *Proc. 15-th ACM Symp. on Principles of Programming Languages*, pages 28–46, January 1988.

[Mog89a] E. Moggi. A category-theoretic account of program modules. In *Summer Conf. on Category Theory and Computer Science*, pages 101–117, 1989.

[Mog89b] E. Moggi. Computational lambda calculus and monads. In *Fourth IEEE Symp. Logic in Computer Science*, pages 14–23, 1989.

[MP88] J.C. Mitchell and G.D. Plotkin. Abstract types have existential types. *ACM Trans. on Programming Languages and Systems*, 10(3):470–502, 1988. Preliminary version appeared in *Proc. 12-th ACM Symp. on Principles of Programming Languages*, 1985.

[NPS88] B. Nordstrom, K. Peterson, and J. Smith. Programming in martin-löf's type theory. University of Gothenburg / Chalmers Institue of Technology, Book draft of Midsummer 1988.

[Rey74] J.C. Reynolds. Towards a theory of type structure. In *Paris Colloq. on Programming*, pages 408–425. Springer-Verlag LNCS 19, 1974.

[Tof87] M. Tofte. *Operational Semantics and Polymorphic Type Inference*. PhD thesis, University of Edinburgh, 1987.