

Recursive Subtyping for All

May 26 & 28, 2025

CASH team, LIP, ENS Lyon & Cambium team, Inria Paris

Litao Zhou

University of Hong Kong

Programming Language Group

Supervised by Bruno C. d. S. Oliveira

Outline

Introduction

An Overview of $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

Applications & Key Designs

Conclusion & Other Work

Recursive Types: What and Why?

- Useful for modeling structures that refer to themselves:
 - Algebraic Data Types (e.g., Lists, Trees)
 - Recursive Objects

Recursive Types: What and Why?

- Useful for modeling structures that refer to themselves:
 - Algebraic Data Types (e.g., Lists, Trees)
 - Recursive Objects

Class Example

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

As a Recursive Type

Can be represented as:

$$\mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Recursive Types: What and Why?

- Useful for modeling structures that refer to themselves:
 - Algebraic Data Types (e.g., Lists, Trees)
 - Recursive Objects

Class Example

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

As a Recursive Type

Can be represented as:

$$\mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Two Main Approaches

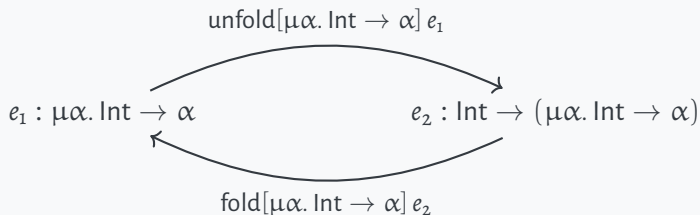
- **Equi-recursive types:** $\mu\alpha. A$ and its unfolding are considered equal.
- **Iso-recursive types:** $\mu\alpha. A$ and its unfolding $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$ are distinct but isomorphic up to unfold and fold operations. (Focus of this talk)

Iso-Recursive Types: Explicit Folding/Unfolding

- A recursive type $\mu\alpha. A$ is **not equal** to its one-step unfolding $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$.
- They are only isomorphic, requiring explicit conversion operators:
 - $\text{unfold}[\mu\alpha. A] : \mu\alpha. A \rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$
 - $\text{fold}[\mu\alpha. A] : A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \rightarrow \mu\alpha. A$

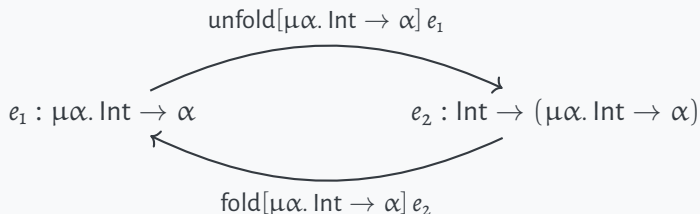
Iso-Recursive Types: Explicit Folding/Unfolding

- A recursive type $\mu\alpha. A$ is **not equal** to its one-step unfolding $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$.
- They are only isomorphic, requiring explicit conversion operators:
 - $\text{unfold}[\mu\alpha. A] : \mu\alpha. A \rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$
 - $\text{fold}[\mu\alpha. A] : A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \rightarrow \mu\alpha. A$



Iso-Recursive Types: Explicit Folding/Unfolding

- A recursive type $\mu\alpha. A$ is **not equal** to its one-step unfolding $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$.
- They are only isomorphic, requiring explicit conversion operators:
 - $\text{unfold}[\mu\alpha. A] : \mu\alpha. A \rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha]$
 - $\text{fold}[\mu\alpha. A] : A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \rightarrow \mu\alpha. A$



- unfold and fold operators are eliminated in the operational semantics.

$$\text{unfold}[A](\text{fold}[A]v) \hookrightarrow v$$

Iso-Recursive Subtyping

It is useful to have subtyping for iso-recursive types

Point Class

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

Iso-Recursive Subtyping

It is useful to have subtyping for iso-recursive types

Point Class

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

Colored Point Class (extends Point)

```
class ColorPoint {  
  color : String,  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int →  
    ColorPoint  
}
```

Iso-Recursive Subtyping

It is useful to have subtyping for iso-recursive types

Point Class

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

Colored Point Class (extends Point)

```
class ColorPoint {  
  color : String,  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int →  
    ColorPoint  
}
```

As Recursive Types

ColorPoint can be used wherever Point is expected.

$$\mu\alpha. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{color : String,} \\ x : \text{Int,} \\ y : \text{Int,} \\ \text{move : Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\leq \mu\alpha. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x : \text{Int,} \\ y : \text{Int,} \\ \text{move : Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right\}$$

Iso-Recursive Subtyping

It is useful to have subtyping for iso-recursive types

Point Class

```
class Point {  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int → Point  
}
```

Colored Point Class (extends Point)

```
class ColorPoint {  
  color : String,  
  x : Int, y : Int,  
  move : Int → Int →  
    ColorPoint  
}
```

As Recursive Types

ColorPoint can be used wherever Point is expected.

$$\mu\alpha. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{color : String,} \\ x : \text{Int,} \\ y : \text{Int,} \\ \text{move : Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\leq \mu\alpha. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x : \text{Int,} \\ y : \text{Int,} \\ \text{move : Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right\}$$

Subtyping can be tricky

We need rules to determine when $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$.

Challenges in Iso-Recursive Subtyping: Examples

A desirable property: **Unfolding Lemma** for type soundness

If $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$, then $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

Challenges in Iso-Recursive Subtyping: Examples

A desirable property: **Unfolding Lemma** for type soundness

If $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$, then $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Positive occurrences** of α : Usually straightforward.
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, assumes $\text{Int} \leq \top$ and recursive check)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq \text{Int} \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha)$

Challenges in Iso-Recursive Subtyping: Examples

A desirable property: **Unfolding Lemma** for type soundness

If $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$, then $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Positive occurrences** of α : Usually straightforward.
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, assumes $\text{Int} \leq \top$ and recursive check)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq \text{Int} \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha)$
- **Negative occurrences** of α : More complex.
 - $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$ (✗)
 - Unfolds once to: $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \text{Int} \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \rightarrow \top$
 - This requires $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ (problematic flip!)

Challenges in Iso-Recursive Subtyping: Examples

A desirable property: **Unfolding Lemma** for type soundness

If $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$, then $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Positive occurrences of α :** Usually straightforward.
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, assumes $\text{Int} \leq \top$ and recursive check)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq \text{Int} \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha)$
- **Negative occurrences of α :** More complex.
 - $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$ (✗)
 - Unfolds once to: $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \text{Int} \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \rightarrow \top$
 - This requires $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ (problematic flip!)
- **Negative occurrences with $\top$ / Reflexivity:**
 - $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, by reflexivity)
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, if $\alpha \leq \top$ allowed in unfolding)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$

Challenges in Iso-Recursive Subtyping: Examples

A desirable property: **Unfolding Lemma** for type soundness

If $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B$, then $A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Positive occurrences of α :** Usually straightforward.
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, assumes $\text{Int} \leq \top$ and recursive check)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq \text{Int} \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha)$
- **Negative occurrences of α :** More complex.
 - $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$ (✗)
 - Unfolds once to: $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}) \rightarrow \text{Int} \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \rightarrow \top$
 - This requires $(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top) \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int})$ (problematic flip!)
- **Negative occurrences with $\top$ / Reflexivity:**
 - $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, by reflexivity)
 - $\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha \leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$ (✓, if $\alpha \leq \top$ allowed in unfolding)
 - Unfolds to: $\top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \top \rightarrow \alpha) \leq (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$
- **Nested Recursive Types:** $\mu\beta. \top \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \beta) \quad ? \quad \mu\beta. \text{Int} \rightarrow (\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \beta)$ (✗)

Traditional Approach: The Amber Rules

The classical formulation for iso-recursive subtyping^{1 2}.

