THEORETICAL PEARLS

Correctness of Compiling Polymorphism to Dynamic Typing

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Abstract

The connection between polymorphic and dynamic typing was originally considered by Curry et al. (1972) in the form of “polymorphic type assignment” for untyped λ-terms. Types are assigned after the fact to what is, in modern terminology, a dynamic language. Interest in type assignment was revitalized by the proposals of Bracha et al. (1998), and Bank et al. (1997) to enrich Java with polymorphism (generics), which in turn sparked the development of other languages, such as Scala, with similar combinations of features. In such a setting, where the target language already has a monomorphic type system, it is desirable to compile polymorphism to dynamic typing in such a way that as much static typing as possible is preserved, relying on dynamics only insofar as genericity is actually required.

The basic approach is to compile polymorphism using embeddings from each type into a universal ‘top’ type, D, and partial projections that go in the other direction. This scheme is intuitively reasonable, and, indeed, has been used in practice many times (Igarashi et al., 2001). Proving its correctness, however, is non-trivial. This paper studies the compilation of System F to an extension of Moggi’s computational metalanguage with a dynamic type and shows how the compilation may be proved correct using a logical relation.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Polymorphism and Dynamic Typing

The connection between polymorphism and dynamic typing was first explored by Curry et al. (1972) under the name polymorphic type assignment. Types are assigned to untyped $\lambda$-terms using rules such as these:

$$
\frac{M : A}{M : \forall X . A} \quad \frac{M : \forall X . A}{M : A[B/X]}
$$

According to this view, a term, $M$, already has an operational meaning, and types are assigned after the fact to express some aspects of their behavior. For example, the expression $\lambda x . x$ can be assigned with the types $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ (booleans to booleans), or more generally $\forall X . X \rightarrow X$. This approach to typing inspired much work on programming languages, including the original formulation of the ML type system by Milner (1978).

The type assignment viewpoint, however, is not the only possible way to understand polymorphism in programming languages. The Girard-Reynolds polymorphic typed $\lambda$-calculus, known as System F (Girard, 1972; Reynolds, 1974), expresses a subtly different concept characterized by these rules:

$$
\frac{M : A}{AX . M : \forall X . A} \quad \frac{M : \forall X . A}{MB : A[B/X]}
$$

Here type abstraction and application are an explicit part of the construction of the term. More generally, according to this intrinsic view, types are seen as defining what terms exist, rather than describing the behavior of pre-existing terms. See Figure 1.1 for comparison between two regimes.

### Table 1.1: A Key Difference

<table>
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<th>Polymorphism in System F (Source)</th>
<th>Dynamic typing in $D$ (Target)</th>
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<td>After operational semantics</td>
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<td>Church style</td>
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A key difference between the two approaches lies in their execution behavior when endowed with an operational semantics. Under a type assignment regime the programs are given independently of any type information. Such programs may be seen as dynamically typed, which, in the presence of multiple classes of data, implies run-time overhead to express and enforce proper classification of values. Types are purely descriptive, and play no role in determining the run-time behavior of a program. In contrast, under a type checking regime the formation of programs and their execution behavior are influenced by, and in some cases determined by, the types involved. This leads to better execution behavior, because it avoids the overhead of dynamic class checks from the outset, and hence is more amenable to modular compilation and composition.
1.2 Compilation of Polymorphism

Interest in polymorphic type assignment was revitalized by the proposals of Bracha et al. (1998) and Bank et al. (1997) to enrich Java with polymorphism ("generics"), which then inspired similar treatment of generics in languages such as C♯ and Scala. Such languages are statically typed, but feature a universal type (Object in Java, but herein called D) of dynamically typed values. The question arose as to how to compile these extensions, given that little or no change could be made to the language’s established monomorphic run-time structure. Abstracting from the language-specific details, the question may be re-phrased as:

How to compile System F to a simply-typed language with a type of dynamically typed values while preserving static type information as much as possible?

Classical type assignment effectively erases static types, mapping everything to the universal type D, which is unsatisfactory. We would rather, for example, translate the monomorphic doubling function λx:nat.x + x to essentially the same typed code λx:N.x + x in the target, reserving dynamic typing, and its associated run-time costs, to the translation of code that actually uses polymorphism. The ideal translation of a System F type A into a D type A† will preserve the structure of A, except that source language type variables, X, will be mapped to the target type D. This immediately raises the question of how to relate (A[B/X])† to A†, which is to say how to manage polymorphic instantiation. Indeed, this is the heart of the translation given by the aforementioned authors.

The translation relies on the existence of an embedding, i, of each D type into the type D, equipped with a corresponding projection, j, which recovers the embedded object, which is to say that j is post-inverse (left-inverse) to i, up to observational equivalence, j o i ≃ id. In the case of compiling to the JVM, i would be realized by an upcast to Object and j by a (possibly failing) downcast from Object. Notice that j is not also pre-inverse (right-inverse) to i, that is, i o j ̸≃ id, because there is no reason to expect that an arbitrary value of type D lies in the image of the embedding i. In order-theoretic terms, every D type is a retract of D, with retraction given by the idempotent composition i o j: D → D.

The embedding of every D type into D lifts functorially into an embedding, I, from (A[B/X])† to A†, accompanied by a corresponding projection, J, going in the other direction. These lifted embeddings and projections are used to mediate polymorphic instantiation. Consider the polymorphic identity function ΛX.λx:X.x of type ∀X.X → X in System F which is then translated to λx:D.x of type D → D in the target language. An instantiation of this polymorphic function at the type N is translated to the following function of type N → N:

\[ λx:N,f_{\text{nat}}((λx:D.x)(i_{\text{nat}}(x))) \]

where i_{\text{nat}} and f_{\text{nat}} are, respectively, the embedding and the projection for N. The pre- and post-compositions with the embeddings and projections arise from the functorial action of the type constructor X → X, thought of as a function of X. The projection to type N → N requires that we embed the argument into D, execute the translation of the polymorphic identity, and project the result back to N. This function is observationally equivalent to the
identity on \( \mathbb{N} \), because the context may only provide natural numbers as arguments, and expect natural numbers as results.

### 1.3 Our Contribution: Correctness Proof

At a very high level, the form of our proof is that of an adequacy theorem for a paradigmatic denotational metalanguage with dynamic typing (which we call \( \mathbf{D} \)) with respect to an operational semantics (represented by conversion rules) of a paradigmatic polymorphic calculus (which is System \( \mathbf{F} \)).

