

# 1 Lower Your Guards

2 A Compositional Pattern-Match Coverage Checker

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6 One of a compiler’s roles is to warn if a function defined by pattern matching does not cover its inputs—that  
 7 is, if there are missing or redundant patterns. Generating such warnings accurately is difficult for modern  
 8 languages due to the myriad of interacting language features when pattern matching. This is especially true in  
 9 Haskell, a language with a complicated pattern language that is made even more complex by extensions offered  
 10 by the Glasgow Haskell Compiler (GHC). Although GHC has spent a significant amount of effort towards  
 11 improving its pattern-match coverage warnings, there are still several cases where it reports inaccurate  
 12 warnings.

13 We introduce a coverage checking algorithm called Lower Your Guards, which boils down the complexities  
 14 of pattern matching into *guard trees*. While the source language may have many exotic forms of patterns,  
 15 guard trees only have three different constructs, which vastly simplifies the coverage checking process. Our  
 16 algorithm is modular, allowing for new forms of source-language patterns to be handled with little changes to  
 17 the overall structure of the algorithm. We have implemented the algorithm in GHC and demonstrate places  
 18 where it performs better than GHC’s current coverage checker, both in accuracy and performance.

19 *Draft March 2020. We would appreciate any comments or feedback to the email addresses below.*

20

## 21 1 INTRODUCTION

22 Pattern matching is a tremendously useful feature in Haskell and many other programming lan-  
 23 guages, but it must be used with care. Consider this example of pattern matching gone wrong:

24  $f :: Int \rightarrow Bool$   
 25  $f 0 = True$   
 26  $f 0 = False$

27 The function  $f$  has two serious flaws. One obvious problem is that there are two clauses that match  
 28 on 0, and due to the top-to-bottom semantics of pattern matching, this makes the  $f 0 = False$  clause  
 29 completely unreachable. Even worse is that  $f$  never matches on any patterns besides 0, making it  
 30 not fully defined. Attempting to invoke  $f 1$ , for instance, will fail.

31 To avoid these mishaps, compilers for languages with pattern matching often emit warnings  
 32 (or errors) if a function is missing clauses (i.e., if it is *non-exhaustive*), if one of its right-hand sides  
 33 will never be entered (i.e., if it is *inaccessible*), or if one of its equations can be deleted altogether  
 34 (i.e., if it is *redundant*). We refer to the combination of checking for exhaustivity, redundancy, and  
 35 accessibility as *pattern-match coverage checking*. Coverage checking is the first line of defence in  
 36 catching programmer mistakes when defining code that uses pattern matching.

37 Coverage checking for a set of equations matching on algebraic data types is a well studied  
 38 (although still surprisingly tricky) problem—see Section 7 for this related work. But the coverage-  
 39 checking problem becomes *much* harder when one includes the raft of innovations that have  
 40 become part of a modern programming language like Haskell, including: view patterns, pattern  
 41 guards, pattern synonyms, overloaded literals, bang patterns, lazy patterns, as-patterns, strict data  
 42 constructors, empty case expressions, and long-distance effects (Section 4). Particularly tricky are

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50 GADTs [Xi et al. 2003], where the *type* of a match can determine what *values* can possibly appear;  
 51 and local type-equality constraints brought into scope by pattern matching [Vytiniotis et al. 2011].

52 The current state of the art for coverage checking in a richer language of this sort is *GADTs Meet*  
 53 *Their Match* [Karachalias et al. 2015], or GMTM for short. It presents an algorithm that handles the  
 54 intricacies of checking GADTs, lazy patterns, and pattern guards. However GMTM is monolithic  
 55 and does not account for a number of important language features; it gives incorrect results in  
 56 certain cases; its formulation in terms of structural pattern matching makes it hard to avoid some  
 57 serious performance problems; and its implementation in GHC, while a big step forward over its  
 58 predecessors, has proved complex and hard to maintain.

59 In this paper we propose a new, compositional coverage-checking algorithm, called Lower Your  
 60 Guards (LYG), that is simpler, more modular, *and* more powerful than GMTM (see section 7.1).  
 61 Moreover, it avoids GMTM’s performance pitfalls. We make the following contributions:

- 62 • We characterise some nuances of coverage checking that not even GMTM handles (Section 2).  
 63 We also identify issues in GHC’s implementation of GMTM.
- 64 • We describe a new, compositional coverage checking algorithm, LYG, in Section 3. The key  
 65 insight is to abandon the notion of structural pattern matching altogether, and instead desugar  
 66 all the complexities of pattern matching into a very simple language of *guard trees*, with just  
 67 three constructs (Section 3.1). Coverage checking on these guard trees becomes remarkably  
 68 simple, returning an *annotated tree* (Section 3.2) decorated with *refinement types*. Finally,  
 69 provided we have access to a suitable way to find inhabitants of a refinement type, we can  
 70 report accurate coverage errors (Section 3.3).
- 71 • We demonstrate the compositionality of LYG by augmenting it with several language exten-  
 72 sions (Section 4). Although these extensions can change the source language in significant  
 73 ways, the effort needed to incorporate them into the algorithm is comparatively small.
- 74 • We discuss how to optimize the performance of LYG (Section 5) and implement a proof of  
 75 concept in GHC (Section 6).

76 We discuss the wealth of related work in Section 7.

## 78 2 THE PROBLEM WE WANT TO SOLVE

80 What makes coverage checking so difficult in a language like Haskell? At first glance, implementing  
 81 a coverage checking algorithm might appear simple: just check that every function matches on  
 82 every possible combination of data constructors exactly once. A function must match on every  
 83 possible combination of constructors in order to be exhaustive, and it must must on them exactly  
 84 once to avoid redundant matches.

85 This algorithm, while concise, leaves out many nuances. What constitutes a “match”? Haskell  
 86 has multiple matching constructs, including function definitions, *case* expressions, and guards.  
 87 How does one count the number of possible combinations of data constructors? This is not a simple  
 88 exercise since term and type constraints can make some combinations of constructors unreachable  
 89 if matched on. Moreover, what constitutes a “data constructor”? In addition to traditional data  
 90 constructors, GHC features *pattern synonyms* [Pickering et al. 2016], which provide an abstract  
 91 way to embed arbitrary computation into patterns. Matching on a pattern synonym is syntactically  
 92 identical to matching on a data constructor, which makes coverage checking in the presence of  
 93 pattern synonyms challenging.

94 Prior work on coverage checking (discussed in Section 7) accounts for some of these nuances,  
 95 but not all of them. In this section we identify some key language features that make coverage  
 96 checking difficult. While these features may seem disparate at first, we will later show in Section 3  
 97 that these ideas can all fit into a unified framework.

99     **2.1 Guards**100    Guards are a flexible form of control flow in Haskell. Here is a function that demonstrates various  
101    capabilities of guards:102    `guardDemo :: Char → Char → Int`103    `guardDemo c1 c2`104    
$$\begin{aligned} | c1 == 'a' &= 0 \\ | 'b' \leftarrow c1 &= 1 \\ | \text{let } c1' = c1, 'c' \leftarrow c1', c2 == 'd' &= 2 \\ | \text{otherwise} &= 3 \end{aligned}$$
105    This function has four *guarded right-hand sides* or GRHSs for short. The first GRHS has a *boolean guard*, ( $c1 == 'a'$ ), that succeeds if the expression in the guard returns *True*. The second GRHS has a *pattern guard*, ( $'b' \leftarrow c1$ ), that succeeds if the pattern in the guard successfully matches. The next line illustrates that a GRHS may have multiple guards, and that guards include `let` bindings, such as `let c1' = c2`. The fourth GRHS uses *otherwise*, which is simply defined as *True*.106    Guards can be thought of as a generalization of patterns, and we would like to include them  
107    as part of coverage checking. Checking guards is significantly more complicated than checking  
108    ordinary structural pattern matches, however, since guards can contain arbitrary expressions.  
109    Consider this implementation of the *signum* function:110    `signum :: Int → Int`111    `signum x | x > 0 = 1`112    
$$\begin{aligned} | x == 0 &= 0 \\ | x < 0 &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

113

114    Intuitively, *signum* is exhaustive since the combination of ( $>$ ), ( $==$ ), and ( $<$ ) covers all possible  
115    *Ints*. This is much harder for a machine to check, however, since that would require knowl-  
116    edge about the properties of *Int* inequalities. Clearly, coverage checking for guards is undecid-  
117    able in general. However, while we cannot accurately check *all* uses of guards, we can at least  
118    give decent warnings for some common use-cases. For instance, take the following functions:119    `not :: Bool → Bool`120    
$$\begin{aligned} \text{not } b | \text{False} \leftarrow b &= \text{True} \\ | \text{True} \leftarrow b &= \text{False} \end{aligned}$$
121    `not2 :: Bool → Bool`122    
$$\begin{aligned} \text{not2 False} &= \text{True} \\ \text{not2 True} &= \text{False} \end{aligned}$$
123    `not3 :: Bool → Bool`124    
$$\begin{aligned} \text{not3 } x | x \leftarrow \text{False} &= \text{True} \\ \text{not3 True} &= \text{False} \end{aligned}$$
125    Clearly all are equivalent. Our coverage checking algorithm should find that all three are exhaustive,  
126    and indeed, LYG does so.127    **2.2 Programmable patterns**128    Expressions in guards are not the only source of undecidability that the coverage checker must  
129    cope with. GHC extends the pattern language in other ways that are also impossible to check in  
130    the general case. We consider two such extensions here: view patterns and pattern synonyms.131    **2.2.1 View patterns.** View patterns allow arbitrary computation to be performed while pattern  
132    matching. When a value  $v$  is matched against a view pattern ( $f \rightarrow p$ ), the match is successful when  
133     $f v$  successfully matches against the pattern  $p$ . For example, one can use view patterns to succinctly  
134    define a function that computes the length of Haskell's opaque *Text* data type:135    `Text.null :: Text → Bool` -- Checks if a *Text* is empty136    `Text.uncons :: Text → Maybe (Char, Text)` -- If a *Text* is non-empty, return `Just (x, xs)`,

137

```

148                                         -- where x is the first character and xs is the rest
149 length :: Text → Int
150 length (Text.null → True)           = 0
151 length (Text.uncons → Just (⟨_⟩, xs)) = 1 + length xs
152

```

153 Again, it would be unreasonable to expect a coverage checking algorithm to prove that *length* is  
 154 exhaustive, but one might hope for a coverage checking algorithm that handles some common  
 155 usage patterns. For example, LYG indeed is able to prove that *safeLast* function is exhaustive:  
 156

```

157 safeLast :: [a] → Maybe a
158 safeLast (reverse → [])      = Nothing
159 safeLast (reverse → (⟨x : _))) = Just x
160

```

161 2.2.2 *Pattern synonyms*. Pattern synonyms [Pickering et al. 2016] allow abstraction over patterns  
 162 themselves. Pattern synonyms and view patterns can be useful in tandem, as the pattern synonym  
 163 can present an abstract interface to a view pattern that does complicated things under the hood.  
 164 For example, one can define *length* with pattern synonyms like so:  
 165

```

166 pattern Nil :: Text                               length :: Text → Int
167 pattern Nil ← (Text.null → True)           length Nil = 0
168 pattern Cons :: Char → Text → Text      length (Cons x xs) = 1 + length xs
169 pattern Cons x xs ← (Text.uncons → Just (⟨x, xs⟩))
170

```

171 How should a coverage checker handle pattern synonyms? One idea is to simply “look through”  
 172 the definitions of each pattern synonym and verify whether the underlying patterns are exhaustive.  
 173 This would be undesirable, however, because (1) we would like to avoid leaking the implementation  
 174 details of abstract pattern synonyms, and (2) even if we *did* look at the underlying implementation,  
 175 it would be challenging to automatically check that the combination of *Text.null* and *Text.uncons*  
 176 is exhaustive.