S-Amber

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \leq \beta \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\beta. B}$$

S-Assmp

$$\frac{\alpha \leq \beta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \leq \beta}$$

S-Refl

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. A}$$

¹Cardelli, 1985, “Amber, Combinators and Functional Programming Languages”.

²Amadio and Cardelli, 1993, “Subtyping Recursive Types”.

Traditional Approach: The Amber Rules

The classical formulation for iso-recursive subtyping^{1 2}.

S-Amber

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \leq \beta \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\beta. B}$$

S-Assmp

$$\frac{\alpha \leq \beta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \leq \beta}$$

S-Refl

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. A}$$

- **Pros:**

- Simple to state.
- Handles many cases by adding assumptions $\alpha \leq \beta$.

¹Cardelli, 1985, “Amber, Combinators and Functional Programming Languages”.

²Amadio and Cardelli, 1993, “Subtyping Recursive Types”.

Traditional Approach: The Amber Rules

The classical formulation for iso-recursive subtyping^{1 2}.

S-Amber

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \leq \beta \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\beta. B}$$

S-Assmp

$$\frac{\alpha \leq \beta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \leq \beta}$$

S-Refl

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. A}$$

- **Pros:**

- Simple to state.
- Handles many cases by adding assumptions $\alpha \leq \beta$.

- **Cons:**

- Metatheory (e.g., transitivity) is hard to prove.
- The special context makes the rules non-modular to extend.

¹Cardelli, 1985, “Amber, Combinators and Functional Programming Languages”.

²Amadio and Cardelli, 1993, “Subtyping Recursive Types”.

Traditional Approach: The Amber Rules

The classical formulation for iso-recursive subtyping^{1 2}.

S-Amber

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \leq \beta \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\beta. B}$$

S-Assmp

$$\frac{\alpha \leq \beta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \leq \beta}$$

S-Refl

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. A}$$

- **Pros:**

- Simple to state.
- Handles many cases by adding assumptions $\alpha \leq \beta$.

- **Cons:**

- Metatheory (e.g., transitivity) is hard to prove.
- The special context makes the rules non-modular to extend.

$\Rightarrow$ an alternative, more tractable iso-recursive subtyping formulation.

¹Cardelli, 1985, “Amber, Combinators and Functional Programming Languages”.

²Amadio and Cardelli, 1993, “Subtyping Recursive Types”.

Alternative: Nominal Unfolding Rules

An approach that addresses Amber rules' issues³.

- “Unfolding twice” triggers enough comparisons in covariant and contravariant positions.
- Simulates a “double unfolding” using *labeled types* A^{γ} .
- A fresh label γ is used for each recursive comparison.

S-Nominal

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

S-Label

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

³Zhou, Zhao, and Oliveira, 2022, “Revisiting Iso-Recursive Subtyping”.

Alternative: Nominal Unfolding Rules

An approach that addresses Amber rules' issues³.

- “Unfolding twice” triggers enough comparisons in covariant and contravariant positions.
- Simulates a “double unfolding” using *labeled types* A^{γ} .
- A fresh label γ is used for each recursive comparison.

S-Nominal

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

S-Label

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Benefits

Type sound, same expressive power as Amber rules, transitivity, simpler metatheory.
($\Rightarrow$ *Foundation for this work* $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$).

³Zhou, Zhao, and Oliveira, 2022, “Revisiting Iso-Recursive Subtyping”.

Nominal Unfolding Rules: Example

S-Nominal (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

Example: $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{nat} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$

S-Label (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Nominal Unfolding Rules: Example

S-Nominal (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

S-Label (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Example: $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{nat} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$

Applying S-Nominal with fresh γ , we need to show:

$$\Gamma, \alpha \vdash (\alpha \rightarrow \text{nat})^{\gamma} \rightarrow \text{nat} \leq (\alpha \rightarrow \top)^{\gamma} \rightarrow \top$$

Nominal Unfolding Rules: Example

S-Nominal (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

S-Label (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Example: $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{nat} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$

Applying S-Nominal with fresh γ , we need to show:

$$\Gamma, \alpha \vdash (\alpha \rightarrow \text{nat})^{\gamma} \rightarrow \text{nat} \leq (\alpha \rightarrow \top)^{\gamma} \rightarrow \top$$

- Covariant: $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \text{nat} \leq \top$ (✓)

Nominal Unfolding Rules: Example

S-Nominal (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B}$$

S-Label (Reminder)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Example: $\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{nat} \not\leq \mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \top$

Applying S-Nominal with fresh γ , we need to show:

$$\Gamma, \alpha \vdash (\alpha \rightarrow \text{nat})^{\gamma} \rightarrow \text{nat} \leq (\alpha \rightarrow \top)^{\gamma} \rightarrow \top$$

- Covariant: $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \text{nat} \leq \top$ (✓)
- Contravariant: $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash (\alpha \rightarrow \top)^{\gamma} \leq (\alpha \rightarrow \text{nat})^{\gamma}$
 - By S-Label: $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \top \leq \alpha \rightarrow \text{nat}$
 - This requires $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \top \leq \text{nat}$ (✗) and $\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha \leq \alpha$ (✓).

Bounded Quantification: Quick Overview

Allows abstraction over types that satisfy a subtyping constraint (a bound).

- Example: $\forall(\alpha \leq \text{Number}). \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$
- A function polymorphic in α , where α must be a subtype of `Number`.

⁴Pierce, “Bounded Quantification Is Undecidable”.

Bounded Quantification: Quick Overview

Allows abstraction over types that satisfy a subtyping constraint (a bound).

- Example: $\forall(\alpha \leq \text{Number}). \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$
- A function polymorphic in α , where α must be a subtype of `Number`.

Kernel $F_{\leq}$

- $\forall(\alpha \leq A). B_1 \leq \forall(\alpha \leq A). B_2$
- Bounds must be identical (or equivalent).
- Decidable subtyping.

Full $F_{\leq}$

- $\forall(\alpha \leq A_1). B_1 \leq \forall(\alpha \leq A_2). B_2$
- Bounds can be contravariant ($A_2 \leq A_1$).
- More expressive, but undecidable⁴.

⁴Pierce, “Bounded Quantification Is Undecidable”.

Bounded Quantification: Quick Overview

Allows abstraction over types that satisfy a subtyping constraint (a bound).

- Example: $\forall(\alpha \leq \text{Number}). \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$
- A function polymorphic in α , where α must be a subtype of `Number`.

Kernel $F_{\leq}$

- $\forall(\alpha \leq A). B_1 \leq \forall(\alpha \leq A). B_2$
- Bounds must be identical (or equivalent).
- Decidable subtyping.

Full $F_{\leq}$

- $\forall(\alpha \leq A_1). B_1 \leq \forall(\alpha \leq A_2). B_2$
- Bounds can be contravariant ($A_2 \leq A_1$).
- More expressive, but undecidable⁴.

$F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ **supports both variants**: Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ uses (equivalent bound) kernel $F_{\leq}$ subtyping rule; Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ uses the full $F_{\leq}$ subtyping rule.

⁴Pierce, “Bounded Quantification Is Undecidable”.