Using embeddings and projections, as sketched above, we can give a straightforward translation of System \( \mathbf{F} \) into \( \mathbf{D} \). The goal of the correctness proof is to show that an expression and its compilation are appropriately related. The contribution of this work is in the method of proof. In the literature we identified two relevant results, neither of which are readily applicable to the present problem:

- Meyer & Wand (1985) give a logical relation argument for correctness of CPS translation for the simply-typed lambda calculus, but our projection \( j \) is not an pre-inverse (right-inverse) of \( i \) as in their work.
- Igarashi \textit{et al.} (2001) show the correctness of compiling generics in (core) Java, but their treatment seems inextricable from the source language, Featherweight Java, which involves a number of object-oriented concepts such as a class table.

Here we present a carefully formulated parametric logical relation that directly relates terms with their translations, together with a key lemma that captures the way in which the relation respects the embeddings and projections. This is, to our knowledge, the first correctness proof of this method of compiling polymorphism in System \( \mathbf{F} \) to dynamic typing. Compared to the bisimulation theorem by Igarashi \textit{et al.} (2001), our logical relation \textit{(cf. Lemma 7)} additionally permits foreign functions as long as they follow the embedding and projection invariants specified in the logical relation, which may be seen as a technical advantage.

### 2 Languages

Throughout the paper we work modulo \( \alpha \)-conversion. So bound variables are assumed to be renamed if collision would happen in substitutions, and variables appearing in contexts are always distinct.

#### 2.1 Source Language

Our source language is System \( \mathbf{F} \), the Girard-Reynolds polymorphic lambda calculus. As in Girard’s original formulation, we include a base type of natural numbers. In our case they provide the observable outcomes that are used to distinguish programs. The syntax, the typing rules, and the conversion rules are shown in Figure 2. We say a type \( A \) is \textit{closed} if \( \vdash A \). The calculus is presented with \( \beta \)-conversions (\( \equiv_\beta \)), a thin abstraction over reductions or the operational semantics. It is compatible with both the call-by-value and call-by-name reductions, or any reasonable operational semantics because the calculus is strongly normalizing.
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Syntax

\( (x \text{ is a variable name.}) \)

Types

\[ A, B ::= X \mid \text{nat} \mid A \rightarrow \forall X.A \]

Terms

\[ M, N ::= x \mid z \mid \text{succ}(M) \mid \text{ifz}(M; N_0; x; N_1) \mid \lambda x.A.M \mid M N \mid \Delta X.M \mid MA \]

Type Context

\[ \Delta ::= \cdot \mid \Delta, X \]

Term Context

\[ \Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x : A \]

\[ \Delta \vdash A \]

\[ \Delta, X \vdash X \]

\[ \Delta \vdash \text{nat} \]

\[ \Delta \vdash A \quad \Delta \vdash B \]

\[ \Delta \vdash X.A \quad \Delta \vdash \forall X.A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash z : \text{nat} \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M : \text{nat} \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \text{succ}(M) : \text{nat} \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \text{ifz}(M; N_0; x; N_1) : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash N_0 : \text{A} \quad \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash x : \text{nat} \vdash N_1 : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \lambda x.A.M : A \rightarrow B \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \Delta_1 \vdash \Delta_2 \vdash B \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B \quad \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash N : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M N : B \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \lambda x.A.M : A \rightarrow B \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \Delta \vdash X.A \quad \Delta, X, \Gamma \vdash M : A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash \Delta \vdash \forall X.A \quad \Delta \vdash B \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M : \forall X.A \]

\[ \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash M B : A[B/X] \]

Conversions

\[ (\lambda x.A.M)N \equiv_{\beta} M[N/x] \]

\[ \text{ifz}(z; N_0; x; N_1) \equiv_{\beta} N_0 \]

\[ \text{ifz}(\text{succ}(M); N_0; x; N_1) \equiv_{\beta} N_1[M/x] \]

Fig. 2. Syntax, type rules, and conversion rules for System F

2.2 Target Language

Our source language is pure and strongly normalizing, but the target language has to have some effects. Firstly, the presence of a universal type that will essentially be a model of an untyped lambda calculus means, because one can express fixed point combinators, that the target has to include non-terminating expressions. Secondly, there needs to be some error mechanism in the target, which we can invoke when projections from the universal type should fail.

Once the target has side-effects, we have to decide how eager to make the translation. For System F, any sensible translation will have a corresponding correctness theorem that shows, amongst other things, that the translation of a closed source program actually never exhibits any effects, but different translations can nevertheless translate a source term into ones that can be distinguished in the target. Here we choose to work with a call-by-value
translation, as that is what one would want to use in the most common real-world situation, in which the source language also has some effects, and has a call-by-value semantics.

We could take the target to be a monomorphic ML-like language with a particular universal type and notion of error. That would work out perfectly well, but we instead translate directly into a slightly more explicit metalanguage for the semantics of such a language, namely a version of Moggi’s (1991) computational metalanguage, $\lambda ML_T$. The computational metalanguage is a simply-typed lambda calculus with a type constructor, $T(\cdot)$, corresponding to a strong monad with an injective unit; we further add a universal type and errors. See Figure 3 for the relevant fragment of its syntax, typing rules, and equations.

The equations for $D$ should be understood as real denotational equalities. The source language System $F$ is treated more syntactically: the translation is defined structurally on actual terms (just modulo $\alpha$-conversion) and we only later show that it respects $\beta$-conversions in the source language as a separate lemma (Lemma 4).

Taking $D$ to be the computational metalanguage is largely a matter of taste, but has some advantages. We will be doing a great deal of equational reasoning and, unlike a call-by-value lambda calculus, $\lambda ML_T$ satisfies unrestricted $\beta$ and $\eta$ laws. The fastidious distinction between computations and values means that the type system makes it clear where there is a possibility of an error or divergence and where there is not, so various erroneous definitions one might make simply won’t typecheck. And finally, we can be generic in exactly what the monad is—the proof will work for any $T(\cdot)$ that satisfies the equations we use.

As mentioned above, the monad is used to account for the possibility of divergence that is forced by the presence of a universal type, and also for the runtime errors that should arise, for example, when one injects a function value into the universal type and then attempts to project (cast) it back out as a natural number. We will require that $T(\cdot)$ comes equipped with a polymorphic constant $\text{err} : T(D)$ for any $D$, but there are many concrete examples of monads that will suit our purposes. For example, in the category of $\omega$-cpos (predomains):

1. Take $T(D) = D \bot$, the lifting monad, and $\text{err} = \bot$, so dynamic errors are just modelled by divergence.
2. Take $T(D) = (1 + D)\bot$, the lifted error (maybe, option) monad, and $\text{err} = [\text{inl}(\ast)]$, so dynamic errors are modelled by a terminating, failing computation.