177 Nevertheless, *Text.null* and *Text.uncons* together are in fact exhaustive, and GHC allows pro-  
 178 grammers to communicate this fact to the coverage checker using a COMPLETE pragma [GHC team  
 179 2020]. A COMPLETE set is a combination of data constructors and pattern synonyms that should  
 180 be regarded as exhaustive when a function matches on all of them. For example, declaring {-#  
 181 COMPLETE Nil, Cons #-} is sufficient to make the definition of *length* above compile without any  
 182 exhaustivity warnings. Since GHC does not (and cannot, in general) check that all of the members  
 183 of a COMPLETE set actually comprise a complete set of patterns, the burden is on the programmer  
 184 to ensure that this invariant is upheld.

### 185 2.3 Strictness

186 The evaluation order of pattern matching can impact whether a pattern is reachable or not. While  
 187 Haskell is a lazy language, programmers can opt into extra strict evaluation by giving the fields of  
 188 a data type strict fields, such as in this example:  
 189

```

190 data Void  -- No data constructors; only inhabitant is bottom
191 data SMaybe a = SJust !a | SNothing
192 v :: SMaybe Void → Int
193 v SNothing = 0
194 v (SJust _) = 1  -- Redundant!
195

```

197 The “!” in the definition of *SJust* makes the constructor strict, so  $(SJust \perp) = \perp$ . Curiously, this  
 198 makes the second equation of  $v$  redundant! Since  $\perp$  is the only inhabitant of type *Void*, the only  
 199 inhabitants of *SMaybe Void* are *SNothing* and  $\perp$ . The former will match on the first equation; the  
 200 latter will make the first equation diverge. In neither case will execution flow to the second equation,  
 201 so it is redundant and can be deleted.

202  
 203 2.3.1 *Redundancy versus inaccessibility*. When reporting unreachable cases, we must distinguish  
 204 between *redundant* and *inaccessible* cases. Redundant cases can be removed from a function without  
 205 changing its semantics, whereas inaccessible cases have semantic importance. The examples below  
 206 illustrate this:

$$\begin{array}{ll} u :: () \rightarrow \text{Int} & u' :: () \rightarrow \text{Int} \\ u () | \text{False} = 1 & u' () | \text{False} = 1 \\ \quad | \text{True} = 2 & \quad | \text{False} = 2 \\ u \_ = 3 & u' \_ = 3 \end{array}$$

211 Within  $u$ , the equations that return 1 and 3 could be deleted without changing the semantics of  
 212  $u$ , so they are classified as redundant. Within  $u'$ , one can never reach that right-hand sides of the  
 213 equations that return 1 and 2, but they cannot be removed so easily. Using the definition above,  
 214  $u' \perp = \perp$ , but if the first two equations were removed, then  $u' \perp = 3$ . As a result, LYG warns  
 215 that the first two equations in  $u'$  are inaccessible, which suggests to the programmer that  $u'$  might  
 216 benefit from a refactor to avoid this (e.g.,  $g' () = 3$ ).

217 Within  $u$  and  $u'$  have completely different warnings, but the only difference between the  
 218 two functions is whether the second equation uses *True* or *False* in its guard. Moreover, this second  
 219 equation affects the warnings for *other* equations. This demonstrates that determining whether  
 220 code is redundant or inaccessible is a non-local problem. Inaccessibility may seem like a tricky  
 221 corner case, but GHC’s users have reported many bugs of this sort (Section 6.2).

222  
 223 2.3.2 *Bang patterns*. Strict fields are one mechanism for adding extra strictness in ordinary Haskell,  
 224 but GHC adds another in the form of *bang patterns*. A bang pattern such as  $!pat$  indicates that  
 225 matching a value  $v$  against  $pat$  always evaluates  $v$  to weak-head normal form (WHNF). Here is a  
 226 variant of  $v$ , this time using the standard, lazy *Maybe* data type:

$$\begin{array}{l} v' :: \text{Maybe Void} \rightarrow \text{Int} \\ v' \text{ Nothing} = 0 \\ v' (\text{Just } !\_) = 1 \quad \text{-- Not redundant, but RHS is inaccessible} \end{array}$$

227  
 228 The inhabitants of the type *Maybe Void* are  $\perp$ , *Nothing*, and  $(\text{Just } \perp)$ . The input  $\perp$  makes the first  
 229 equation diverge; *Nothing* matches on the first equation; and  $(\text{Just } \perp)$  makes the second equation  
 230 diverge because of the bang pattern. Therefore, none of the three inhabitants will result in the  
 231 right-hand side of the second equation being reached. Note that the second equation is inaccessible,  
 232 but not redundant (section 2.3.1).

## 233 2.4 Type-equality constraints

234 Besides strictness, another way for pattern matches to be rendered unreachable is by way of *equality*  
 235 *constraints*. A popular method for introducing equalities between types is matching on GADTs [Xi  
 236 et al. 2003]. The following examples demonstrate the interaction between GADTs and coverage  
 237 checking:

Meta variables		Pattern syntax
$x, y, z, f, g, h$	Term variables	$defn ::= \overline{clause}$
$a, b, c$	Type variables	$clause ::= f \overline{pat} \overline{match}$
$K$	Data constructors	$pat ::= x \mid \_ \mid K \overline{pat}$
$P$	Pattern synonyms	$x @ pat \mid ! pat \mid expr \rightarrow pat$
$T$	Type constructors	$match ::= = expr \mid grhs$
$l$	Literal	$grhs ::= \mid guard = expr$
$expr$	Expressions	$guard ::= pat \leftarrow expr \mid expr \mid let x = expr$

Fig. 1. Source syntax

```

258  data T a b where          g1 :: T Int b → b → Int      g2 :: T a b → T a b → Int
259    T1 :: T Int Bool        g1 T1 False = 0            g2 T1 T1 = 0
260    T2 :: T Char Bool       g1 T1 True = 1            g2 T2 T2 = 1
261

```

When  $g1$  matches against  $T1$ , the  $b$  in the type  $T Int b$  is known to be a  $Bool$ , which is why matching the second argument against  $False$  or  $True$  will typecheck. Phrased differently, matching against  $T1$  brings into scope an *equality constraint* between the types  $b$  and  $Bool$ . GHC has a powerful type inference engine that is equipped to reason about type equalities of this sort [Vytiniotis et al. 2011].

Just as important as the code used in the  $g1$  function is the code that is *not* used in  $g1$ . One might wonder if  $g1$  not matching its first argument against  $T2$  is an oversight. In fact, the exact opposite is true: matching on  $T2$  would be rejected by the typechecker. This is because  $T2$  is of type  $T Char Bool$ , but the first argument to  $g1$  must be of type  $T Int b$ . Matching against  $T2$  would be tantamount to saying that  $Int$  and  $Char$  are the same type, which is not the case. As a result,  $g1$  is exhaustive even though it does not match on all of  $T$ 's data constructors.

The presence of type equalities is not always as clear-cut as it is in  $g1$ . Consider the more complex  $g2$  function, which matches on two arguments of the type  $T a b$ . While matching the arguments against  $T1 T1$  or  $T2 T2$  is possible, it is not possible to match against  $T1 T2$  or  $T2 T1$ . To see why, suppose the first argument is matched against  $T1$ , giving rise to an equality between  $a$  and  $Int$ . If the second argument were then matched against  $T2$ , we would have that  $a$  equals  $Char$ . By the transitivity of type equality, we would have that  $Int$  equals  $Char$ . This cannot be true, so matching against  $T1 T2$  is impossible (and similarly for  $T2 T1$ ).

Concluding that  $g2$  is exhaustive requires some non-trivial reasoning about equality constraints. In GHC, the same engine that typechecks GADT pattern matches is also used to rule out cases made unreachable by type equalities, and LYG adopts a similar approach. Besides GHC's current coverage checker [Karachalias et al. 2015], there are a variety of other coverage checking algorithms that account for GADTs, including those for OCaml [Garrigue and Normand 2011], Dependent ML [Xi 1998a,b, 2003], and Stardust [Dunfield 2007].

### 3 LOWER YOUR GUARDS: A NEW COVERAGE CHECKER

In this section, we describe our new coverage checking algorithm, LYG. Figure 2 depicts a high-level overview, which divides into three steps:

- First, we desugar the complex source Haskell syntax into a *guard tree*  $t : Gdt$  (Section 3.1). The language of guard trees is tiny but expressive, and allows the subsequent passes to be entirely independent of the source syntax. LYG can readily be adapted to other languages simply by changing the desugaring algorithm.