Our Calculus: $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

- $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ integrates:
 - Iso-recursive subtyping (via Nominal Unfolding rules)
 - Bounded quantification (extending Kernel $F_{\leq}$ with equivalent bounds / Full $F_{\leq}$ with contravariant bounds)
- Types =
 - $F_{\leq}$ (bounded universal types $\forall(\alpha \leq A). B$) +
 - $\mu\alpha. A$ (recursive types) and A^{γ} (labeled types).
- Terms = $F_{\leq}$ terms + iso-recursive fold/unfolds

Types	$A, B, \dots$	$::=$	$\text{nat} \mid \top \mid A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \mid \alpha \mid \mu\alpha. A \mid A^{\gamma} \mid \forall(\alpha \leq A). B$
Expressions	e	$::=$	$x \mid i \mid e_1 e_2 \mid \lambda x : A. e \mid e A \mid \bigwedge(\alpha \leq A). e \mid \text{unfold } [A] e \mid \text{fold } [A] e$
Values	v	$::=$	$i \mid \lambda x : A. e \mid \bigwedge(\alpha \leq A). e \mid \text{fold } [A] v$

Our Calculus: $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

- Subtyping rules: Combine **$F_{\leq}$ rules** with **nominal unfolding** for μ -types.
 - The only change: recursive variable in $\mu\alpha.A$ is introduced bounded as $\alpha \leq \top$, so we have a unified type context.

Contexts $\Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, \alpha \leq A \mid \Gamma, x : A$

S-Forall(full)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A_2 \leq A_1 \quad \Gamma, a \leq A_2 \vdash B_1 \leq B_2}{\Gamma \vdash \forall(a \leq A_1). B_1 \leq \forall(a \leq A_2). B_2}$$

S-Var-trans

$$\frac{\alpha \leq A \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \leq B}$$

S-Nominal

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \leq \top \vdash A[\alpha \mapsto A^{\gamma}] \leq B[\alpha \mapsto B^{\gamma}] \quad (\gamma \text{ fresh})}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha.A \leq \mu\alpha.B}$$

S-Label

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash A^{\gamma} \leq B^{\gamma}}$$

Metatheory: Main Properties of $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

We prove key properties for both Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ and Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$, formalized in Rocq:

- **Type soundness**

- **Progress:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$, then e is either a value or exists a step $e \hookrightarrow e'$.
- **Preservation:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ and $e \hookrightarrow e'$, then $\Gamma \vdash e' : A$.
- Key challenge: finding the correct generalization of the **unfolding lemma**
 $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B \Rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

⁵Ghelli, 1993, “Recursive Types Are Not Conservative over $F_{\leq}$ ”.

Metatheory: Main Properties of $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

We prove key properties for both Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ and Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$, formalized in Rocq:

- **Type soundness**

- **Progress:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$, then e is either a value or exists a step $e \hookrightarrow e'$.
- **Preservation:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ and $e \hookrightarrow e'$, then $\Gamma \vdash e' : A$.
- Key challenge: finding the correct generalization of the **unfolding lemma**
 $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B \Rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Conservativity over $F_{\leq}$**

- If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ holds in $F_{\leq}$, then $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$.
- If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ holds in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ and only contains $F_{\leq}$ constructs, then $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ also holds in $F_{\leq}$.
- Not the case in equi-recursive types + $F_{\leq}$.⁵

⁵Ghelli, 1993, “Recursive Types Are Not Conservative over $F_{\leq}$ ”.

Metatheory: Main Properties of $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$

We prove key properties for both Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ and Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$, formalized in Rocq:

- **Type soundness**

- **Progress:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$, then e is either a value or exists a step $e \hookrightarrow e'$.
- **Preservation:** If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ and $e \hookrightarrow e'$, then $\Gamma \vdash e' : A$.
- Key challenge: finding the correct generalization of the **unfolding lemma**
 $\mu\alpha. A \leq \mu\alpha. B \Rightarrow A[\mu\alpha. A/\alpha] \leq B[\mu\alpha. B/\alpha]$.

- **Conservativity** over $F_{\leq}$

- If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ holds in $F_{\leq}$, then $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$.
- If $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ holds in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ and only contains $F_{\leq}$ constructs, then $\Gamma \vdash e : A$ also holds in $F_{\leq}$.
- Not the case in equi-recursive types + $F_{\leq}$.⁵

- **Decidability** of typing & subtyping (for Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$)

⁵Ghelli, 1993, “Recursive Types Are Not Conservative over $F_{\leq}$ ”.

Comparison with Other Systems

Calculus	Recursive Types	Bounded Quant.	Decidability (Subtyping)	Transitivity (Subtyping)	Conservativity (over $F_{\leq}$)	Modular Extension	Mechanized Proofs
Amadio et al. (1993)	Iso	N/A	✓	Built-in	N/A	×	×
Zhou et al. (2022)	Iso	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓
Ghelli (1993)	Equi	Full		×	×	×	×
Colazzo et al. (2005)	Equi	Kernel	✓	✓		×	×
Jeffrey (2001)	Equi	Full	✓	✓	×	×	×
Abadi et al. (1996)	Iso	Full		Built-in			×
Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ (This work)	Iso	Kernel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ (This work)	Iso	Full	×	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table: Comparison among related works.

Application: Object Encodings

Objects can be encoded in typed lambda calculi in various ways⁶.

- Recursive types: $\mu\alpha.\{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\}$ **(OR)**

⁶Bruce, Cardelli, and Pierce, 1999, “Comparing Object Encodings”.

Application: Object Encodings

Objects can be encoded in typed lambda calculi in various ways⁶.

- Recursive types: $\mu\alpha.\{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\}$ **(OR)**
- Existential types: $\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ **(OE)**
 - β is interpreted as the state of the object, while methods are functions that depend on the state

⁶Bruce, Cardelli, and Pierce, 1999, “Comparing Object Encodings”.

Application: Object Encodings

Objects can be encoded in typed lambda calculi in various ways⁶.

- Recursive types: $\mu\alpha.\{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\}$ **(OR)**
- Existential types: $\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ **(OE)**
 - β is interpreted as the state of the object, while methods are functions that depend on the state
- Recursive + existential types: $\mu\alpha.\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\})$ **(ORE)**
- Recursive + bounded existentials: $\mu\alpha.\exists(\beta \leq \alpha).\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ **(ORBE)**

⁶Bruce, Cardelli, and Pierce, 1999, “Comparing Object Encodings”.

Application: Object Encodings

Objects can be encoded in typed lambda calculi in various ways⁶.

- Recursive types: $\mu\alpha.\{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\}$ **(OR)**
- Existential types: $\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ **(OE)**
 - β is interpreted as the state of the object, while methods are functions that depend on the state
- Recursive + existential types: $\mu\alpha.\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\})$ **(ORE)**
- Recursive + bounded existentials: $\mu\alpha.\exists(\beta \leq \alpha).\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ **(ORBE)**

$$\exists(\alpha \leq A).B \triangleq \forall(\beta \leq \top). (\forall(\alpha \leq A). B \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \beta$$

⁶Bruce, Cardelli, and Pierce, 1999, “Comparing Object Encodings”.

Application: Object Encodings

Objects can be encoded in typed lambda calculi in various ways⁶.

- Recursive types: $\mu\alpha.\{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\}$ (**OR**)
- Existential types: $\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ (**OE**)
 - β is interpreted as the state of the object, while methods are functions that depend on the state
- Recursive + existential types: $\mu\alpha.\exists\beta.\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\alpha) \dots\})$ (**ORE**)
- Recursive + bounded existentials: $\mu\alpha.\exists(\beta \leq \alpha).\beta \times (\beta \rightarrow \{\dots \text{methods}(\beta) \dots\})$ (**ORBE**)

$$\exists(\alpha \leq A).B \triangleq \forall(\beta \leq \top). (\forall(\alpha \leq A). B \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \beta$$

Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ encodes **OR**, **OE**, and **ORE**. Full $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ encodes **ORBE**.

⁶Bruce, Cardelli, and Pierce, 1999, “Comparing Object Encodings”.