But everything that follows works for any monad that satisfies our conditions. We write $[\cdot]$ for the unit of the monad and also abbreviate the usual monadic bind construct $\text{let } x \leftarrow d \text{ in } e$ by just $x \leftarrow d ; e$.

The target language $D$ has a base type $\mathbb{N}$ for the natural numbers. If $n : \mathbb{N}$ is a numeral, we write $\pi$ for the corresponding System $F$ normal form $\text{suc}(\ldots(\text{suc}(z))\ldots)$.

The language $D$ also has a universal type $\mathbb{D}$ equipped with operations

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{num} : (d : \mathbb{N}) : \mathbb{D} & \quad \text{num?} : (d : \mathbb{D}) : T(\mathbb{N}) \\
\text{fun} : (d : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow T(\mathbb{D})) : \mathbb{D} & \quad \text{fun?} : (d : \mathbb{D}) : T(\mathbb{D} \rightarrow T(\mathbb{D}))
\end{align*}
\]

subject to the equations listed in Figure 3. We know these requirements are consistent, as they can be canonically satisfied by taking $\mathbb{D}$ to be the least solution to the recursive
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Syntax

(x is a variable name.)

Types

\[ D, E ::= \mathbb{N} \mid D \to E \mid T(D) \mid D \mid \ldots \]

Classes

\[ C ::= \text{num} \mid \text{fun} \mid \ldots \]

Terms

\[ d, e ::= x \mid 0 \mid d + 1 \mid \text{ifz}(d; e_0; e_1) \mid \lambda x:D.d \mid d.e \mid [d] \mid \text{err} \mid x \leftarrow d; e \mid c(d) \mid c'(d) \mid \ldots \]

Contexts

\[ \Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x:D \]

Fig. 3. Syntax, type rules, and equations for the relevant fragment of the metalanguage \( \mathcal{D} \)

Equations

\[
(\lambda x:D.d)e = d[e/x] \\
\text{ifz}(0; d_0; x; d_1) = d_0 \\
\text{ifz}(n+1; d_0; x; d_1) = d_1[n/x] \\
\text{ifz}(d; e; 0; x; e(x+1)) = ed \\
x \leftarrow [d]; e = e[d/x] \\
x \leftarrow \text{err}; e = \text{err} \\
x \leftarrow d; [x] = d \\
x_2 \leftarrow (x_1 \leftarrow d_1; d_2); e = x_1 \leftarrow d_1; x_2 \leftarrow d_2; e \\
[d] = [e] \implies d = e \\
c?c(d) = [d] \\
c \neq c' \implies c?(c'(d)) = \text{err} \\
\ldots
\]

...
Fig. 4. Translation of types and contexts

\[
\begin{align*}
A^\dagger &
\text{nat}^\dagger = \mathbb{N} \\
X^\dagger & = D \\
(A \to B)^\dagger & = A^\dagger \to T(B^\dagger) \\
(\forall X.A)^\dagger & = A^\dagger \\
\Gamma^\dagger & \\
.\dagger = T. \\
(\Gamma, x:A)^\dagger & = \Gamma^\dagger, x:A^\dagger
\end{align*}
\]

with

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{num}(d) & = \text{roll}([\text{inl}(d)]) \\
\text{num?}(d) & = x \leftarrow \text{unroll}(d); \text{case } d \text{ of } \text{inl}(n) \Rightarrow [n] | \text{inr}(\_ ) \Rightarrow \text{err} \\
\text{fun}(d) & = \text{roll}([\text{inr}(d)]) \\
\text{fun?}(d) & = x \leftarrow \text{unroll}(d); \text{case } d \text{ of } \text{inl}(\_ ) \Rightarrow \text{err} | \text{inr}(e) \Rightarrow [e]
\end{align*}
\]

where \text{roll}(\cdot) and \text{unroll}(\cdot) are the components of the isomorphism in the solution of the equation for \(D\). However, nothing that follows relies on any domain theory: we just need the equations.

It is interesting to observe that the correctness of the translation does not actually require any interesting properties of errors. In particular, we do not need to specify that \text{err} is natural, that the monad is strict in errors (i.e. that \(x \leftarrow \text{err}; d = \text{err}\)), or even that errors are disjoint from values (\(\forall d, \text{err} \neq [d]\)), though these properties do hold for our examples of concrete monads. Indeed, one could remove errors entirely, replacing them with arbitrary default values, without materially affecting what follows. The reason for this is that the correctness theorem only talks about error-free behaviour—if everything in the context satisfies some invariant then the translated term is error-free—so the precise nature of errors is not very important. But in a more practical setting, one would want to use a well-structured error mechanism.

3 Translation

The translation and interpretation of types follows Moggi’s (1991) call-by-value translation, with type variables interpreted as the universal type, \(D\). This is shown in Figure 4.

3.1 Embeddings and Projections

Before we can define the translation of terms, we need some auxiliary definitions on the target side. First we have an embedding, \(i\), and a projection, \(j\), mapping between
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\[ i_A : A^\dagger \rightarrow D \quad \text{and} \quad j_A : D \rightarrow T(A^\dagger) \]

\[ i_{\text{nat}}(x) = \text{num}(x) \]
\[ j_{\text{nat}}(x) = \text{num?}(x) \]
\[ i_X(x) = x \]
\[ j_X(x) = [x] \]

\[ i_{A \rightarrow B}(f) = \text{fun}(\lambda d : D. x \leftarrow j_A(d); r \leftarrow f(v); i_B(r)) \]
\[ j_{A \rightarrow B}(f) = f' \leftarrow \text{fun?}(f); [\lambda a : A^\dagger. r \leftarrow f'(i_A(a)); j_B(r)] \]
\[ i_{\forall X. A}(x) = i_X(x) \]
\[ j_{\forall X. A}(x) = j_A(x) \]

Fig. 5. Embeddings and projections

\( A^\dagger \) and \( D \) for each source type \( A \). The definitions are shown in Figure 5. Note that the embedding is total (any value of type \( A^\dagger \) can be mapped into the universal domain), although the projection is partial, which is why the monad appears in the return type. Only well-behaved elements of \( D \) may be mapped back to \( A^\dagger \); projecting an ill-behaved value may fail immediately or, in the case of function types, when the projected value is later actually applied.