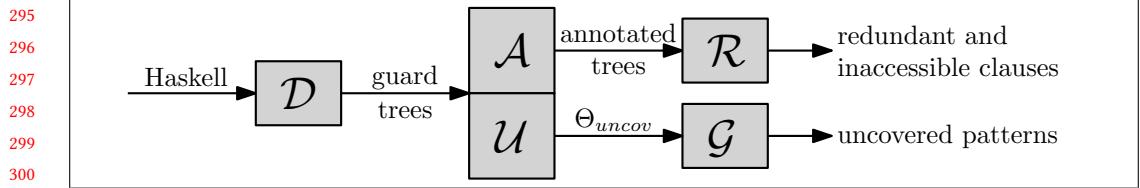


Fig. 2. Bird's eye view of pattern match checking

### Guard syntax

$k, n, m \in \mathbb{N}$	$\gamma \in \text{TyCt}$	$\coloneqq \tau_1 \sim \tau_2 \mid \dots$
$K \in \text{Con}$	$p \in \text{Pat}$	$\coloneqq \underline{\quad}$
$x, y, a, b \in \text{Var}$		$  \quad K \bar{p}$
$\tau, \sigma \in \text{Type}$		$  \quad \dots$
$e \in \text{Expr}$	$\coloneqq x$	$\coloneqq \text{let } x : \tau = e$
	$  \quad K \bar{\tau} \bar{\gamma} \bar{e}$	$  \quad K \bar{a} \bar{\gamma} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x$
	$  \quad \dots$	$  \quad !x$

### Refinement type syntax

$\Gamma \coloneqq \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x : \tau \mid \Gamma, a$	Context
$\varphi \coloneqq \checkmark \mid \times \mid K \bar{a} \bar{\gamma} \bar{y} : \bar{\tau} \leftarrow x \mid x \not\approx K \mid x \approx \perp \mid x \not\approx \perp \mid \text{let } x = e$	Literals
$\Phi \coloneqq \varphi \mid \Phi \wedge \Phi \mid \Phi \vee \Phi$	Formula
$\Theta \coloneqq \langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle$	Refinement type

### Clause tree syntax

$t \in \text{Gdt}$	$\coloneqq \text{GRhs } n \mid t_1; t_2 \mid \text{Guard } g \ t$
$u \in \text{Ant}$	$\coloneqq \text{ARhs } \Theta \ n \mid u_1; u_2 \mid \text{Bang } \Theta \ u$

### Graphical notation

$\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} t_1$	$\coloneqq t_1; t_2$	$\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} u_1$	$\coloneqq u_1; u_2$
$\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} g_1, \dots, g_n \overline{\quad} t$	$\coloneqq \text{Guard } g_1 \dots (\text{Guard } g_n \ t)$	$\Theta \not\vdash \overline{\quad} u$	$\coloneqq \text{Bang } \Theta \ u$
$\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} n$	$\coloneqq \text{GRhs } n$	$\overline{\quad} \overline{\quad} \Theta n$	$\coloneqq \text{ARhs } \Theta \ n$

Fig. 3. IR syntax

- Next, the resulting guard tree is then processed by two different functions (Section 3.2). The function  $\mathcal{A}(t)$  produces an *annotated tree*  $u : \text{Ant}$ , which has the same general branching structure as  $t$  but describes which clauses are accessible, inaccessible, or redundant. The function  $\mathcal{U}(t)$ , on the other hand, returns a *refinement type*  $\Theta$  [Rushby et al. 1998; Xi and Pfenning 1998] that describes the set of *uncovered values*, which are not matched by any of the clauses.
- Finally, an error-reporting pass generates comprehensible error messages (Section 3.3). Again there are two things to do. The function  $\mathcal{R}$  processes the annotated tree produced by  $\mathcal{A}$  to explicitly identify the accessible, inaccessible, or redundant clauses. The function  $\mathcal{G}(\Theta)$

344 produces representative *inhabitants* of the refinement type  $\Theta$  (produced by  $\mathcal{U}$ ) that describes  
 345 the uncovered values.

346 LYG's main contribution when compared to other coverage checkers, such as GMTM, is its  
 347 incorporation of many small improvements and insights, rather than a single defining breakthrough.  
 348 In particular, LYG's advantages are:

- 350 • Correctly accounting for strictness in identifying redundant and inaccessible code (section  
 351 7.4).
- 352 • Using detailed term-level reasoning (figs. 6 to 8), which GMTM does not.
- 353 • Using *negative information* to sidestep serious performance issues in GMTM without changing  
 354 the worst-case complexity (section 7.3). This also enables graceful degradation (section 5.2)  
 355 and the ability to handle COMPLETE sets properly (section 5.3).
- 356 • Achieving modularity by clearly separating the source syntax (fig. 1) from the intermediate  
 357 language (fig. 3).
- 358 • Fixing various bugs present in GMTM, both in the paper [Karachalias et al. 2015] and in  
 359 GHC's implementation thereof (section 6.2).

### 360 3.1 Desugaring to guard trees

362 The first step is to desugar the source language into the language of guard trees. The syntax of  
 363 the source language is given in Figure 1. Definitions *defn* consist of a list of *clauses*, each of which  
 364 has a list of *patterns*, and a list of *guarded right-hand sides* (GRHSs). Patterns include variables  
 365 and constructor patterns, of course, but also a representative selection of extensions: wildcards,  
 366 as-patterns, bang patterns, and view patterns. We explore several other extensions in Section 4.

367 The language of guard trees Gdt is much smaller; its syntax is given in Figure 3. All of the  
 368 syntactic redundancy of the source language is translated into a minimal form very similar to  
 369 pattern guards. We start with an example:

370  
 371  $f(\text{Just}(!xs, _)) \text{ ys}@Nothing = 1$   
 372  $f \text{ Nothing } (g \rightarrow \text{True}) = 2$

373 This desugars to the following guard tree:

374  
 375  $\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \mid !x_1, \text{Just } t_1 \leftarrow x_1, !t_1, (t_2, t_3) \leftarrow t_1, !t_2, \text{let } xs = t_2, \text{let } ys = x_2, !ys, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow ys \rightarrow 1 \\ \text{---} \mid !x_1, \text{Nothing} \leftarrow x_1, \text{let } t_3 = g \ x_2, !y, \text{True} \leftarrow t_3 \text{ ---} \end{array} \rightarrow 2$

377 Here we use a graphical syntax for guard trees, also defined in Figure 3. The first line says “evaluate  
 378  $x_1$ ; then match  $x_1$  against *Just*  $t_1$ ; then match  $t_1$  against  $(t_2, t_3)$ ; and so on”. If any of those matches  
 379 fail, we fall through into the second line.

380 More formally, matching a guard tree may *succeed* (with some bindings for the variables bound  
 381 in the tree), *fail*, or *diverge*. Matching is defined as follows:

- 383 • Matching a guard tree (GRhs  $n$ ) succeeds.
- 384 • Matching a guard tree  $(t_1; t_2)$  means matching against  $t_1$ ; if that succeeds, the overall match  
 385 succeeds; if not, match against  $t_2$ .
- 386 • Matching a guard tree (Guard  $\lambda x \ t$ ) evaluates  $x$ ; if that diverges the match diverges; if not  
 387 match  $t$ .
- 388 • Matching a guard tree (Guard  $(K \ y_1 \dots y_n \leftarrow x) \ t$ ) matches  $x$  against constructor  $K$ . If the  
 389 match succeeds, bind  $y_1 \dots y_n$  to the components, and match  $t$ ; if the constructor match fails,  
 390 then the entire match fails.
- 391 • Matching a guard tree (Guard  $(\text{let } x = e) \ t$ ) binds  $x$  (lazily) to  $e$ , and matches  $t$ .

```

393
394  $\mathcal{D}(defn) = \text{Gdt}, \mathcal{D}(clause) = \text{Gdt}, \mathcal{D}(grhs) = \text{Gdt}$ 
395
396  $\mathcal{D}(guard) = \overline{\text{Grd}}, \mathcal{D}(x, pat) = \overline{\text{Grd}}$ 
397
398 
$$\mathcal{D}(clause_1 \dots clause_n) = \overline{\overline{\mathcal{D}(clause_1)} \dots \mathcal{D}(clause_n) }$$

399
400
401
402 
$$\mathcal{D}(f pat_1 \dots pat_n = expr) = \overline{\overline{\mathcal{D}(x_1, pat_1) \dots \mathcal{D}(x_n, pat_n)} \rightarrow k_{rhs}}$$

403
404 
$$\mathcal{D}(f pat_1 \dots pat_n grhs_1 \dots grhs_m) = \overline{\overline{\mathcal{D}(x_1, pat_1) \dots \mathcal{D}(x_n, pat_n)} \overline{\mathcal{D}(grhs_1) \dots \mathcal{D}(grhs_m)}}$$

405
406
407
408
409 
$$\mathcal{D}(| guard_1 \dots guard_n = expr) = \overline{\overline{\mathcal{D}(guard_1) \dots \mathcal{D}(guard_n)} \rightarrow k}$$

410
411 
$$\mathcal{D}(pat \leftarrow expr) = \text{let } x = expr, \mathcal{D}(x, pat)$$

412 
$$\mathcal{D}(expr) = \text{let } b = expr, \mathcal{D}(b, \text{True})$$

413 
$$\mathcal{D}(\text{let } x = expr) = \text{let } x = expr$$

414
415 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, y) = \text{let } y = x$$

416 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, \_) = \epsilon$$

417 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, K pat_1 \dots pat_n) = !x, K y_1 \dots y_n \leftarrow x, \mathcal{D}(y_1, pat_1), \dots, \mathcal{D}(y_n, pat_n)$$

418 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, y@pat) = \text{let } y = x, \mathcal{D}(y, pat)$$

419 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, !pat) = !x, \mathcal{D}(x, pat)$$

420 
$$\mathcal{D}(x, expr \rightarrow pat) = \text{let } y = expr x, \mathcal{D}(y, pat)$$

421

```

Fig. 4. Desugaring from source language to Gdt

The desugaring algorithm,  $\mathcal{D}$ , is given in Figure 4. It is a straightforward recursive descent over the source syntax, with a little bit of administrative bureaucracy to account for renaming. It also generates an abundance of fresh temporary variables; in practice, the implementation of  $\mathcal{D}$  can be smarter than this by looking at the pattern (which might be a variable match or as-pattern) when choosing a name for a temporary variable.

Notice that both “structural” pattern-matching in the source language (e.g. the match on *Nothing* in the second equation), and view patterns (e.g.  $g \rightarrow \text{True}$ ) can readily be compiled to a single form of matching in guard trees. The same holds for pattern guards. For example, consider this (stylistically contrived) definition of *liftEq*, which is inexhaustive:

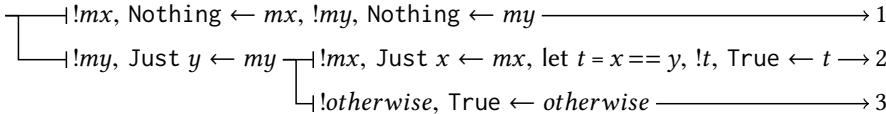
```

435  $liftEq \text{Nothing} \text{Nothing} = \text{True}$ 
436  $liftEq mx \quad (\text{Just } y) \mid \text{Just } x \leftarrow mx, x == y = \text{True}$ 
437  $\quad \quad \quad \mid \text{otherwise} = \text{False}$ 
438
439
440 It desugars thus:
441

```

Operations on $\Theta$	
$\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle \dot{\wedge} \varphi$	= $\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \wedge \varphi \rangle$
$\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi_1 \rangle \cup \langle \Gamma \mid \Phi_2 \rangle$	= $\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi_1 \vee \Phi_2 \rangle$
Checking guard trees	
$\boxed{\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t) = \Theta}$	
$\mathcal{U}(\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle, \text{GRhs } n)$	= $\langle \Gamma \mid \times \rangle$
$\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t_1; t_2)$	= $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t_1), t_2)$
$\mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (!x) t)$	= $\mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \not\approx \perp), t)$
$\mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (\text{let } x = e) t)$	= $\mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (\text{let } x = e), t)$
$\mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x) t)$	= $(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \not\approx K)) \cup \mathcal{U}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x), t)$
$\boxed{\mathcal{A}(\Theta, t) = u}$	
$\mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{GRhs } n)$	= $\text{ARhs } \Theta n$
$\mathcal{A}(\Theta, (t_1; t_2))$	= $\mathcal{A}(\Theta, t_1); \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t_1), t_2)$
$\mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (!x) t)$	= $\text{Bang } (\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \approx \perp)) \mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (x \not\approx \perp), t)$
$\mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (\text{let } x = e) t)$	= $\mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (\text{let } x = e), t)$
$\mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x) t)$	= $\mathcal{A}(\Theta \dot{\wedge} (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x), t)$

Fig. 5. Coverage checking



Notice that the pattern guard (*Just x <- mx*) and the boolean guard ( $x == y$ ) have both turned into the same constructor-matching construct in the guard tree.