Application: Precise Object Typing with Bounded Quantification

Point Object Type in (OR)

$$\text{Point} \triangleq \mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Application: Precise Object Typing with Bounded Quantification

Point Object Type in (OR)

$$\text{Point} \triangleq \mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Consider a polymorphic ‘move1’ function for points and their subtypes:

```
function move1 [P <= Point] (p : P) = (unfold [Point] p).move 1 1
```

Application: Precise Object Typing with Bounded Quantification

Point Object Type in (OR)

$$\text{Point} \triangleq \mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Consider a polymorphic ‘move1’ function for points and their subtypes:

```
function move1 [P <= Point] (p : P) = (unfold [Point] p).move 1 1
```

- Desired precise type: $\forall (P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow P$

Application: Precise Object Typing with Bounded Quantification

Point Object Type in (OR)

$$\text{Point} \triangleq \mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Consider a polymorphic ‘move’ function for points and their subtypes:

```
function move1 [P <= Point] (p : P) = (unfold [Point] p).move 1 1
```

- Desired precise type: $\forall (P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow P$
- Simpler systems might only give: $\forall (P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow \text{Point}$ (loses precision)

Application: Precise Object Typing with Bounded Quantification

Point Object Type in (OR)

$$\text{Point} \triangleq \mu\alpha. \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$$

Consider a polymorphic ‘move1’ function for points and their subtypes:

```
function move1 [P <= Point] (p : P) = (unfold [Point] p).move 1 1
```

- Desired precise type: $\forall (P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow P$
- Simpler systems might only give: $\forall (P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow \text{Point}$ (loses precision)

$$\text{T-Unfold} \frac{\frac{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash p : \text{Point}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\text{Point}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}[\text{Point}/\alpha]}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\text{Point}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Point}\}}$$

F-bounded Polymorphism: The Challenge and Our Approach

- **F-bounded quantification** is a known technique to achieve self-type polymorphism⁷, typically written as $\forall(\alpha \leq F[\alpha]).A$.
 - Example: $F_{\text{Point}}(\alpha) \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$
 - `move1` can have the type $\forall(P \leq F_{\text{Point}}(P)).P \rightarrow P$

⁷Canning et al., 1989, “F-Bounded Polymorphism for Object-Oriented Programming”.

⁸Baldan, Ghelli, and Raffaetà, 1999, “Basic Theory of F-Bounded Quantification”.

F-bounded Polymorphism: The Challenge and Our Approach

- **F-bounded quantification** is a known technique to achieve self-type polymorphism⁷, typically written as $\forall(\alpha \leq F[\alpha]).A$.
 - Example: $F_{\text{Point}}(\alpha) \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$
 - `move1` can have the type $\forall(P \leq F_{\text{Point}}(P)).P \rightarrow P$
- Directly adding F-bounds to $F_{\leq}$ significantly complicates the system and its metatheory⁸.

⁷Canning et al., 1989, “F-Bounded Polymorphism for Object-Oriented Programming”.

⁸Baldan, Ghelli, and Raffaetà, 1999, “Basic Theory of F-Bounded Quantification”.

F-bounded Polymorphism: The Challenge and Our Approach

- **F-bounded quantification** is a known technique to achieve self-type polymorphism⁷, typically written as $\forall(\alpha \leq F[\alpha]).A$.
 - Example: $F_{\text{Point}}(\alpha) \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$
 - `move1` can have the type $\forall(P \leq F_{\text{Point}}(P)).P \rightarrow P$
- Directly adding F-bounds to $F_{\leq}$ significantly complicates the system and its metatheory⁸.
- **Our Approach in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$** : We achieve a similar expressive power for "positive" F-bounds *without* adding explicit F-bounded universal types.

⁷Canning et al., 1989, "F-Bounded Polymorphism for Object-Oriented Programming".

⁸Baldan, Ghelli, and Raffaetà, 1999, "Basic Theory of F-Bounded Quantification".

F-bounded Polymorphism: The Challenge and Our Approach

- **F-bounded quantification** is a known technique to achieve self-type polymorphism⁷, typically written as $\forall(\alpha \leq F[\alpha]).A$.
 - Example: $F_{\text{Point}}(\alpha) \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}$
 - `move1` can have the type $\forall(P \leq F_{\text{Point}}(P)).P \rightarrow P$
- Directly adding F-bounds to $F_{\leq}$ significantly complicates the system and its metatheory⁸.
- **Our Approach in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$** : We achieve a similar expressive power for "positive" F-bounds *without* adding explicit F-bounded universal types.

⁷Canning et al., 1989, "F-Bounded Polymorphism for Object-Oriented Programming".

⁸Baldan, Ghelli, and Raffaetà, 1999, "Basic Theory of F-Bounded Quantification".

Key Design 1: Structural Folding/Unfolding Rules

Inspired by Abadi et al.⁹, we use structural rules for typing ‘fold/unfold’ terms:

T-SUnfold (Structural Unfold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A \quad \Gamma \vdash A \leq \mu\alpha. B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unfold}[A]e : B[\alpha \mapsto A]}$$

T-SFold (Structural Fold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A[\alpha \mapsto B] \quad \Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fold}[B]e : B}$$

⁹Abadi, Cardelli, and Viswanathan, 1996, “An Interpretation of Objects and Object Types”.

Key Design 1: Structural Folding/Unfolding Rules

Inspired by Abadi et al.⁹, we use structural rules for typing ‘fold/unfold’ terms:

T-SUnfold (Structural Unfold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A \quad \Gamma \vdash A \leq \mu\alpha. B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unfold}[A]e : B[\alpha \mapsto A]}$$

T-SFold (Structural Fold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A[\alpha \mapsto B] \quad \Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fold}[B]e : B}$$

$$\text{T-SUnfold} \frac{\frac{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash p : \text{Point} \quad P \leq \text{Point}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\textcolor{red}{P}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}[\textcolor{red}{P}/\alpha]}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\textcolor{red}{P}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow P\}}$$

⁹Abadi, Cardelli, and Viswanathan, 1996, “An Interpretation of Objects and Object Types”.

Key Design 1: Structural Folding/Unfolding Rules

Inspired by Abadi et al.⁹, we use structural rules for typing ‘fold/unfold’ terms:

T-SUnfold (Structural Unfold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A \quad \Gamma \vdash A \leq \mu\alpha. B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unfold}[A]e : B[\alpha \mapsto A]}$$

T-SFold (Structural Fold)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : A[\alpha \mapsto B] \quad \Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha. A \leq B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fold}[B]e : B}$$

$$\text{T-SUnfold} \frac{\frac{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash p : \text{Point} \quad P \leq \text{Point}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\mathbf{P}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \alpha\}[\mathbf{P}/\alpha]}}{P \leq \text{Point}, p : P \vdash \text{unfold}[\mathbf{P}] p : \{\dots, \text{move} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow P\}}$$

$(\text{unfold} [\text{Point}] p).\text{move}$ has the type $\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow P$ instead of $\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Point}$
so move_1 has the type $\forall(P \leq \text{Point}). P \rightarrow P$.

⁹Abadi, Cardelli, and Viswanathan, 1996, “An Interpretation of Objects and Object Types”.

Application 2: Subtyping for Algebraic Data Types (ADTs)

The intentional behavior of ADTs can be encoded in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ using Scott encodings¹⁰:

```
data Exp1 = Num Int
          | Add Exp1 Exp1
          | Sub Exp1 Exp1
```

$$\text{Exp}_1 \triangleq \mu E. \forall (R \leq \top). \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{num} : \text{Int} \rightarrow R, \\ \text{add} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{sub} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow R$$

¹⁰Scott, “A System of Functional Abstraction”.