An embedding followed by the corresponding projection is always morally the identity (actually, the unit of the monad):

**Lemma 1**
For any System F type \( A \) and \( D \) term \( x : A^\dagger \),

\[ j_A(i_A(x)) = [x]. \]

**Proof**
Induction on the structure of \( A \).

- Case \( \text{nat} \):

\[ j_{\text{nat}}(i_{\text{nat}}(x)) = \text{num?} (\text{num}(x)) = [x] \]

- Case \( X \):

\[ j_X(i_X(x)) = [x] \]
• Case $A 	o B$:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{j}_{\Delta} : & \text{fun}(\text{j}_A : \text{j}_A(f)) \\
          = & f' \leftarrow \text{fun}(\lambda d : \mathcal{D} : x \to \text{j}_A(d); r \leftarrow f v : [\text{j}_B(r)]); [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f' (\text{i}_{\mathcal{A}^1}(a)); \text{j}_B(r)] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to \text{j}_A(d); r \leftarrow f v : [\text{j}_B(r)]); [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f' (\text{i}_{\mathcal{A}^1}(a)); \text{j}_B(r)] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to (\lambda d : \mathcal{D} : x \to \text{j}_A(d); r \leftarrow f v : [\text{j}_B(r)])) \text{i}_{\mathcal{A}^1}(a)); \text{j}_B(r)] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to (\lambda d : \mathcal{D} : x \to \text{j}_A(d); r \leftarrow f v : [\text{j}_B(r)]; \text{j}_B(r))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_{\mathcal{B}^1}(r))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_B(r))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_B(r)))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_B(r)))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_B(r)))] \\
          = & [\lambda a : \mathcal{A}^1 : x \to f a; \text{j}_B(r)))] \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[\square\]

3.2 Lifted Embeddings and Projections

The translation $\mathcal{A}^1$ of a type $A$ with a free type variable $X$ has $\mathcal{D}$ in positions corresponding to the occurrences of $X$ in $A$. Type application in the source involves substitution of a type $B$ for those occurrences of $X$; translating the application requires the use of functions $J_{X,A}^B$ from $\mathcal{A}^1$ to $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A}[B/X])$, the monad applied to the translation of the substituted type.

The result is wrapped in the monad because $\mathcal{D}$-values produced by the argument in places corresponding to positive occurrences of $X$ in $A$ are not necessarily well-behaved. Just as with the embeddings and projections of the previous section, the definition of $J_{X,A}^B$ is not only inductive on $A$, but mutually inductive with that of a function going in the other direction, $J_{A[B/X]}^B$ from $\mathcal{A}[B/X]$ to $\mathcal{A}$. The definitions are shown in Figure 6.

The following is a lifted version of Lemma 1.

**Lemma 2**

If $\Delta, X \vdash A$ and $\Delta \vdash B$, then for any $\mathcal{D}$ term $d : \mathcal{A}^1$,

\[
J_{X,A}^B(d) = [d].
\]

**Proof**

Induction on the structure of $A$.

• Case $X.X$:

\[
J_{X,X}^B(J_{X,X}^B(d)) = j_B(i_B(d)) = [d]
\]

• Case $X.Y$ (where $X$ and $Y$ are different variables):

\[
J_{X,Y}^B(J_{X,Y}^B(d)) = J_{X,Y}^B(d) = [d]
\]
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\[
I^B_{XA} : (A[B/X])^! \to A^!
\]
and
\[
J^B_{XA} : A^! \to T(A[B/X]^!)
\]

\[
I^B_X(x) = iu(x)
\]
\[
J^B_X(x) = jv(x)
\]
\[
I^B_Y(x) = x \quad (X \text{ and } Y \text{ are different variables})
\]
\[
J^B_Y(x) = [x] \quad (X \text{ and } Y \text{ are different variables})
\]
\[
I^B_{X\text{nat}}(x) = x
\]
\[
J^B_{X\text{nat}}(x) = [x]
\]
\[
I^B_{X1 \to A1}(f) = \lambda a: A_1, d' \leftarrow J^B_{X1}(a); r \leftarrow f d'; [I^B_{X2}(r)]
\]
\[
J^B_{X1 \to A1}(f) = [\lambda a: (A_1[B/X])^!, r \leftarrow f (I^B_{X1}(a)); J^B_{X2}(r)]
\]
\[
J^B_{X, Y, A}(x) = I^B_{XA}(x)
\]
\[
J^B_{X, Y, A}(x) = [J^B_{X, Y, A}(x)]
\]

Fig. 6. Lifted embeddings and projections

• Case \(X, \text{nat}\):
  \[
  J^B_{X, \text{nat}}(I^B_{X, \text{nat}}(d)) = J^B_{X, \text{nat}}(d) = [d]
  \]

• Case \(X, A_1 \to A_2\):
  \[
  J^B_{X, A_1 \to A_2}(I^B_{X, A_1 \to A_2}(f))
  \]

• Case \(X, Y, A\):
  \[
  J^B_{X, Y, A}(I^B_{X, Y, A}(x)) = J^B_{X, A}(I^B_{X, A}(x)) = [x]
  \]
3.3 Term Translation

Just as was the case for types, the translation \((\cdot)^*\) of terms in context is Moggi’s usual CBV translation, extended to use \(J^B_{\Lambda A}\) to translate type application. The formal definition is shown in Figure 7.

Note that uniqueness of typing in the source language ensures that the type \(A\) appearing on the right hand side of the application case is uniquely determined, so this is indeed a good definition. It is also appropriately typed:

**Lemma 3**

If \(\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : A\) then \(\Gamma \downarrow \vdash (\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : A)^* : T(A^\uparrow)\). □

4 Logical Relation

If \(B\) is a closed source type, write \(\mathsf{CT}(B) = \{M \mid \vdash M : B\}\) for the set of closed terms of type \(B\). Given \(\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathsf{CT}(B) \times \mathcal{D}\), a relation between closed source terms of type \(B\) and elements of \(\mathcal{D}\), then we say \(\mathcal{R}\) is admissible if it respects the equivalence of the source language; that is

\[
(M, d) \in \mathcal{R} \land M \equiv_{\beta} M' \implies (M', d) \in \mathcal{R}.
\]

We write \(\Delta \vdash w\) to mean that the type environment \(w\) is a map from the finite set of type variables \(\Delta\) to pairs comprising a closed type and an admissible relation on that type. Formally

\[
w : \Delta \rightarrow \mathcal{F}, \text{ where } \mathcal{F} = \sum_{\{B \vdash B\}} \{\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathsf{CT}(B) \times \mathcal{D} \mid \mathcal{R} \text{ is admissible}\}.
\]