In a way there is nothing very deep here, but it took us a surprisingly long time to come up with the language of guard trees. We recommend it!

### 3.2 Checking guard trees

In the next step, we transform the guard tree into an *annotated tree*, *Ant*, and an *uncovered set*,  $\Theta$ .

Taking the latter first, the uncovered set describes all the input values of the match that are not covered by the match. We use the language of *refinement types* to describe this set (see Figure 3). The refinement type  $\Theta = \langle x_1:\tau_1, \dots, x_n:\tau_n \mid \Phi \rangle$  denotes the vector of values  $x_1 \dots x_n$  that satisfy the predicate  $\Phi$ . For example:

$\langle x:\text{Bool} \mid \checkmark \rangle$	denotes	$\{\perp, \text{True}, \text{False}\}$
$\langle x:\text{Bool} \mid x \not\approx \perp \rangle$	denotes	$\{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$
$\langle x:\text{Bool} \mid \text{True} \leftarrow x \rangle$	denotes	$\{\text{True}\}$
$\langle mx:\text{Maybe Bool} \mid \text{Just } x \leftarrow mx, x \not\approx \perp \rangle$	denotes	$\{\text{Just True}, \text{Just False}\}$

The syntax of  $\Phi$  is given in Figure 3. It consists of a collection of literals  $\varphi$ , combined with conjunction and disjunction. Unconventionally, however, a literal may bind one or more variables, and those bindings are in scope in conjunctions to the right. This can readily be formalised by giving a type system for  $\Phi$ , but we omit that here. The literal  $\checkmark$  means “true”, as illustrated above; while  $\times$  means “false”, so that  $\langle \Gamma \mid \times \rangle$  denotes  $\emptyset$ .

491 The uncovered set function  $\mathcal{U}(\Theta, t)$ , defined in Figure 5, computes a refinement type describing  
 492 the values in  $\Theta$  that are not covered by the guard tree  $t$ . It is defined by a simple recursive descent  
 493 over the guard tree, using the operation  $\Theta \wedge \varphi$  (also defined in Figure 5) to extend  $\Theta$  with an extra  
 494 literal  $\varphi$ .

495 While  $\mathcal{U}$  finds a refinement type describing values that are *not* matched by a guard tree, the  
 496 function  $\mathcal{A}$  finds refinements describing values that *are* matched by a guard tree, or that cause  
 497 matching to diverge. It does so by producing an *annotated tree*, whose syntax is given in Figure 3. An  
 498 annotated tree has the same general structure as the guard tree from whence it came: in particular  
 499 the top-to-bottom compositions “;” are in the same places. But in an annotated tree, each Rhs leaf  
 500 is annotated with a refinement type describing the input values that will lead to that right-hand  
 501 side; and each Bang node is annotated with a refinement type that describes the input values on  
 502 which matching will diverge. Once again,  $\mathcal{A}$  can be defined by a simple recursive descent over the  
 503 guard tree (Figure 5), but note that the second equation uses  $\mathcal{U}$  as an auxiliary function<sup>1</sup>.

### 505 3.3 Reporting errors

506 The final step is to report errors. First, let us focus on reporting missing equations. Consider the  
 507 following definition

508 `data T = A | B | C`  
 509 `f (Just A) = True`  
 510

511 If  $t$  is the guard tree obtained from  $f$ , the expression  $\mathcal{U}(\langle x : \text{Maybe } T \mid \checkmark \rangle, t)$  will produce this  
 512 refinement type describing values that are not matched:

$$513 \Theta_f = \langle x : \text{Maybe } T \mid x \neq \perp \wedge (x \neq \text{Just} \vee (\text{Just } y \leftarrow x \wedge y \neq \perp \wedge (y \neq A \vee (A \leftarrow y \wedge x)))) \rangle$$

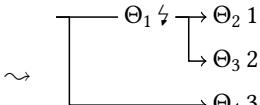
515 But this is not very helpful to report to the user. It would be far preferable to produce one or  
 516 more concrete *inhabitants* of  $\Theta_f$  to report, something like this:

517 Missing equations for function 'f':  
 518 `f Nothing = ...`  
 519 `f (Just B) = ...`  
 520 `f (Just C) = ...`

521 Producing these inhabitants is done by  $\mathcal{G}(\Theta)$  in Figure 6, which we discuss next in Section 3.4. But  
 522 before doing so, notice that the very same function  $\mathcal{G}$  allows us to report accessible, inaccessible,  
 523 and redundant GRHSs. The function  $\mathcal{R}$ , also defined in Figure 6 does exactly this, returning a triple  
 524 of (accessible, inaccessible, redundant) GRHSs:

- 526 • Having reached a leaf ARhs  $\Theta n$ , if the refinement type  $\Theta$  is uninhabited ( $\mathcal{G}(\Theta) = \emptyset$ ), then no  
 527 input values can cause execution to reach this right-hand side, and it is redundant.
- 528 • Having reached a node Bang  $\Theta t$ , if  $\Theta$  is inhabited there is a possibility of divergence. Now  
 529 suppose that all the GRHSs in  $t$  are redundant. Then we should pick the first of them and  
 530 mark it as inaccessible.
- 531 • The case for  $\mathcal{R}(t; u)$  is trivial: just combine the classifications of  $t$  and  $u$ .

532 To illustrate the second case consider  $u'$  from section 2.3.1 and its annotated tree:

533  $u' () \mid \text{False} = 1$   
 534  $\quad \quad \quad \mid \text{False} = 2$   
 535  $u' _- = 3$   $\rightsquigarrow$  

537 <sup>1</sup> Our implementation avoids this duplicated work – see Section 5.1 – but the formulation in Figure 5 emphasises clarity  
 538 over efficiency.

540  
541      **Collect accessible ( $\bar{k}$ ), inaccessible ( $\bar{n}$ ) and redundant ( $\bar{m}$ ) GRHSSs**

$$\boxed{\mathcal{R}(u) = (\bar{k}, \bar{n}, \bar{m})}$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\text{ARhs } \Theta \ n) = \begin{cases} (\epsilon, \epsilon, n), & \text{if } \mathcal{G}(\Theta) = \emptyset \\ (n, \epsilon, \epsilon), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{R}(t; u) = (\bar{k} \bar{k}', \bar{n} \bar{n}', \bar{m} \bar{m}') \text{ where } \frac{(\bar{k}, \bar{n}, \bar{m})}{(\bar{k}', \bar{n}', \bar{m}')} = \mathcal{R}(t) = \mathcal{R}(u)$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\text{Bang } \Theta \ t) = \begin{cases} (\epsilon, m, \bar{m}'), & \text{if } \mathcal{G}(\Theta) \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \mathcal{R}(t) = (\epsilon, \epsilon, m \bar{m}') \\ \mathcal{R}(t), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

552      **Normalised refinement type syntax**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \nabla & ::= \times \mid \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle & \text{Normalised refinement type} \\ \Delta & ::= \emptyset \mid \Delta, \delta & \text{Set of constraints} \\ \delta & ::= \gamma \mid x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \mid x \not\approx K \mid x \approx \perp \mid x \not\approx \perp \mid x \approx y & \text{Constraints} \end{array}$$

557      **Generate inhabitants of  $\Theta$**

$$\boxed{\mathcal{G}(\Theta) = \mathcal{P}(\bar{p})}$$

$$\mathcal{G}(\langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle) = \{\mathcal{E}(\nabla, \text{dom}(\Gamma)) \mid \nabla \in C(\langle \Gamma \parallel \emptyset \rangle, \Phi)\}$$

562      **Construct inhabited  $\nabla$ s from  $\Phi$**

$$\boxed{C(\nabla, \Phi) = \mathcal{P}(\nabla)}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} C(\nabla, \varphi) & = \begin{cases} \{\langle \Gamma' \parallel \Delta' \rangle\} & \text{where } \langle \Gamma' \parallel \Delta' \rangle = \nabla \oplus_{\varphi} \varphi \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ C(\nabla, \Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2) & = \bigcup \{C(\nabla', \Phi_2) \mid \nabla' \in C(\nabla, \Phi_1)\} \\ C(\nabla, \Phi_1 \vee \Phi_2) & = C(\nabla, \Phi_1) \cup C(\nabla, \Phi_2) \end{array}$$

571      **Expand variables to Pat with  $\nabla$**

$$\boxed{\mathcal{E}(\nabla, \bar{x}) = \bar{p}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{E}(\nabla, \epsilon) & = \epsilon \\ \mathcal{E}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, x_1 \dots x_n) & = \begin{cases} (K \ q_1 \dots q_m) \ p_2 \dots p_n & \text{if } \Delta(x_1) \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \in \Delta \\ & \text{and } (q_1 \dots q_m \ p_2 \dots p_n) = \mathcal{E}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, y_1 \dots y_m x_2 \dots x_n) \\ \_ \ p_2 \dots p_n & \text{where } (p_2 \dots p_n) = \mathcal{E}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, x_2 \dots x_n) \end{cases} \end{array}$$

579      **Finding the representative of a variable in  $\Delta$**

$$\boxed{\Delta(x) = y}$$

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{cases} \Delta(y) & x \approx y \in \Delta \\ x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

585      **Fig. 6.** Generating inhabitants of  $\Theta$  via  $\nabla$

$\Theta_2$  and  $\Theta_3$  are uninhabited (because of the *False* guards). But we cannot delete both GRHSs as redundant, because that would make the call  $u' \perp$  return 3 rather than diverging. Rather, we want to report the first GRHSs as inaccessible, leaving all the others as redundant.