Application 2: Subtyping for Algebraic Data Types (ADTs)

The intentional behavior of ADTs can be encoded in $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ using Scott encodings¹⁰:

```
data Exp1 = Num Int
          | Add Exp1 Exp1
          | Sub Exp1 Exp1
```

$$\text{Exp}_1 \triangleq \mu E. \forall (R \leq \top). \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{num} : \text{Int} \rightarrow R, \\ \text{add} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{sub} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow R$$

Constructors (Num_1 , Add_1) and case analysis functions (eval) are definable.

```
function Num1 (n : Int) = fold [Exp1] (∧ A. λ e. (e.num n))
function Add1 (e1 : Exp1, e2 : Exp1) = fold [Exp1] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))

function eval (e : Exp1) = (unfold [Exp1] e) [Int] {
  num = λn. n,
  add = λe1 e2. (eval e1 + eval e2),
  sub = λe1 e2. (eval e1 - eval e2)
}
```

¹⁰Scott, “A System of Functional Abstraction”.

Application 2: Subtyping for Algebraic Data Types (ADTs)

Similarly, we can define Exp_2 extending Exp_1 with a Neg constructor:

$$\text{Exp}_2 \triangleq \mu E. \forall (R \leq \top). \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{num} : \text{Int} \rightarrow R, \\ \text{add} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{sub} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{neg} : E \rightarrow R \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow R$$

Application 2: Subtyping for Algebraic Data Types (ADTs)

Similarly, we can define Exp_2 extending Exp_1 with a Neg constructor:

$$\text{Exp}_2 \triangleq \mu E. \forall (R \leq \top). \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{num} : \text{Int} \rightarrow R, \\ \text{add} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{sub} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{neg} : E \rightarrow R \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow R$$

In $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$, we can show that $\text{Exp}_1 \leq \text{Exp}_2$ with structural subtyping.

Application 2: Subtyping for Algebraic Data Types (ADTs)

Similarly, we can define Exp_2 extending Exp_1 with a Neg constructor:

$$\text{Exp}_2 \triangleq \mu E. \forall (R \leq \top). \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{num} : \text{Int} \rightarrow R, \\ \text{add} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{sub} : E \rightarrow E \rightarrow R, \\ \text{neg} : E \rightarrow R \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow R$$

In $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$, we can show that $\text{Exp}_1 \leq \text{Exp}_2$ with structural subtyping.

Benefits of ADT Subtyping ($\text{Exp}_1 \leq \text{Exp}_2$)

- **Code Reuse:** A function processing Exp_2 ($\text{eval}_2 : \text{Exp}_2 \rightarrow \text{Int}$) can operate on Exp_1 terms.
- **Polymorphic Constructors:** Avoid code duplication but preserve type precision.

ADTs: Polymorphic Constructors & Lower Bounds

Instead of writing individual constructors for each ADT:

```
function Add1 (e1 : Exp1, e2 : Exp1) = fold [Exp1] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))  
function Add2 (e1 : Exp2, e2 : Exp2) = fold [Exp2] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
```

ADTs: Polymorphic Constructors & Lower Bounds

Instead of writing individual constructors for each ADT:

```
function Add1 (e1 : Exp1, e2 : Exp1) = fold [Exp1] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))  
function Add2 (e1 : Exp2, e2 : Exp2) = fold [Exp2] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
```

We can define a single constructor for both Exp₁ and Exp₂:

```
function Add∀ [E ≥ Exp1] (e1 : E, e2 : E) = fold [E] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
```

ADTs: Polymorphic Constructors & Lower Bounds

Instead of writing individual constructors for each ADT:

```
function Add1 (e1 : Exp1, e2 : Exp1) = fold [Exp1] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
function Add2 (e1 : Exp2, e2 : Exp2) = fold [Exp2] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
```

We can define a single constructor for both Exp₁ and Exp₂:

```
function Add∀ [E ≥ Exp1] (e1 : E, e2 : E) = fold [E] (∧ A. λ e. (e.add e1 e2))
```

Using Add_∀ : $\forall (E \geq \text{Exp}_1). E \rightarrow E \rightarrow E$, we can construct terms of type Exp₁, Exp₂, etc., if they are all supertypes of some base expression type.

Required $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ ingredients:

- **Structural folding rules** for fold expressions
- **Lower bounded quantification**, also studied in this work.

Key Design: Lower Bounded Quantification for ADTs

- Extends Kernel $F^{\mu}_{\leq}$ with:
 - Lower bounded quantification: $\forall(\alpha \geq A). B$ (type α is a supertype of A).
 - Note, a variable can only be either upper or lower bounded, not both.
 - Bottom type ($\perp$), single field record types ($\{l : A\}$), and intersection types for records ($\&$).
$$\{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}\} \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}\} \& \{y : \text{Int}\}$$

Key Design: Lower Bounded Quantification for ADTs

- Extends Kernel $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$ with:
 - Lower bounded quantification: $\forall(\alpha \geq A). B$ (type α is a supertype of A).
 - Note, a variable can only be either upper or lower bounded, not both.
 - Bottom type ($\perp$), single field record types ($\{l : A\}$), and intersection types for records ($\&$).

$$\{x : \text{Int}, y : \text{Int}\} \triangleq \{x : \text{Int}\} \& \{y : \text{Int}\}$$
- $F_{\leq}^{\mu \wedge}$ successfully types polymorphic ADT constructors like $\text{Add}_{\forall}$.
- Same metatheory results (type soundness, conservativity, decidability) proved for $F_{\leq}^{\mu \wedge}$.

Conclusion

- Successfully integrated iso-recursive types (nominal unfolding) with kernel and full $F_{\leq}$.
 - **Kernel** $F_{\leq}^{\mu} / F_{\leq}^{\mu \wedge}$: Transitive, decidable subtyping, conservative over kernel $F_{\leq}$, type sound.
 - **Full** $F_{\leq}^{\mu}$: Transitive, undecidable (as expected) subtyping, conservative over full $F_{\leq}$, type sound.
- Applications:
 - Foundational calculus for well-known object encodings
 - Encoding positive forms of F-bounded quantification
 - Enable subtyping for algebraic data types (ADTs) and polymorphic ADT constructors

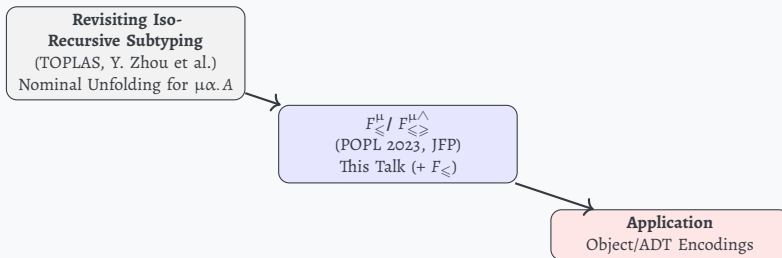
Other work on iso-recursive types

Revisiting Iso-Recursive Subtyping

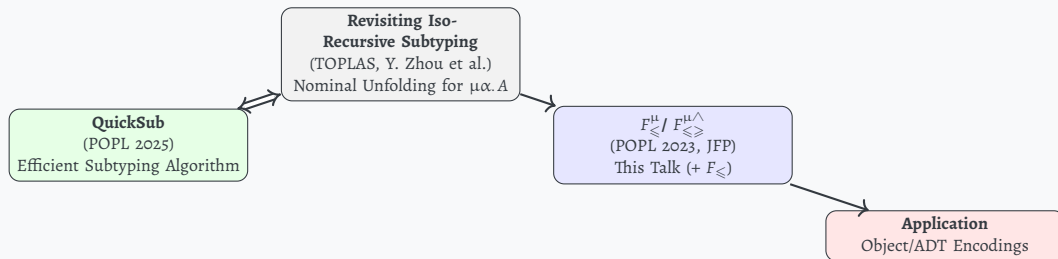
(TOPLAS, Y. Zhou et al.)