If \(\Delta = \cdot , X_1 , \ldots , X_n\) and \(w(X_j) = (B_j, \mathcal{R}_j)\) for each \(1 \leq j \leq n\), then we define the relations \(\mathcal{R}^w_\Delta \subseteq \mathsf{CT}(A[B_j/X_j]) \times A^\uparrow\) and \(\mathcal{T}\mathcal{R}^w_\Delta \subseteq \mathsf{CT}(A[B_j/X_j]) \times T(A^\uparrow)\), for each \(A\) such that \(\Delta \vdash A\), by mutual induction on \(A\) as shown in Figure 8. The relation \(\mathcal{T}\mathcal{R}^w_\Delta\) is a particular choice of “monadic lifting” of the relation \(\mathcal{R}^w_\Delta\). Figure 8 also defines the shorthand \(\mathcal{R}^w_\Delta\), which relates source terms to target values of type \(\mathcal{D}\). We will have \((A[B_j/B], \mathcal{R}_\Delta) \in \mathcal{F}\).
The crucial lemma is the following, which connects the logical relation at a substituted type, $A[B/X]$, with the relation at the type $A$ in an extended type environment, mediated by the lifted embeddings and projections. The statement involves instantiating a type variable with a particular, well chosen, relation.

**Lemma 6 (Type substitution)**
Let $Δ ⊢ A$, $Δ ⊢ w$, and $w(X_j) = (B_j, R_j)$ for each $j$. Define the extended type environment $w' = w, X \mapsto (B_j[B_j/X_j], R_j^B)$. Then for any $A$ and $M$, with $Δ, X \vdash A$, $\cdot \vdash M : (A[B/X])[B_j/X_j]$, the following hold:

1. For any $d$, $(M, d) ∈ R_A^{w[X/X]}$ implies $(M, d'_{B/A}(d)) ∈ R_A^{w'}$.
2. For any $d$, $(M, d) ∈ R_A^{w}$ implies $(M, d'_{B/A}(d)) ∈ TR^{w}_{A[B/X]}$.

A natural first attempt at a logical relations proof would replace “implies” by “iff” in the above, strengthening the lemma significantly. Our proof of Lemma 6 almost works for this stronger version, except for the second case of function types. That is, it is unclear how to show the following statement:

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{R}_A^w &\subseteq CT(A[B_j/X_j]) \times A' \\
\mathcal{R}_A^w &\subseteq CT(A[B_j/X_j]) \times T(A')
\end{align*}
\]
Ignoring monads for the moment, the problem is that at some point we want \( I(J(d)) = d \), which is false in general. Lemma 6 is carefully formulated so that we no longer need this false statement, and yet is still strong enough to derive the correctness theorem for the translation. Here is a failed proof attempt of the strengthened version of Lemma 6.

From the assumption \( (M, J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d)) \in TR^{w'}_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]} \) we know \( M \equiv \lambda x: A_1[B/X][B_{j/X}] M' \) for some \( M' \). By the definition of \( (M, d) \in R^{w'}_{A_1\rightarrow A_2} \), it is sufficient to show that

\[
(M'[M_2/x], d d_2) \in TR^w_{A_2}\]

for any \( (M_2, d_2) \in R^w_{A_2} \). By the definition of \( TR^w_{A_2} \), there will be \( r \) such that \( d d_2 = [r] \) and \( (M'[M_2/x], r) \in R^w_{A_2} \). By inductive hypothesis applied to \( (M'[M_2/x], r) \in R^w_{A_2} \) and the equations in \( D \), it is equivalent to show that

\[
(M'[M_2/x], (r \leftarrow d d_2; J^B_{A_2}(r))) \in TR^w_{A_1[B/X]}.
\]

Again from the assumption \( (M, J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d)) \in TR^{w'}_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]} \) and the definition of \( J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1} \), we have

\[
(M, [\lambda a: A_1[B/X]] \) \quad \leftarrow \quad d(I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(a)); J^B_{X\rightarrow A_2}(r)) \in TR^{w'}_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]},
\]

which by the definition of \( TR^{w'}_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]} \) and the injectivity of \([\cdot]\) is

\[
(M, (\lambda a: A_1[B/X]) \) \quad \leftarrow \quad d(I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(a)); J^B_{X\rightarrow A_2}(r)) \in R^{w'}_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]}.
\]

Moreover, by inductive hypothesis applied to \( (M_2, d_2) \in R^w_{A_2} \), we know \( (M_2, J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2)) \in TR^w_{A_1[B/X]} \), which means these is \( d_2' \) such that \( J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2) \equiv [d_2'] \) and \( (M_2, d_2') \in R^w_{A_1[B/X]} \). Thus by the definition of \( R^w_{(A_1\rightarrow A_2)[B/X]} \) and the equations in \( D \),

\[
(M'[M_2/x], (d_2 \leftarrow J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2); r \leftarrow d(I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2)); J^B_{X\rightarrow A_2}(r))) \in TR^w_{A_2[B/X]}.
\]

Comparing this to the goal, we wish to show the following equation:

\[
r \leftarrow d d_2; J^B_{A_2}(r) = d_2' \leftarrow J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2); r \leftarrow d(I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2)); J^B_{X\rightarrow A_2}(r)
\]

which would be true if \( J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1} \) was a post-inverse (left-inverse) of \( J^B_{X\rightarrow A_1} \), or that \( I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1}(d_2') = d_2 \). The following is a proof of the weaker Lemma 6 that evades the difficulty and yet is sufficient for our main result.

**Proof**

The two parts are proved by simultaneous induction on \( A \).

- **Case** \( X \):

  1. By assumption \((M, d) \in R^w_B\), and by the definition of \( TR^w_B \), \((M, [d]) \in TR^w_B \).

     Then by Lemma 1, \( j_B(i_B(d)) = [d] \), and thus

     \[
     (M, j_B(i_B(d))) \in TR^w_B.
     \]

     Therefore by the definition of \( R^w_B \), \((M, i_B(d)) \in R^w_B \). Then by the construction of \( w' \), \( R^w_B = R^w_X \), and also \( I^B_{X\rightarrow A_1} = i_B \), and thus

     \[
     (M, I^B_X(d)) = (M, i_B(d)) \in R^w_B = R^w_B.
     \]
2. By the construction of \( w' \), \( R^w_X = \hat{R}^w_R \), and thus

\[(M, d) \in \hat{R}^w_R.\]

By the definition of \( \hat{R}^w_R \), and also the fact that \( J^w_{X,d} = j_B(d) \),

\[(M, J^w_{X,d}) = (M, j_B(d)) \in \hat{TR}^w_R = \hat{TR}^w_{X'B/X}.\]