### 3.4 Generating inhabitants of a refinement type

Thus far, all our functions have been very simple, syntax-directed transformations, but they all ultimately depend on the single function  $\mathcal{G}$ , which does the real work. That is our new focus. As Figure 6 shows,  $\mathcal{G}(\Theta)$  takes a refinement type  $\Theta = \langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle$  and returns a (possibly-empty) set of patterns  $\bar{p}$  (syntax in Figure 3) that give the shape of values that inhabit  $\Theta$ . We do this in two steps:

- Flatten  $\Theta$  into a set of *normalised refinement types*  $\nabla$ , by the call  $C(\langle \Gamma \parallel \emptyset \rangle, \Phi)$ ; see Section 3.6.
- For each such  $\nabla$ , expand  $\Gamma$  into a list of patterns, by the call  $\mathcal{E}(\nabla, \text{dom}(\Gamma))$ ; see Section 3.5.

A normalised refinement type  $\nabla$  is either empty ( $\times$ ) or of the form  $\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle$ . It is similar to a refinement type  $\Theta = \langle \Gamma \mid \Phi \rangle$ , but is in a much more restricted form:

- $\Delta$  is simply a conjunction of literals  $\delta$ ; there are no disjunctions. Instead, disjunction reflects in the fact that  $C$  returns a *set* of normalised refinement types.

Beyond these syntactic differences, we enforce the following semantic invariants on a  $\nabla = \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle$ :

I1 *Mutual compatibility*: No two constraints in  $\Delta$  should *conflict* with each other, where  $x \approx \perp$  conflicts with  $x \not\approx \perp$  and  $x \approx K$  conflicts with  $x \not\approx K$  for all  $x$ .

I2 *Triangular form:* A  $x \approx y$  constraint implies absence of any other constraints mentioning  $x$  in its left-hand side.

I3 *Single solution*: There is at most one positive constructor constraint  $x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}$  for a given  $x$ .

I4 *Incompletely matched*: If  $x:\tau \in \Gamma$  and  $\tau$  reduces to a data type under type constraints in  $\Delta$ , there must be at least one constructor  $K$  (or  $\perp$ ) which  $x$  can be instantiated to without contradicting I1; see Section 3.7.

It is often helpful to think of a  $\Delta$  as a partial function from  $x$  to its *solution*, informed by the single positive constraint  $x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \in \Delta$ , if it exists. For example,  $x \approx \text{Nothing}$  can be understood as a function mapping  $x$  to *Nothing*. This reasoning is justified by I3. Under this view,  $\Delta$  looks like a substitution. As we'll see in section 3.6, this view is supported by a close correspondence with unification algorithms.

I2 is actually a condition on the represented substitution. Whenever we find out that  $x \approx y$ , for example when matching a variable pattern  $y$  against a match variable  $x$ , we have to merge all the other constraints on  $x$  into  $y$ , and say that  $y$  is the representative of  $x$ 's equivalence class. This is so that every new constraint we record on  $y$  also affects  $x$  and vice versa. The process of finding the solution of  $x$  in  $x \approx y, y \approx \text{Nothing}$  then entails *walking* the substitution, because we have to look up constraints twice: The first lookup will find  $x$ 's representative  $y$ , the second lookup on  $y$  will then find the solution *Nothing*.

We use  $\Delta(x)$  to look up the representative of  $x$  in  $\Delta$  (see Figure 6). Therefore, we can assert that  $x$  has *Nothing* as a solution simply by writing  $\Delta(x) \approx \text{Nothing} \in \Delta$ .

### 3.5 Expanding a normalised refinement type to a pattern

Expanding a  $\nabla$  to a pattern vector, by calling  $\mathcal{E}(\nabla)$  in Figure 6, is syntactically heavy, but straightforward. When there is a solution like  $\Delta(x) \approx \text{Just } y$  in  $\Delta$  for the head  $x$  of the variable vector of interest, expand  $y$  in addition to the rest of the vector and wrap it in a *Just*. Invariant I3 guarantees that there is at most one such solution and  $\mathcal{E}$  is well-defined.

638

Add a formula literal to  $\nabla$   $\nabla \oplus_\varphi \varphi = \nabla$ 

639

$$\nabla \oplus_\varphi \times = \times \quad (1)$$

640

$$\nabla \oplus_\varphi \checkmark = \nabla \quad (2)$$

641

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y:\tau} \leftarrow x = \langle \Gamma, \bar{a}, \bar{y:\tau} \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \bar{y} \oplus_\delta \bar{y'} \not\approx \perp \oplus_\delta x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \text{ where } \bar{y'} \text{ bind strict fields} \quad (3)$$

642

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi \text{let } x:\tau = K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{e} = \langle \Gamma, x:\tau, \bar{a} \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \bar{a} \approx \bar{\sigma} \oplus_\delta x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \oplus_\varphi \text{let } y:\tau' = e \text{ where } \bar{a} \bar{y} \# \Gamma, e:\tau' \quad (4)$$

643

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi \text{let } x:\tau = y = \langle \Gamma, x:\tau \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx y \quad (5)$$

644

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi \text{let } x:\tau = e = \langle \Gamma, x:\tau \parallel \Delta \rangle \quad (6)$$

645

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi \varphi = \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \varphi \quad (7)$$

646

Add a constraint to  $\nabla$   $\nabla \oplus_\delta \delta = \nabla$ 

647

$$\times \oplus_\delta \delta = \times \quad (8)$$

648

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \gamma = \begin{cases} \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \gamma) \rangle & \text{if type checker deems } \gamma \text{ compatible with } \Delta \\ \times & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

649

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} = \begin{cases} \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \bar{a} \approx \bar{b} \oplus_\delta \bar{y} \approx \bar{z} & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K' \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}) \rangle & \text{if } \Delta(x) \not\approx K \notin \Delta \\ \times & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

650

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \not\approx K = \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if not } \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx K) \rangle \vdash \Delta(x) \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx K) \rangle & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

651

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx \perp = \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp \in \Delta \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx \perp) \rangle & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

652

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \not\approx \perp = \begin{cases} \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx \perp \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if not } \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp) \rangle \vdash \Delta(x) \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \not\approx \perp) \rangle & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

653

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx y = \begin{cases} \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle & \text{if } x' = y' \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel ((\Delta \setminus x'), x' \approx y') \rangle \oplus_\delta (\Delta \setminus x' [y'/x']) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

where  $x' = \Delta(x)$  and  $y' = \Delta(y)$

654

$$\boxed{\Delta \setminus x = \Delta}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta|_x = \Delta}$$

655

$$\emptyset \setminus x = \emptyset$$

$$\emptyset|_x = \emptyset$$

656

$$(\Delta, x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}) \setminus x = \Delta \setminus x$$

$$(\Delta, x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y})|_x = \Delta|_x, x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y}$$

657

$$(\Delta, x \not\approx K) \setminus x = \Delta \setminus x$$

$$(\Delta, x \not\approx K)|_x = \Delta|_x, x \not\approx K$$

658

$$(\Delta, x \approx \perp) \setminus x = \Delta \setminus x$$

$$(\Delta, x \approx \perp)|_x = \Delta|_x, x \approx \perp$$

659

$$(\Delta, x \not\approx \perp) \setminus x = \Delta \setminus x$$

$$(\Delta, x \not\approx \perp)|_x = \Delta|_x, x \not\approx \perp$$

660

$$(\Delta, \delta) \setminus x = (\Delta \setminus x), \delta$$

$$(\Delta, \delta)|_x = \Delta|_x$$

661

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674

Fig. 7. Adding a constraint to the normalised refinement type  $\nabla$

### 687 3.6 Normalising a refinement type

688 Normalisation, carried out by  $C$  in Figure 6, is largely a matter of repeatedly adding a literal  $\varphi$  to a  
 689 normalised type, thus  $\nabla \oplus_\varphi \varphi$ . This function is where all the work is done, in Figure 7. It does so  
 690 by expressing a  $\varphi$  in terms of once again simpler constraints  $\delta$  and calling out to  $\oplus_\delta$ . Specifically, in  
 691 Equation (3) a pattern guard extends the context and adds suitable type constraints and a positive  
 692 constructor constraint arising from the binding. Equation (4) of  $\oplus_\varphi$  performs some limited, but  
 693 important reasoning about let bindings: it flattens possibly nested constructor applications, such as  
 694 let  $x = \text{Just } \text{True}$ . Note that equation (6) simply discards let bindings that cannot be expressed in  $\nabla$ ;  
 695 we'll see an extension in section 4.3 that avoids this information loss.

696 That brings us to the prime unification procedure,  $\oplus_\delta$ . When adding  $x \approx \text{Just } y$ , equation (10),  
 697 the unification procedure will first look for a solution for  $x$  with *that same constructor*. Let's say  
 698 there is  $\Delta(x) \approx \text{Just } u \in \Delta$ . Then  $\oplus_\delta$  operates on the transitively implied equality  $\text{Just } y \approx \text{Just } u$  by  
 699 equating type and term variables with new constraints, i.e.  $y \approx u$ . The original constraint, although  
 700 not conflicting, is not added to the normalised refinement type because of I2.

701 If there is a solution involving a different constructor like  $\Delta(x) \approx \text{Nothing}$  or if there was a  
 702 negative constructor constraint  $\Delta(x) \not\approx \text{Just}$ , the new constraint is incompatible with the existing  
 703 solution. Otherwise, the constraint is compatible and is added to  $\Delta$ .

704 Adding a negative constructor constraint  $x \not\approx \text{Just}$  is quite similar (equation (11)), except that we  
 705 have to make sure that  $x$  still satisfies I4, which is checked by the  $\nabla \vdash \Delta(x)$  judgment (cf. section 3.7)  
 706 in fig. 8. Handling positive and negative constraints involving  $\perp$  is analogous.

707 Adding a type constraint  $y$  (equation (9)) entails calling out to the type checker to assert that  
 708 the constraint is consistent with existing type constraints. Afterwards, we have to ensure I4 is  
 709 upheld for *all* variables in the domain of  $\Gamma$ , because the new type constraint could have rendered  
 710 a type empty. To demonstrate why this is necessary, imagine we have  $\langle x : a \parallel x \not\approx \perp \rangle$  and try to  
 711 add  $a \sim \text{Void}$ . Although the type constraint is consistent,  $x$  in  $\langle x : a \parallel x \not\approx \perp, a \sim \text{Void} \rangle$  is no longer  
 712 inhabited. There is room for being smart about which variables we have to re-check: For example,  
 713 we can exclude variables whose type is a non-GADT data type.

714 Equation (14) of  $\oplus_\delta$  equates two variables ( $x \approx y$ ) by merging their equivalence classes. Consider  
 715 the case where  $x$  and  $y$  aren't in the same equivalence class. Then  $\Delta(y)$  is arbitrarily chosen to be  
 716 the new representative of the merged equivalence class. To uphold I2, all constraints mentioning  
 717  $\Delta(x)$  have to be removed and renamed in terms of  $\Delta(y)$  and then re-added to  $\Delta$ , one of which in  
 718 turn might uncover a contradiction.