Nominal Unfolding for $\mu\alpha.A$

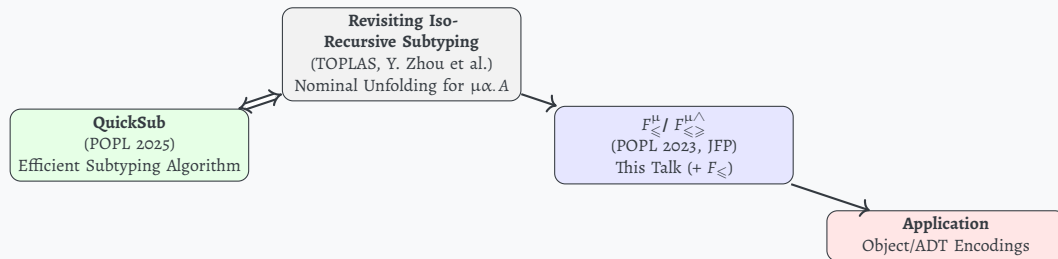
Other work on iso-recursive types



Other work on iso-recursive types



Other work on iso-recursive types

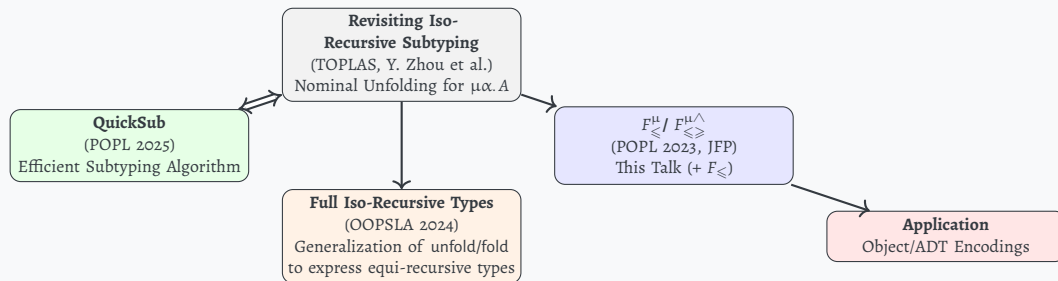


QuickSub: Efficient Iso-Recursive Subtyping

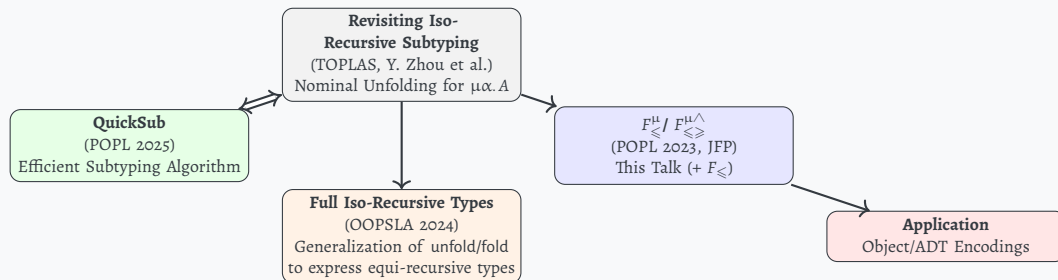
$$\Psi \vdash_{\oplus} A \lesssim B$$

- Ideas: Tracking polarity $\oplus$, distinguish strict subtypes with equivalence on the fly ($\lesssim ::= < \mid \approx_s$).
- Equivalent to Amber rules, **linear complexity** for practical subtypes

Other work on iso-recursive types



Other work on iso-recursive types

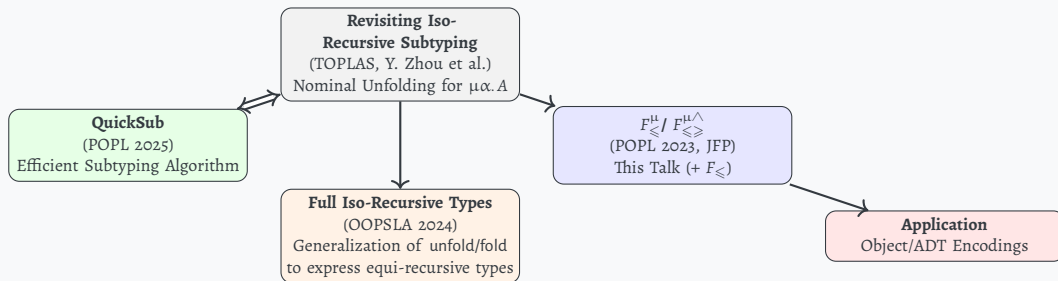


Full Iso-Recursive Types

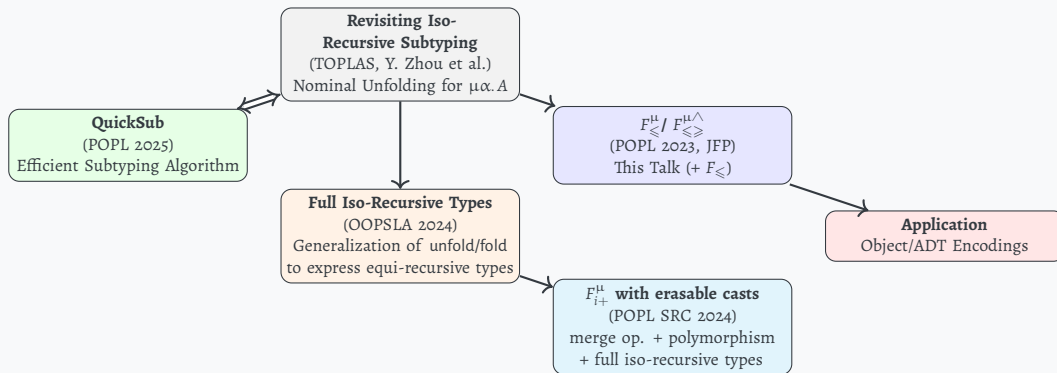
$$e ::= \dots \mid \text{cast}[c]e \quad c ::= \text{unfold}_{\mu\alpha.A} \mid \text{fold}_{\mu\alpha.A} \mid c_1 \rightarrow c_2 \mid \text{fix } \iota.c \mid \dots$$

- Idea: Replace the standard unfold/fold operator with cast's, to enable deep isomorphic transformations on recursive types.
- Same expressiveness of equi-recursive types (easy proof!), casts are runtime irrelevant