- **Case** \( Y \) (a variable different from \( X \)):
  1. By Lemma 5 (weakening) \( R^w_{X,Y} = R^w_Y \). Also \( I^w_{X,Y}(d) = d \). Therefore

\[(M, I^w_{X,Y}(d)) = (M, d) \in R^w_Y = R^w_Y.\]

  2. By Lemma 5 (weakening) \( R^w_{X,Y} = R^w_Y \). Also \( J^w_{X,Y}(d) = [d] \). Therefore by the definition of \( \hat{TR}^w_Y \),

\[(M, J^w_{X,Y}(d)) = (M, [d]) \in \hat{TR}^w_Y = \hat{TR}^w_{Y[X]} \]

- **Case** \( \text{nat} \):  
  1. By Lemma 5 (weakening) \( R^w_{\text{nat}} = R^w_{\text{nat}} \). Also \( I^w_{\text{nat}}(d) = d \). Therefore

\[(M, I^w_{\text{nat}}(d)) = (M, d) \in R^w_{\text{nat}} = R^w_{\text{nat}}.\]

  2. By Lemma 5 (weakening) \( R^w_{\text{nat}} = R^w_{\text{nat}} \). Also \( J^w_{\text{nat}}(d) = [d] \). Therefore by the definition of \( \hat{TR}^w_{\text{nat}} \),

\[(M, J^w_{\text{nat}}(d)) = (M, [d]) \in \hat{TR}^w_{\text{nat}} = \hat{TR}^w_{\text{nat}[X]} \]

- **Case** \( A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \):  
  In either part \( M \equiv_B \lambda x : A_1 [B/X][B_1/X_1] M' \) for some \( M' \).
  1. It is sufficient to show that, for any \( (M_2, d_2) \in R^w_{A_1} \),

\[(MM_2, I^w_{X,A_1 \rightarrow A_2}(d_2)) \in \hat{TR}^w_{A_2}.\]

Expanding the definition of \( I^w_{X,A_1 \rightarrow A_2} \) together with the conversion \( MM_2 \equiv_B M'[M_2/x] \), this is equivalent to

\[(M'[M_2/x], (\lambda x : A_1 \alpha' \leftarrow J^w_{X,A_1}(a); r \leftarrow d \alpha'; [I^w_{X,A_2}(r)])(d_2)) \in \hat{TR}^w_{A_2}.\]

By the equations in D this is the same as

\[(M'[M_2/x], (a' \leftarrow J^w_{X,A_1}(d_2); r \leftarrow d \alpha'; [I^w_{X,A_2}(r)])) \in \hat{TR}^w_{A_2}.\]

By inductive hypothesis applied to \( (M_2, d_2) \in R^w_{A_1} \), \( (M_2, J^w_{X,A_1}(d_2)) \in \hat{TR}^w_{A_1[B/X]} \), which means there is \( d'_2 \) such that \( J^w_{X,A_1}(d_2) = [d'_2] \) and \( (M_2, d'_2) \in R^w_{A_1[B/X]} \). Then we can simplify the D expression further:

\[d' \leftarrow J^w_{X,A_1}(d_2); r \leftarrow d \alpha'; [I^w_{X,A_2}(r)]\]

\[d' \leftarrow [d'_2]; r \leftarrow d \alpha'; [I^w_{X,A_2}(r)]\]

\[r \leftarrow d d'_2; [I^w_{X,A_2}(r)]\]

Because \( (M, d) \in R^w_{(A_2 \rightarrow A_1)[B/X]} \) and \( (M_2, d'_2) \in R^w_{A_1[B/X]} \), by definition

\[(M'[M_2/x], d d'_2) \in \hat{TR}^w_{A_2[B/X]} \]
which is to say there exists \( r' \) such that \( d_2 \circ d_2' = [r'] \) and \((M'[M_2/x], r') \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\).

We can then simplify the expression even more:

\[
\begin{align*}
    r &\leftarrow d_2 \circ d_2' \circ [I_X A_2 (r)] \\
    &= r \leftarrow [r'] \circ [I_X A_2(r)] \\
    &= [I_X A_2(r')].
\end{align*}
\]

The goal becomes

\[
(M'[M_2/x], I_X A_2 (r')) \in \mathcal{R}_A^w,
\]

which is exactly the inductive hypothesis applied to \((M'[M_2/x], r') \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\).

2. By the definition of \( \mathcal{R}_A^w \), it is equivalent to show that there is \( d' \) such that \([d'] = J_{X A_1 \rightarrow A_2}^B (d) \) and \((M, d') \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\), which is to say for any \((M_2, d_2) \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\):

\[
(M_2, d_2) \in \mathcal{TR}_A^w(B/X).
\]

Expanding the definition of \( J_{X A_1 \rightarrow A_2}^B \), the equation \([d'] = J_{X A_1 \rightarrow A_2}^B (d) \) means

\[
[d'] = [\lambda a : (A_1 [B/X]) \vdash r \leftarrow d(I_{X A_1} (a)) ; J_{X A_2}^B (r)]
\]

and we will show this obvious choice of \( d' \) works:

\[
[d'] = [\lambda a : (A_1 [B/X]) \vdash r \leftarrow d(I_{X A_1} (a)) ; J_{X A_2}^B (r)].
\]

With the conversion \( MM_2 \equiv_B M'[M_2/x] \) the goal becomes

\[
(M'[M_2/x], (\lambda a : (A_1 [B/X]) \vdash r \leftarrow d(I_{X A_1} (a)) ; J_{X A_2}^B (r)) (d_2)) \in \mathcal{TR}_A^w(B/X).
\]

Then by the equations in \( D \) this is the same as

\[
(M'[M_2/x], (r \leftarrow d(I_{X A_1} (d_2)) ; J_{X A_2}^B (r))) \in \mathcal{TR}_A^w(B/X).
\]

By inductive hypothesis applied to \((M_2, d_2) \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\),

\[
(M_2, J_{X A_1}^B (d_2)) \in \mathcal{R}_A^w.
\]

Then because \((M', d) \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\),

\[
(M'[M_2/x], d(I_{X A_1} (d_2))) \in \mathcal{TR}_A^w,
\]

which means there exists \( r' \) such that \( d(I_{X A_1} (d_2)) = [r'] \) and \((M'[M_2/x], r') \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\). Therefore

\[
\begin{align*}
    r &\leftarrow d(I_{X A_1} (d_2)) ; J_{X A_2}^B (r) \\
    &= r \leftarrow [r'] ; J_{X A_2}^B (r) \\
    &= J_{X A_2}^B (r'),
\end{align*}
\]

and thus it suffices to show

\[
(M'[M_2/x], J_{X A_2}^B (r')) \in \mathcal{TR}_A^w(B/X),
\]

which is the inductive hypothesis applied to \((M'[M_2/x], r') \in \mathcal{R}_A^w\).
Theoretical pearls

- Case $\forall Y. A'$:
  
  In either part $M \equiv_B A', M'$ for some $M'$.
  