### 721 3.7 Testing for inhabitation

722 The process for adding a constraint to a normalised type above (which turned out to be a unification  
 723 procedure in disguise) makes use of an *inhabitation test*  $\nabla \vdash x$ , depicted in fig. 8. This tests whether  
 724 there are any values of  $x$  that satisfy  $\nabla$ . If not,  $\nabla$  does not uphold I4. For example, the conjunction  
 725  $x \not\approx \text{Just}, x \not\approx \text{Nothing}, x \not\approx \perp$  does not satisfy I4, because no value of  $x$  satisfies all those constraints.

726 The  $\vdash\text{BOT}$  judgment of  $\nabla \vdash x$  tries to instantiate  $x$  to  $\perp$  to conclude that  $x$  is inhabited.  $\vdash\text{INST}$   
 727 instantiates  $x$  to one of its data constructors. That will only work if its type ultimately reduces to a  
 728 data type under the type constraints in  $\nabla$ . Rule  $\vdash\text{NoCPL}$  will accept unconditionally when its type  
 729 is not a data type, i.e. for  $x : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$ .

730 Note that the outlined approach is complete in the sense that  $\nabla \vdash x$  is derivable (if and) only  
 731 if  $x$  is actually inhabited in  $\nabla$ , because that means we don't have any  $\nabla$ s floating around in the  
 732 checking process that actually aren't inhabited and trigger false positive warnings. But that also  
 733 means that the  $\vdash$  relation is undecidable! Consider the following example:

736	<b>Test if <math>x</math> is inhabited considering <math>\nabla</math></b>		$\nabla \vdash x$
737	$\frac{(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_{\delta} x \approx \perp) \neq \times}{\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash x}$		$\vdash_{\text{BOT}}$
738	$\frac{x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad \text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) = \perp}{\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash x}$		$\vdash_{\text{NoCPL}}$
739			
740			
741	$\frac{x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad K \in \text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) \quad \text{Inst}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, x, K) \neq \times}{\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash x}$		$\vdash_{\text{INST}}$
742			
743			
744			
745	<b>Find data constructors of <math>\tau</math></b>		$\text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) = \bar{K}$
746			
747	$\text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) = \begin{cases} \bar{K} & \tau = T \bar{\sigma} \text{ and } T \text{ data type with constructors } \bar{K} \\ & \text{(after normalisation according to the type constraints in } \Delta\text{)} \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$		
748			
749			
750			
751	<b>Instantiate <math>x</math> to data constructor <math>K</math></b>		$\text{Inst}(\nabla, x, K) = \nabla$
752			
753	$\text{Inst}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, x, K) = \langle \Gamma, \bar{a}, \bar{y} : \bar{\sigma} \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_{\delta} \tau_x \sim \tau \oplus_{\delta} \bar{\gamma} \oplus_{\delta} x \approx K \bar{a} \bar{y} \oplus_{\delta} \bar{y}' \not\approx \perp$		
754	where $K : \forall \bar{a}. \bar{y} \Rightarrow \bar{\sigma} \rightarrow \tau, \bar{a} \bar{y} \# \Gamma, x : \tau_x \in \Gamma, \bar{y}'$ bind strict fields		
755			

Fig. 8. Testing for inhabitation

756  
757  
758  
759 **data**  $T = \text{MkT} !T$   
760  $f :: \text{SMaybe } T \rightarrow ()$   
761  $f \text{ SNothing} = ()$

762 This is exhaustive, because  $T$  is an uninhabited type. Upon adding the constraint  $x \not\approx \text{SNothing}$  on  
763 the match variable  $x$  via  $\oplus_{\delta}$ , we perform an inhabitation test, which tries to instantiate the *SJust*  
764 constructor via  $\vdash_{\text{INST}}$ . That implies adding (via  $\oplus_{\delta}$ ) the constraints  $x \approx \text{SJust } y, y \not\approx \perp$ , the latter  
765 of which leads to an inhabitation test on  $y$ . That leads to instantiation of the *MkT* constructor,  
766 which leads to constraints  $y \approx \text{MkT } z, z \not\approx \perp$ , and so on for  $z$  etc.. An infinite chain of fruitless  
767 instantiation attempts!

768 In practice, we implement a fuel-based approach that conservatively assumes that a variable  
769 is inhabited after  $n$  such iterations and consider supplementing that with a simple termination  
770 analysis in the future.

## 772 4 POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS

773 LYG is well equipped to handle the fragment of Haskell it was designed to handle. But GHC (and  
774 other languages, for that matter) extends Haskell in non-trivial ways. This section exemplifies  
775 easy accommodation of new language features and measures to increase precision of the checking  
776 process, demonstrating the modularity and extensibility of our approach.

### 779 4.1 Long-distance information

780 Coverage checking should also work for **case** expressions and nested function definitions, like

781  
782  $f \text{ True} = 1$   
783  $f x = \dots(\text{case } x \text{ of } \{ \text{False} \rightarrow 2; \text{True} \rightarrow 3 \}) \dots$

LYG as is will not produce any warnings for this definition. But the reader can easily make the “long distance connection” that the last GRHS of the `case` expression is redundant! That simply follows by context-sensitive reasoning, knowing that  $x$  was already matched against `True`.

In terms of LYG, the input values of the second GRHS  $\Theta_2$  (which determine whether the GRHS is accessible) encode the information we are after. We just have to start checking the `case` expression starting from  $\Theta_2$  as the initial set of reaching values instead of  $\langle x : \text{Bool} \mid \checkmark \rangle$ .

## 4.2 Empty case

As can be seen in fig. 1, Haskell function definitions need to have at least one clause. That leads to an awkward situation when pattern matching on empty data types, like `Void`:

```
absurd1 _ = ⊥      absurd1, absurd2, absurd3 :: Void → a
absurd2 !_ = ⊥      absurd3 x = case x of { }
```

$\text{absurd1}$  returns  $\perp$  when called with  $\perp$ , thus masking the original  $\perp$  with the error thrown by  $\perp$ .  $\text{absurd2}$  would diverge alright, but LYG will report its RHS as inaccessible! Hence GHC provides an extension, called `EmptyCase`, that allows the definition of  $\text{absurd3}$  above. Such a `case` expression without any alternatives evaluates its argument to WHNF and crashes when evaluation returns.

It is quite easy to see that Gdt lacks expressive power to desugar `EmptyCase` into, since all leaves in a guard tree need to have corresponding RHSs. Therefore, we need to introduce `GEmpty` to Gdt and `AEmpty` to Ant. This is how they affect the checking process:

$$\mathcal{U}(\Theta, \text{GEmpty}) = \Theta \quad \mathcal{A}(\Theta, \text{GEmpty}) = \text{AEmpty}$$

Since `EmptyCase`, unlike regular `case`, evaluates its scrutinee to WHNF *before* matching any of the patterns, the set of reaching values is refined with a  $x \not\approx \perp$  constraint *before* traversing the guard tree, thus  $\mathcal{U}(\langle \Gamma \mid x \not\approx \perp \rangle, \text{GEmpty})$ .

## 4.3 View patterns

Our source syntax had support for view patterns to start with (cf. fig. 1). And even the desugaring we gave as part of the definition of  $\mathcal{D}$  in fig. 4 is accurate. But this desugaring alone is insufficient for the checker to conclude that `safeLast` from section 2.2.1 is an exhaustive definition! To see why, let’s look at its guard tree:

```
└─ let y1 = reverse x1, !y1, Nothing ← y1 ────────────────── 1
    └─ let y2 = reverse x1, !y2, Just t1 ← y2, !t1, (t2, t3) ← t1 ── 2
```

As far as LYG is concerned, the matches on both  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are non-exhaustive. But that’s actually too conservative: Both bind the same value! By making the connection between  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , the checker could infer that the match was exhaustive.

This can be fixed by maintaining equivalence classes of semantically equivalent expressions in  $\Delta$ , similar to what we already do for variables. We simply extend the syntax of  $\delta$  and change the last `let` case of  $\oplus_\varphi$ . Then we can handle the new constraint in  $\oplus_\delta$ , as follows:

$$\delta = \dots \mid e \approx x \quad \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\varphi \text{let } x : \tau = e = \langle \Gamma, x : \tau \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta e \approx x$$

$$\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta e \approx x = \begin{cases} \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx y, & \text{if } e' \approx y \in \Delta \text{ and } e \equiv_\Delta e' \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta, e \approx \Delta(x) \rangle, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Where  $\equiv_\Delta$  is (an approximation to) semantic equivalence modulo substitution under  $\Delta$ . A clever data structure is needed to answer queries of the form  $e \approx \_ \in \Delta$ , efficiently. In our implementation,

834 we use a trie to index expressions rapidly and sacrifice reasoning modulo  $\Delta$  in doing so. Plugging  
 835 in an SMT solver to decide  $\equiv_\Delta$  would be more precise, but certainly less efficient.  
 836

#### 837 4.4 Pattern synonyms

838 To accommodate checking of pattern synonyms  $P$ , we first have to extend the source syntax and IR  
 839 syntax by adding the syntactic concept of a *ConLike*:  
 840

$$\begin{array}{lll} 841 \quad cl & ::= & K \mid P & P \in \text{PS} \\ 842 \quad pat & ::= & x \mid \_ \mid cl \ pat \mid x@pat \mid \dots & C \in \text{CL} \quad ::= \quad K \mid P \\ 843 & & & p \in \text{Pat} \quad ::= \quad \_ \mid C \bar{p} \mid \dots \\ 844 \end{array}$$

845 Assuming every definition encountered so far is changed to handle ConLikes  $C$  now instead of  
 846 data constructors  $K$ , everything should work almost fine. Why then introduce the new syntactic  
 847 variant in the first place? Consider  
 848

849  $pattern P = ()$   
 850  $pattern Q = ()$   
 851  $n = \text{case } P \text{ of } Q \rightarrow 1; P \rightarrow 2$   
 852

853 Knowing that the definitions of  $P$  and  $Q$  completely overlap, we can see that the match on  $Q$  will  
 854 cover all values that could reach  $P$ , so clearly  $P$  is redundant. A sound approximation to that would  
 855 be not to warn at all. And that's reasonable, after all we established in section 2.2.2 that reasoning  
 856 about pattern synonym definitions is undesirable.  
 857

858 But equipped with long-distance information from the scrutinee expression, the checker would  
 859 mark the *first case alternative* as redundant, which clearly is unsound! Deleting the first alternative  
 860 would change its semantics from returning 1 to returning 2. In general, we cannot assume that  
 861 arbitrary pattern synonym definitions are disjoint, in stark contrast to data constructors.  
 862