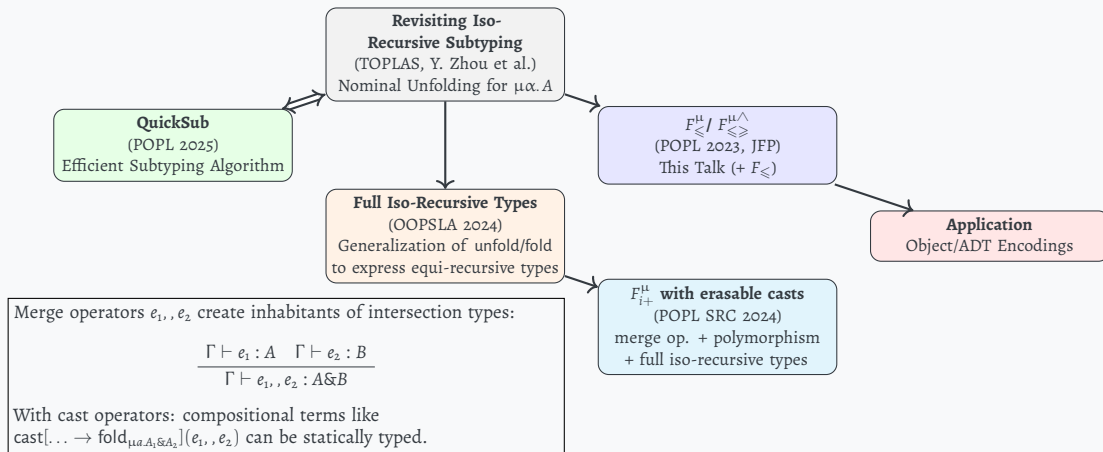
Other work on iso-recursive types



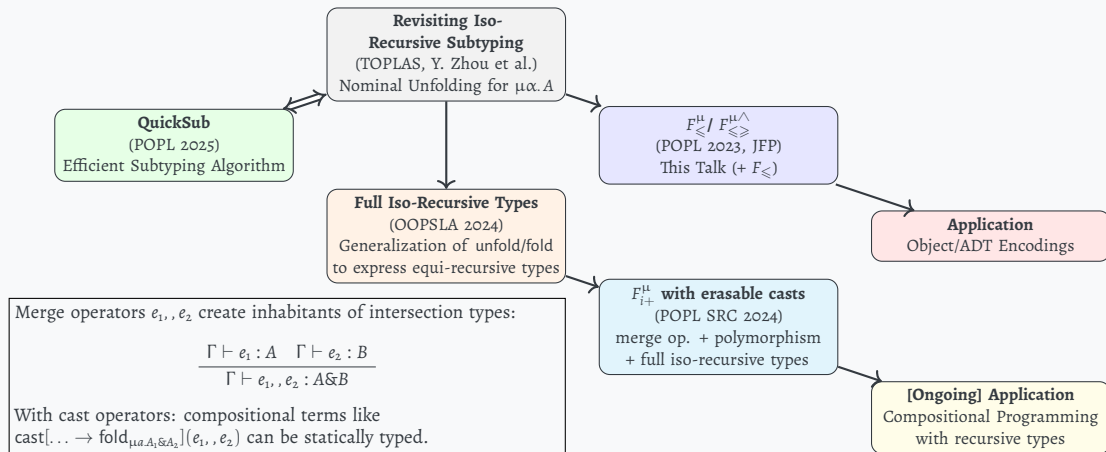
Other work on iso-recursive types



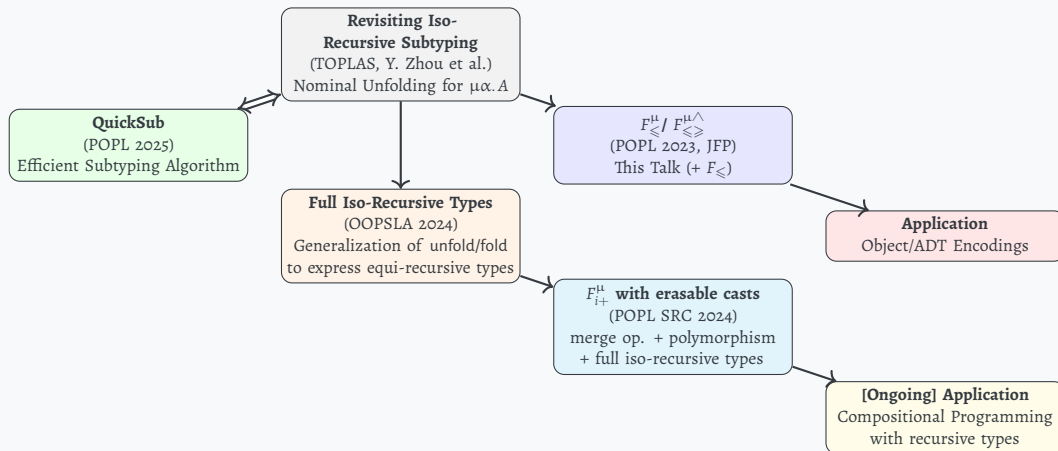
Other work on iso-recursive types



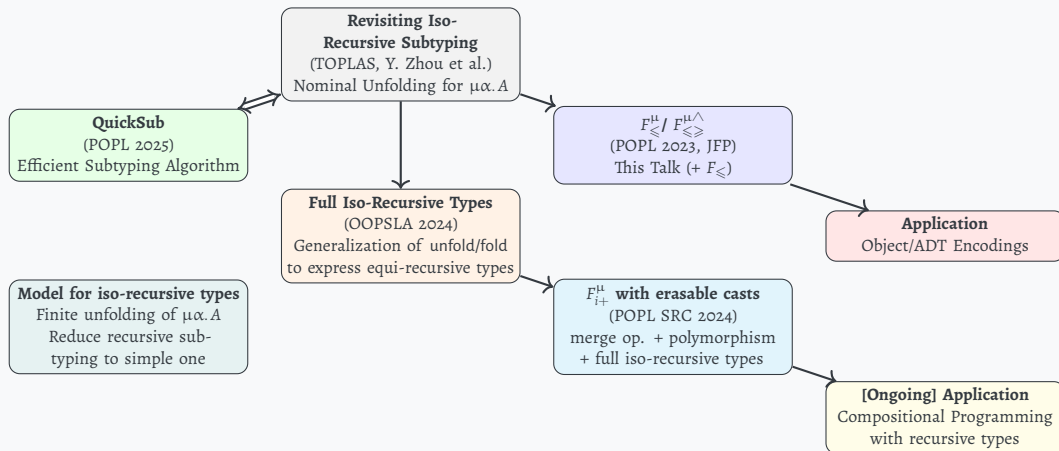
Other work on iso-recursive types



Other work on iso-recursive types

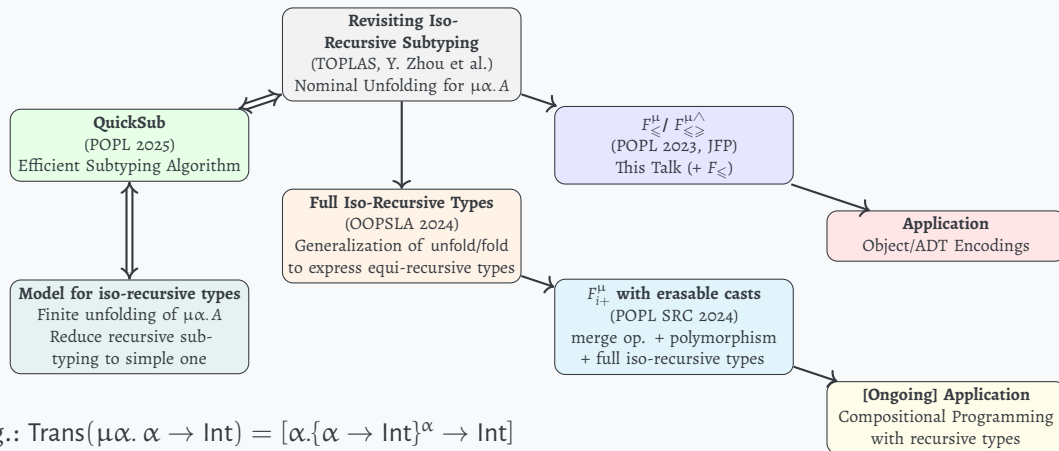


Other work on iso-recursive types



Idea: First translate recursive types into their (nominal) unfolding and then use the translation as a model for subtyping. $A \leq B \triangleq \text{Trans}(A) <: \text{Trans}(B)$.