  1. Expanding the definition, we know it is sufficient to show

     $$(M'[C/Y], J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d')) \in R^{w', Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'}$$

     for any $(C, R_C) \in F$. Fix a pair $(C, R_C)$. By the definition of $R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]}$,

     $$\left(\begin{array}{l}
     (M'[C/Y], d) \in R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]} \\
     \text{and by induction} \\
     (M'[C/Y], J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d)) \in R^{w(Y \to (C, R_C), X \to (B, R_B) \to (C, R_C))}_{A'}
     \end{array}\right)$$

     By Lemma 5 (weakening),

     $$\hat{R}^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_B = \hat{R}^{w}_B$$

     and by exchange (implicit in the treatment of type environments as maps), we have the goal

     $$\left(\begin{array}{l}
     (M'[C/Y], J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d)) \in R^{w', Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'} \\
     \text{2. By the definition of } TR^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{X,Y,A'[B/X]}, \text{ it is equivalent to show that there is } d' \text{ such that} \\
     [d'] = J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d) \text{ and } (M, d') \in R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{X,Y,A'[B/X]} \text{. That is, there is } d' \text{ such that} \\
     [d'] = J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d) \text{ and for every } (C, R_C) \in F, \\
     \left(\begin{array}{l}
     (M'[C/Y], d') \in R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]} \\
     \text{We claim that we can swap the universal quantifier of } (C, R_C) \text{ and the existential quantifier of } d'. \text{ The reason is that } [\cdot] \text{ is injective and } d' \text{ is uniquely determined by } J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d). \text{ After the swapping, the goal is then for every } (C, R_C) \in F, \text{ there is } d' \text{ such that} \\
     d' \text{ such that} [d'] = J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d) \text{ and} \\
     (M'[C/Y], d') \in R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]} \text{,} \\
     \text{which is exactly the definition of} \\
     (M'[C/Y], J^B_{X,Y,A'}(d)) \in TR^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{X,Y,A'[B/X]} \text{.} \\
     \text{Note that } J^B_{X,Y,A'} = J^B_{X,A'} \text{ and thus this is also equivalent to} \\
     (M'[C/Y], J^B_{X,A'}(d)) \in TR^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]} \text{.} \\
     \text{Fix the } (C, R_C) \in F. \text{ From the assumption } (M, d) \in R^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_{X,Y,A'} \text{ and the definition of the extended type environment } w' \text{, we have} \\
     (M'[C/Y], d) \in R^{w', Y \to (C, R_C)}_{A'[B/X]} \Rightarrow R^{w(Y \to (C, R_C), X \to (B, R_B) \to (C, R_C))}_{A'} \text{.} \\
     \text{By Lemma 5 (weakening),} \\
     \hat{R}^{w, Y \to (C, R_C)}_B = \hat{R}^{w}_B \right)$$
and therefore, together with exchange,

\[(M'[C/Y], d) ∈ R^{w}_{A'}\]

Applying the inductive hypothesis, we have the desired statement

\[(M'[C/Y], J^{B}_{X,A'}(d)) ∈ T^{w}_{R^{Y→(C,R_{C})}_{X,A}M} \]
Theoretical pearls

- Case \textit{ifz}(M;N_0;x.N_1):
  
  By induction,
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M)), \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : \text{nat}^*))) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_{\text{nat}}.
  \]
  Hence there exists \( n \) such that \( \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : \text{nat}^*)) = [n] \) and \((\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M)), n) \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\text{nat}}\), so 
  \( \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M)) \equiv_{\beta} n \).
  
  Then
  \[
  \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \text{ifz}(M;N_0;x.N_1) : A^*)) = \begin{cases} 
    \hat{i}(d \leftarrow [n]; \text{ifz}(d;((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash N_0 : A)^*);x.((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash x : \text{nat} \vdash N_1 : A)^*))) & \text{if } n = 0 \\
    \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash N_0 : A)^*) & \text{if } n = n' + 1 
  \end{cases}
  \]
  
  — In the case that \( n = 0 \), \( \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(\text{ifz}(M;N_0;x.N_1)))) \equiv_{\beta} \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N_0)) \) and since, by induction,
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N_0)), \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash N_0 : A)^*)) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_A,
  \]
  we are done by Lemma 4 (admissibility).
  
  — If \( n = n' + 1 \) then \( \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(\text{ifz}(M;N_0;x.N_1)))) \equiv_{\beta} \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N_1))\Delta/\lambda\). Since \( (\Delta', n') \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\text{nat}} \), induction gives
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N_1))\Delta/\lambda) (\hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash x : \text{nat} \vdash N_1 : A)^*)[n'/x]) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_{\Delta'}
  \]
  we are again done by Lemma 4.

- Case \( \lambda x. A. M \):
  
  Since \( \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \lambda x. A. M : A \rightarrow B)^*) = [\lambda x. A. \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash x : A \vdash M : B)^*)] \) it suffices to show
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(\lambda x. A. M)), \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash x : A \vdash M : B)^*)) \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\Delta \rightarrow B}
  \]
  Suppose \( (M_2, d_2) \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\Delta} \), then we need to show
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M))[M_2/x], \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash x : A \vdash M : B)^*))[d_2/x]) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_{\Delta}
  \]
  which follows by induction.

- Case \( MN \):
  
  By the inductive hypotheses and the monadic relation, there are target values \( d \) and \( e \) such that
  \[
  \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B)^*) = [d] \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M)), d) \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\Delta \rightarrow B}
  \]
  and
  \[
  \hat{i}((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash N : A)^*) = [e] \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N)), e) \in \mathcal{R}^w_{\Delta}
  \]
  Thus we know \( \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(M)) \equiv_{\beta} \lambda x. A. M' \) for some \( M' \) such that
  \[
  (M'[\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N))/x], d_2) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_{\Delta}
  \]
  Since \( \hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(MN)) \equiv_{\beta} M'[\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(N))/x], \) Lemma 4 gives
  \[
  (\hat{V}(\hat{\omega}(MN)), d_2) \in \mathcal{T}R^w_{\Delta}.
  \]
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And since
\[ i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash MN : B)^*) = d' \leftarrow i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B)^*); e' \leftarrow i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash N : A)^*) \]
\[ = d' \leftarrow [d]; e' \leftarrow [e]; d'e' = d \epsilon \]
we are done.