The solution is to tweak the clause of  $\oplus_\delta$  dealing with positive ConLike constraints  $x \approx C \bar{a} \bar{y}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} 863 & \\ 864 & \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta x \approx C \bar{a} \bar{y} = \begin{cases} \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_\delta \bar{a} \sim \bar{b} \oplus_\delta \bar{y} \approx \bar{z} & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx C \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \\ \times & \text{if } \Delta(x) \approx C' \bar{b} \bar{z} \in \Delta \text{ and } C \cap C' = \emptyset \\ \langle \Gamma \parallel (\Delta, \Delta(x) \approx C \bar{a} \bar{y}) \rangle & \text{if } \Delta(x) \not\approx C \notin \Delta \text{ and } \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash \Delta(y) \\ \times & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ 865 & \\ 866 & \\ 867 & \\ 868 & \end{array}$$

869 Where the suggestive notation  $C \cap C' = \emptyset$  is only true if  $C$  and  $C'$  don't overlap, if both are data  
 870 constructors, for example.  
 871

872 Note that the slight relaxation means that the constructed  $\nabla$  might violate I3, specifically when  
 873  $C \cap C' \neq \emptyset$ . In practice that condition only matters for the well-definedness of  $\mathcal{E}$ , which in case  
 874 of multiple solutions (i.e.  $x \approx P, x \approx Q$ ) has to commit to one them for the purposes of reporting  
 875 warnings. Fixing that requires a bit of boring engineering.  
 876

#### 877 4.5 COMPLETE pragmas

878 In a sense, every algebraic data type defines its own builtin COMPLETE set, consisting of all its data  
 879 constructors, so the coverage checker already manages a single COMPLETE set.  
 880

881 We have `HINST` from fig. 8 currently making sure that this COMPLETE set is in fact inhabited. We  
 882 also have `HNoCPL` that handles the case when we can't find *any* COMPLETE set for the given type  
 883

(think  $x : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}$ ). The obvious way to generalise this is by looking up all COMPLETE sets attached to a type and check that none of them is completely covered:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \oplus_{\delta} x \approx \perp) \neq \times}{\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash x} \quad x : \tau \in \Gamma \quad \text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) = \overline{C_1, \dots, C_{n_i}}^i}{\text{Inst}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, x, C_j) \neq \times^i} \quad \overline{C_1, \dots, C_{n_i}}^i}{\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle \vdash x} \quad \text{INST}$$

$$\text{Cons}(\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle, \tau) = \begin{cases} \overline{C_1, \dots, C_{n_i}}^i & \tau = T \bar{\sigma} \text{ and } T \text{ type constructor with COMPLETE sets } \overline{C_1, \dots, C_{n_i}}^i \\ \epsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Cons was changed to return a list of all available COMPLETE sets, and INST tries to find an inhabiting ConLike in each one of them in turn. Note that  $\vdash \text{NoCPL}$  is gone, because it coincides with  $\vdash \text{INST}$  for the case where the list returned by Cons was empty. The judgment has become simpler and more general at the same time! Note that checking against multiple COMPLETE sets so frequently is computationally intractable. We will worry about that in section 5.

## 4.6 Other extensions

We consider further extensions, including overloaded literals, newtypes, and a strict-by-default source syntax, in Appendix A.

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of LYG in GHC accumulates quite a few tricks that go beyond the pure formalism. This section is dedicated to describing these.

Warning messages need to reference source syntax in order to be comprehensible by the user. At the same time, coverage checks involving GADTs need a type checked program, so the only reasonable design is to run the coverage checker between type checking and desugaring to GHC Core, a typed intermediate representation lacking the connection to source syntax. We perform coverage checking in the same tree traversal as desugaring.

### 5.1 Interleaving $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{A}$

The set of reaching values is an argument to both  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ . Given a particular set of input values and a guard tree, one can see by a simple inductive argument that both  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  are always called at the same arguments! Hence for an implementation it makes sense to compute both results together, if only for not having to recompute the results of  $\mathcal{U}$  again in  $\mathcal{A}$ .

But there's more: Looking at the last clause of  $\mathcal{U}$  in fig. 5, we can see that we syntactically duplicate  $\Theta$  every time we have a pattern guard. That can amount to exponential growth of the refinement predicate in the worst case and for the time to prove it empty!

What we really want is to summarise a  $\Theta$  into a more compact canonical form before doing these kinds of *splits*. But that's exactly what  $\nabla$  is! Therefore, in our implementation we don't pass around and annotate refinement types, but the result of calling  $C$  on them directly.

You can see the resulting definition in fig. 9. The readability is clouded by unwrapping of pairs.  $\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}$  requires that each  $\nabla$  individually is non-empty, i.e. not  $\times$ . This invariant is maintained by adding  $\varphi$  constraints through  $\dot{\oplus}_{\varphi}$ , which filters out any  $\nabla$  that would become empty.

### 5.2 Throttling for graceful degradation

Even with the tweaks from section 5.1, checking certain pattern matches remains NP-hard Sekar et al. [1995]. Naturally, there will be cases where we have to conservatively approximate in order

932	$\boxed{\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi = \bar{\nabla}}$
933	
934	
935	$\epsilon \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi = \epsilon$
936	$(\nabla_1 \dots \nabla_n) \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi = \begin{cases} (\langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle) (\nabla_2 \dots \nabla_n \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi) & \text{if } \langle \Gamma \parallel \Delta \rangle = \nabla \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi \\ (\nabla_2 \dots \nabla_n) \dot{\oplus}_\varphi \varphi & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
937	
938	
939	$\boxed{\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, t) = (\bar{\nabla}, \text{Ant})}$
940	$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, \text{GRhs } n) = (\epsilon, \text{ARhs } \bar{\nabla} n)$
941	
942	$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, t_1; t_2) = (\bar{\nabla}_2, u_1; u_2) \text{ where } \begin{cases} (\bar{\nabla}_1, u_1) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, t_1) \\ (\bar{\nabla}_2, u_2) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}_1, t_2) \end{cases}$
943	
944	$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, \text{Guard } (!x) t) = \text{Bang } (\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (x \approx \perp)) u \text{ where } (\bar{\nabla}', u) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (x \not\approx \perp), t)$
945	
946	$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, \text{Guard } (\text{let } x = e) t) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (\text{let } x = e), t)$
947	$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x) t) = ((\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (x \not\approx K)) \bar{\nabla}', u) \text{ where } (\bar{\nabla}', u) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x), t)$
948	
949	

Fig. 9. Fast coverage checking

not to slow down compilation too much. Consider the following example and its corresponding guard tree:

data  $T = A \mid B; f1, f2 :: \text{Int} \rightarrow T$

$g -$

$  A \leftarrow f1 1, A \leftarrow f2 1 = ()$	$\longleftarrow$	let $a_1 = f1 1, !a_1, A \leftarrow a_1$ , let $b_1 = f2 1, !b_1, A \leftarrow b_1 \longrightarrow 1$
$  A \leftarrow f1 2, A \leftarrow f2 2 = ()$	$\longleftarrow$	let $a_2 = f1 2, !a_2, A \leftarrow a_2$ , let $b_2 = f2 2, !b_2, A \leftarrow b_2 \longrightarrow 2$
$\dots$	$\longleftarrow$	$\dots \longrightarrow \dots$
$  A \leftarrow f1 N, A \leftarrow f2 N = ()$	$\longleftarrow$	let $a_N = f1 N, !a_N, A \leftarrow a_N$ , let $b_N = f2 N, !b_N, A \leftarrow b_N \longrightarrow N$

Each of the  $N$  GRHS can fall through in two distinct ways: By failure of either pattern guard involving  $f1$  or  $f2$ . Initially, we start out with a single input  $\nabla$ . After the first equation it will split into two sub- $\nabla$ s, after the second into four, and so on. This exponential pattern repeats  $N$  times, and leads to horrible performance!

Instead of *refining*  $\nabla$  with the pattern guard, leading to a split, we could just continue with the original  $\nabla$ , thus forgetting about the  $a_1 \not\approx A$  or  $b_1 \not\approx A$  constraints. In terms of the modeled refinement type,  $\nabla$  is still a superset of both refinements, and thus a sound overapproximation.

In our implementation, we call this *throttling*: We limit the number of reaching  $\nabla$ s to a constant. Whenever a split would exceed this limit, we continue with the original input  $\nabla$ s, a conservative estimate, instead. Intuitively, throttling corresponds to *forgetting* what we matched on in that particular subtree. Throttling is refreshingly easy to implement! Only the last clause of  $\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}$ , where splitting is performed, needs to change:

$$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla}, \text{Guard } (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x) t) = (\boxed{(\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (x \not\approx K)) \bar{\nabla}'}, u)$$

where  $(\bar{\nabla}', u) = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{A}(\bar{\nabla} \dot{\oplus}_\varphi (K \bar{a} \bar{y} \bar{y} : \tau \leftarrow x), t)$

981 where the new throttling operator  $\lfloor \_ \rfloor_{\bar{V}}$  is defined simply as

$$\lfloor \bar{V} \rfloor_{\bar{V}'} = \begin{cases} \bar{V} & \text{if } |\{\bar{V}\}| \leq K \\ \bar{V}' & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

985 with  $K$  being an arbitrary constant. We use 30 as an arbitrary limit in our implementation  
986 (dynamically configurable via a command-line flag) without noticing any false positives in terms of  
987 exhaustiveness warnings outside of the test suite.

### 989 5.3 Maintaining residual COMPLETE sets

990 Our implementation tries hard to make the inhabitation test as efficient as possible. For example,  
991 we represent  $\Delta$ s by a mapping from variables to their positive and negative constraints for  
992 easier indexing. But there are also asymptotical improvements. Consider the following function:

```
994 data T = A1 | ... | A1000      f A1    = 1
995 pattern P = ...                f A2    = 2
996 {-# COMPLETE A1, P #-}        ...
997                                     f A1000 = 1000
```

998  $f$  is exhaustively defined. To see that we need to perform an inhabitation test for the match  
999 variable  $x$  after the last clause. The test will conclude that the builtin COMPLETE set was completely  
1000 overlapped. But in order to conclude that, our algorithm tries to instantiate  $x$  (via  $\vdash \text{INST}$ ) to each  
1001 of its 1000 constructors and try to add a positive constructor constraint! What a waste of time,  
1002 given that we could just look at the negative constraints on  $x$  *before* trying to instantiate  $x$ . But  
1003 asymptotically it shouldn't matter much, since we're doing this only once at the end.

1004 Except that is not true, because we also perform redundancy checking! At any point in  $f$ 's  
1005 definition there might be a match on  $P$ , after which all remaining clauses would be redundant by  
1006 the user-supplied COMPLETE set. Therefore, we have to perform the expensive inhabitation test *after*  
1007 *every clause*, involving  $O(n)$  instantiations each.