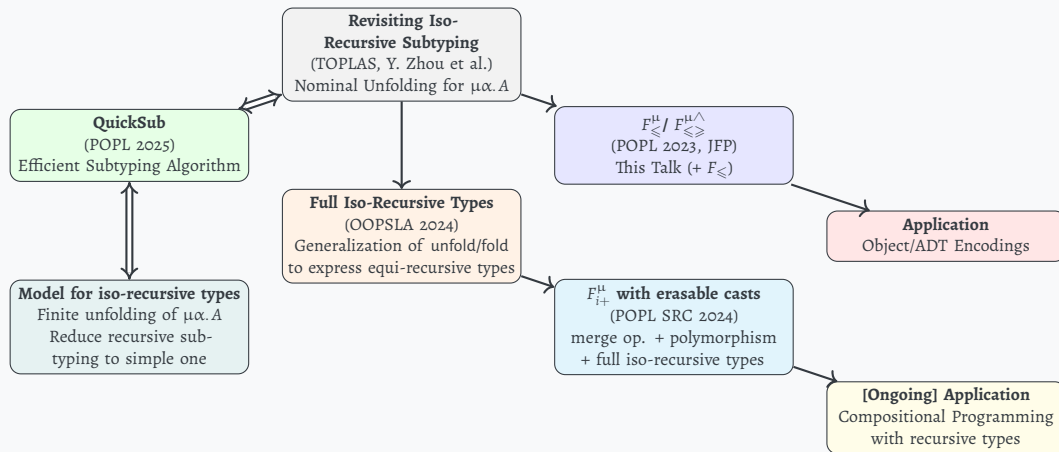
Other work on iso-recursive types



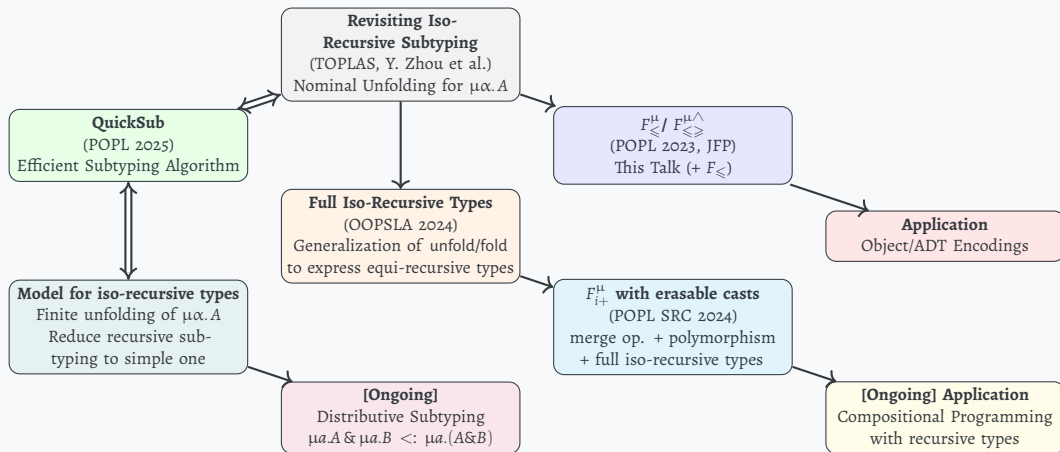
e.g.: $\text{Trans}(\mu\alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}) = [\alpha. \{\alpha \rightarrow \text{Int}\}^{\alpha} \rightarrow \text{Int}]$

Idea: First translate recursive types into their (nominal) unfolding and then use the translation as a model for subtyping. $A \leq B \triangleq \text{Trans}(A) <: \text{Trans}(B)$.

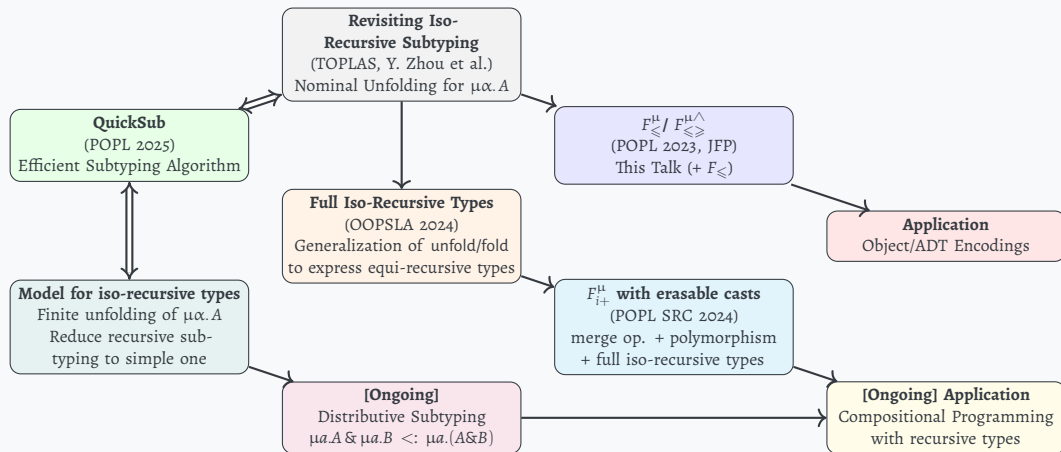
Other work on iso-recursive types



Other work on iso-recursive types



Thank you!



References I

-  Abadi, Martín, Luca Cardelli, and Ramesh Viswanathan. “An Interpretation of Objects and Object Types”. In: *Proceedings of the 23rd ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages*. POPL ’96. New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery, Jan. 1996, pp. 396–409. ISBN: 978-0-89791-769-8. DOI: 10.1145/237721.237809. (Visited on 02/08/2024).
-  Amadio, Roberto M and Luca Cardelli. “Subtyping Recursive Types”. In: *ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems (TOPLAS)* 15.4 (1993), pp. 575–631. DOI: 10.1145/155183.155231.
-  Baldan, Paolo, Giorgio Ghelli, and Alessandra Raffaetà. “Basic Theory of F-Bounded Quantification”. In: *Information and Computation* 153.2 (Sept. 1999), pp. 173–237. ISSN: 08905401. DOI: 10.1006/inco.1999.2802. (Visited on 07/27/2024).
-  Bruce, Kim B., Luca Cardelli, and Benjamin C. Pierce. “Comparing Object Encodings”. In: *Information and Computation* 155.1 (Nov. 1999), pp. 108–133. ISSN: 0890-5401. DOI: 10.1006/inco.1999.2829. (Visited on 02/09/2024).

References II

-  Canning, Peter et al. “F-Bounded Polymorphism for Object-Oriented Programming”. In: *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Functional Programming Languages and Computer Architecture*. Fpca 1989. Imperial College, London, United Kingdom, 1989. DOI: 10.1145/99370.99392.
-  Cardelli, Luca. “Amber, Combinators and Functional Programming Languages”. In: *Proc. of the 13th Summer School of the LITP, Le Val D’Ajol, Vosges (France)*. 1985.
-  Colazzo, Dario and Giorgio Ghelli. “Subtyping Recursion and Parametric Polymorphism in Kernel Fun”. In: *Information and Computation* 198.2 (2005), pp. 71–147. DOI: 10.1016/j.ic.2004.11.003.
-  Ghelli, Giorgio. “Recursive Types Are Not Conservative over $F_{\mu}^{\leq}$ ”. In: *International Conference on Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications*. Springer, 1993, pp. 146–162. DOI: 10.1007/BFb0037104.
-  Jeffrey, Alan. “A Symbolic Labelled Transition System for Coinductive Subtyping of $F_{\mu}^{\leq}$ Types”. In: *2001 IEEE Conference on Logic and Computer Science (LICS 2001)*. Vol. 323. 2001.

References III

-  Pierce, Benjamin C. “Bounded Quantification Is Undecidable”. In: *Information and Computation* 112.1 (1994), pp. 131–165. DOI: 10.1006/inco.1994.1055.
-  Scott, Dana. “A System of Functional Abstraction”. Lectures delivered at University of California, Berkeley, California, USA, 1962/63. 1962.
-  Zhou, Yaoda, Jinxu Zhao, and Bruno C. d. S. Oliveira. “Revisiting Iso-Recursive Subtyping”. In: *ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems (TOPLAS)* 44.4 (2022), pp. 1–54. DOI: 10.1145/3549537.