- Case \( AX.M \): We want to show
\[ (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(AX.M)), i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash AX.M : \forall X.A)^*)) \in TR_{\forall X.A}^w, \]
which is to say there is \( d \) such that
\[ i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash AX.M : \forall X.A)^*) = [d] \quad \text{and} \quad (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(AX.M)), d) \in R_{\forall X.A}^w. \]
Expanding the definition and using the conversion relation \( \equiv_\beta \) (since the relation is admissible), this means there is \( d \) such that
\[ i((\Delta, X; \Gamma \vdash M : A)^*) = [d] \]
and for any \((B, R) \in F\),
\[ (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)[B/X]), d) \in R_A^{wX \rightarrow (B, R)}. \]
Pick the \((B, R) \in F\). By induction hypothesis applied to the extended type environment \( w' = w, X \rightarrow (B, R) \), we have
\[ (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)[B/X]), (\Delta, X; \Gamma \vdash M : A)^*) \in TR_A^{wX \rightarrow (B, R)}, \]
which means there is \( d' \) such that
\[ i((\Delta, X; \Gamma \vdash M : A)^*) = [d'] \quad \text{and} \quad (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)[B/X]), d') \in R_A^{wX \rightarrow (B, R)}. \]
The choice \( d = d' \) meets our goal.

- Case \( MB \): By induction, we know
\[ (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)), i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : \forall X.A)^*)) \in TR_{\forall X.A}^w. \]
So there is a \( d \) such that
\[ i((\Delta; \Gamma \vdash M : \forall X.A)^*) = [d] \quad \text{and} \quad (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)), d) \in R_{\forall X.A}^w. \]
Unfolding the logical relation for quantified types and instantiating with \((\hat{w}(B), \hat{R}_\beta^w) \in F\) yields that \( \hat{V}(\hat{w}(M)) \equiv_\beta AX.M' \) for some \( M' \) with
\[ (M'[\hat{w}(B)/X], d) \in R_A^{wX \rightarrow (\hat{w}(B), \hat{R}_\beta^w)}. \]
By the second part of Lemma 6, the key type substitution property, this implies
\[ (M'[\hat{w}(B)/X], J_{\hat{R}_\beta^w}(d)) \in TR_{\hat{R}_\beta^w[A/B]}^w. \]
Since \( \hat{V}(\hat{w}(MB)) = V(\hat{w}(M)) \hat{w}(B) \equiv_\beta (AX.M') \hat{w}(B) \equiv_\beta M'[\hat{w}(B)/X], \) Lemma 4 gives
\[ (\hat{V}(\hat{w}(MB)), J_{\hat{R}_\beta^w}(d)) \in TR_{\hat{R}_\beta^w[A/B]}^w. \]
By definition of the translation,
\[ \tilde{t}(\Delta; \Gamma \vdash MB : A[B/X]\})^* = d' \leftarrow \tilde{t}(\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \forall X . A) ; J_{X,A}(d') \]
\[ = J_{X,A}(d') \]
\[ = d' \leftarrow [d] ; J_{B,X} A . \]
\[ = \tilde{t}(\Delta; \Gamma \vdash MB : A[B/X]\})^* \in T^{R^w}_{A[B/X]} \]

as required.

An immediate consequence of Lemma 7 is that the behaviour of a program (closed term of ground type) and its translation agree:

**Corollary 1**

If \( \cdot \vdash M : \text{nat} \) then there exists an \( n \) such that \( M \equiv \beta n \) and \( (\cdot \vdash M : \text{nat})^* = [n] \).

**5 Discussion**

Using logical relations it is possible to prove the correctness of the compilation of polymorphic types to dynamic types in such a way that overhead is imposed only insofar as polymorphism is actually used. This compilation method lies at the heart of the implementation of generic extensions to Java, and of polymorphic languages such as Scala, on the Java Virtual Machine, with the type \texttt{Object} playing the role of our \( D \). As far as we are aware this is the first correctness proof of this compilation strategy for System \( F \), and is novel insofar as it only relies on an embedding into \( D \), rather than a stronger condition such as isomorphism. In this respect the proof may be useful in other situations where the correctness of a compilation method is required.

Semantically, the underlying idea of interpreting types as retracts of a universal domain is an old one, going back to work of Scott (1976) and McCracken (1979). It has been adapted and used for various purposes in programming, including by Benton (2005) and Ramsey (2011) for interfacing typed languages with untyped ones, and by many authors studying run-time enforcement of contracts (Findler & Felleisen, 2002) in dynamic languages, and the correct assignment of blame should violations occur (Ahmed et al., 2011).

The broad shape of the proof presented here is that of adequacy: showing agreement between an operational and a denotational (translational) semantics via a logical relation (Plotkin, 1977; Amadio, 1993). Similar logical relations have also been used for the closely-related task of establishing the correctness of compilers (Minamide et al., 1996; Benton & Hur, 2010; Hur & Dreyer, 2011).

One possible extension to this work is to consider the extension of System \( F \) with general recursion at the expression level, or, more generally, with recursive types. It appears that handling general recursion is straightforward, following directly the strategy outlined in Chapter 48 of the third author’s text (Harper, 2012), which requires that admissible relations be closed under limits of suitable chains, and which employs fixed point induction in establishing the main theorem. The extension to product and sum types is entirely straightforward. Recursive types require more sophisticated techniques pioneered by Pitts...
(1996), and adapted to the operational setting by Crary & Harper (2007). Step-indexed methods, such as those introduced by Appel & McAllester (2001); Ahmed (2006) may also be useful in this respect.

Another possible extension is to consider System F with higher-order polymorphism, namely System $\text{F}_\omega$, which enables programmers to abstract over even type constructors, such as lists or trees which themselves are polymorphic in their element type. Such higher-order polymorphism has been materialized in dynamic typing, for example in Scala, by Moors \textit{et al.} (2008), and it is conceivable, for studying the correctness, to migrate the method to System $\text{F}_\omega$ as we did to System F. Together with the work by Rossberg \textit{et al.} (2010) which compiles ML modules to System $\text{F}_\omega$, an alternative account for the dynamics of ML modules, in terms of dynamic typing, can possibly be made.

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