1008 Clearly, we can be smarter about that! Indeed, we cache *residual COMPLETE sets* in our implemen-  
1009 tation: Starting from the full COMPLETE sets, we delete ConLikes from them whenever we add a  
1010 new negative constructor constraint, maintaining the invariant that each of the sets is inhabited  
1011 by at least one constructor. Note how we never need to check the same constructor twice (except  
1012 after adding new type constraints), thus we have an amortised  $O(n)$  instantiations for the whole  
1013 checking process.

### 1015 5.4 Reporting uncovered patterns

1016 The expansion function  $\mathcal{E}$  in fig. 6 exists purely for presenting uncovered patterns to the user.  
1017 It is very simple and doesn't account for negative information, leading to surprising warnings.  
1018 Consider a definition like  $f \text{ True} = ()$ . The computed uncovered set of  $f$  is the refinement type  
1019  $\langle x : \text{Bool} \mid x \neq \perp, x \neq \text{True} \rangle$ , which crucially contains no positive information! As a result,  
1020 expanding the resulting  $\nabla$  (which looks quite similar) with  $\mathcal{E}$  just unhelpfully reports  $\perp$  as an  
1021 uncovered pattern. Our implementation thus splits the  $\nabla$  into (possibly multiple) sub- $\nabla$ s with  
1022 positive information on variables we have negative information on before handing off to  $\mathcal{E}$ .

## 1024 6 EVALUATION

1025 We have implemented LYG in a to-be-released version of GHC. To put the new coverage checker to  
1026 the test, we performed a survey of real-world Haskell code using the head.hackage repository<sup>2</sup>.

1027

1028 <sup>2</sup><https://gitlab.haskell.org/ghc/head.hackage/commit/30a310fd8033629e1cbb5a9696250b22db5f7045>

	Time (milliseconds)			Megabytes allocated			
	8.8.3	HEAD	% change	8.8.3	HEAD	% change	
1030	T11276	1.16	1.69	45.7%	1.86	2.39	28.6%
1031	T11303	28.1	18.0	-36.0%	60.2	39.9	-33.8%
1032	T11303b	1.15	0.39	-65.8%	1.65	0.47	-71.8%
1033	T11374	4.62	3.00	-35.0%	6.16	3.20	-48.1%
1034	T11822	1,060	16.0	-98.5%	2,010	27.9	-98.6%
1035	T11195	2,680	22.3	-99.2%	3,080	39.5	-98.7%
1036	T17096	7,470	16.6	-99.8%	17,300	35.4	-99.8%
1037	PmSeriesS	44.5	2.58	-94.2%	52.9	6.19	-88.3%
1038	PmSeriesT	48.3	6.86	-85.8%	61.4	17.6	-71.4%
1039	PmSeriesV	131	4.54	-96.5%	139	9.53	-93.2%
1040							
1041							
1042							

**Fig. 10.** The relative compile-time performance of GHC 8.8.3 (which implements GMTM) and HEAD (which implements LYG) on test cases designed to stress-test coverage checking.

head.hackage contains a sizable collection of libraries and minimal patches necessary to make them build with a development version of GHC. We identified those libraries which compiled without coverage warnings using GHC 8.8.3 (which uses GMTM as its checking algorithm) but emitted warnings when compiled using our LYG version of GHC.

Of the 361 libraries in head.hackage, seven of them revealed coverage issues that only LYG warned about. Two of the libraries, pandoc and pandoc-types, have cases that were flagged as redundant due to LYG’s improved treatment of guards and term equalities. One library, geniplate-mirror, has a case that was redundant by way of long-distance information. Another library, generic-data, has a case that is redundant due to bang patterns.

The last three libraries—Cabal, HsYAML, and network—were the most interesting. HsYAML in particular defines this function:

```
go' _ _ _ xs | False = error (show xs)
go' _ _ _ xs = err xs
```

The first clause is clearly unreachable, and LYG now flags it as such. However, the authors of HsYAML likely left in this clause because it is useful for debugging purposes. One can uncomment the second clause and remove the *False* guard to quickly try out a code path that prints a more detailed error message. Moreover, leaving the first clause in the code ensures that it is typechecked and less susceptible to bitrotting over time.

We may consider adding a primitive function *keepAlive* such that *keepAlive False* does not get marked as redundant in order to support use cases like HsYAML’s. The unreachable code in Cabal and network is of a similar caliber and would also benefit from *keepAlive*.

## 6.1 Performance tests

To compare the efficiency of GMTM and LYG quantitatively, we collected a series of test cases from GHC’s test suite that are designed to test the compile-time performance of coverage checking. Figure 10 lists each of these 11 test cases. Test cases with a T prefix are taken from user-submitted bug reports about the poor performance of GMTM. Test cases with a PmSeries prefix are adapted from Maranget [2007], which presents several test cases that caused GHC to exhibit exponential running times during coverage checking.

We compiled each test case with GHC 8.8.3, which uses GMTM as its checking algorithm, and GHC HEAD, which uses LYG. We measured (1) the time spent in the desugarer, the phase of

1079 compilation in which coverage checking occurs, and (2) how many megabytes were allocated  
 1080 during desugaring. Figure 10 shows these figures as well as the percent change going from 8.8.3  
 1081 to HEAD. Most cases exhibit a noticeable improvement under LYG, with the exception of T11276.  
 1082 Investigating T11276 suggests that the performance of GHC’s equality constraint solver has become  
 1083 more expensive in HEAD [GHC issue 2020c], and these extra costs outweigh the performance  
 1084 benefits of using LYG.  
 1085

## 1086 6.2 GHC issues

1087 Implementing LYG in GHC has fixed over 30 bug reports related to coverage checking. These  
 1088 include:

- 1089 • Better compile-time performance [GHC issue 2015a, 2016e, 2019a,b]
- 1090 • More accurate warnings for empty **case** expressions [GHC issue 2015b, 2017f, 2018e,g, 2019c]
- 1091 • More accurate warnings due to LYG’s desugaring [GHC issue 2016c,d, 2017d, 2018a, 2020d]
- 1092 • More accurate warnings due to improved term-level reasoning [GHC issue 2016a, 2017a,  
 1093 2018b,c,d,h, 2019d,e,h]
- 1094 • More accurate warnings due to tracking long-distance information [GHC issue 2019k, 2020a,b]
- 1095 • Improved treatment of COMPLETE sets [GHC issue 2016b, 2017b,c,e,g, 2018j, 2019f,g,i]
- 1096 • Better treatment of strictness, bang patterns, and newtypes [GHC issue 2018f,i, 2019j,l]

## 1098 7 RELATED WORK

### 1099 7.1 Comparison with GADTs Meet Their Match

1101 Karachalias et al. [2015] present GADTs Meet Their Match (GMTM), an algorithm which handles  
 1102 many of the subtleties of GADTs, guards, and laziness mentioned in section 2. Despite this, the  
 1103 GMTM algorithm still gives incorrect warnings in many cases.

1104 7.1.1 *GMTM does not consider laziness in its full glory.* The formalism in Karachalias et al. [2015]  
 1105 incorporates strictness constraints, but these constraints can only arise from matching against  
 1106 data constructors. GMTM does not consider strict matches that arise from strict fields of data  
 1107 constructors or bang patterns. A consequence of this is that GMTM would incorrectly warn that *v*  
 1108 (section 2.3) is missing a case for *SJust*, even though such a case is unreachable. LYG, on the other  
 1109 hand, more thoroughly tracks strictness when desugaring Haskell programs.  
 1110

1111 7.1.2 *GMTM’s treatment of guards is shallow.* GMTM can only reason about guards through an  
 1112 abstract term oracle. Although the algorithm is parametric over the choice of oracle, in practice  
 1113 the implementation of GMTM in GHC uses an extremely simple oracle that can only reason about  
 1114 guards in a limited fashion. More sophisticated uses of guards, such as in this variation of the  
 1115 *safeLast* function from section 2.2.1, will cause GMTM to emit erroneous warnings:  
 1116

```
1117 safeLast2 xs
1118 | (x : _) ← reverse xs = Just x
1119 | [] ← reverse xs = Nothing
```

1121 While GMTM’s term oracle is customisable, it is not as simple to customize as one might hope.  
 1122 The formalism in Karachalias et al. [2015] represents all guards as *p* ← *e*, where *p* is a pattern and  
 1123 *e* is an expression. This is a straightforward, syntactic representation, but it also makes it more  
 1124 difficult to analyse when *e* is a complicated expression. This is one of the reasons why it is difficult  
 1125 for GMTM to accurately give warnings for the *safeLast* function, since it would require recognizing  
 1126 that both clauses scrutinise the same expression in their view patterns.  
 1127

LYG makes analysing term equalities simpler by first desugaring guards from the surface syntax to guard trees. The  $\oplus_\varphi$  function, which is roughly a counterpart to GMTM's term oracle, can then reason about terms arising from patterns. While  $\oplus_\varphi$  is already more powerful than a trivial term oracle, its real strength lies in the fact that it can easily be extended, as LYG's treatment of view patterns (section 4.3) demonstrates. While GMTM's term oracle could be improved to accomplish the same thing, it is unlikely to be as straightforward of a process as extending  $\oplus_\varphi$ .

## 7.2 Comparison with similar coverage checkers

7.2.1 *Structural and semantic pattern matching analysis in Haskell.* Kalvoda and Kerckhove [2019] implement a variation of GMTM that leverages an SMT solver to give more accurate coverage warnings for programs that use guards. For instance, their implementation can conclude that the *signum* function from section 2.1 is exhaustive. This is something that LYG cannot do out of the box, although it would be possible to extend  $\oplus_\varphi$  with SMT-like reasoning about booleans and linear integer arithmetic.

7.2.2 *Warnings for pattern matching.* Maranget [2007] presents a coverage checking algorithm for OCaml. While OCaml is a strict language, the algorithm claims to be general enough to handle languages with non-strict semantics such as Haskell. That claim however builds on a broken understanding of laziness. Given the following definition:

```
1147 f True = 1
1148 f _ = 2
```

Maranget implies that  $f \perp$  evaluates to 2, which is of course incorrect. Also, replacing the wild card by a match on *False* would no longer be a complete match according to their formalism.

7.2.3 *Elaborating dependent (co)pattern matching.* Cockx and Abel [2018] design a coverage checking algorithm for a dependently typed language with both pattern matching and *copattern* matching, which is a feature that GHC lacks. While the source language for their algorithm is much more sophisticated than GHC's, their algorithm is similar to LYG in that it first desugars definitions by clauses to *case trees*. Case trees present a simplified form of pattern matching that is easier to check for coverage, much like guard trees in LYG. Guard trees could take inspiration from case trees should a future version of GHC add dependent types or copatterns.

## 7.3 Positive and negative information

LYG's use of positive and negative constructor constraints is inspired by Sestoft [1996], which uses positive and negative information to implement a pattern-match compiler for ML. Sestoft utilises positive and negative information to generate decision trees that avoid scrutinizing the same terms repeatedly. This insight is equally applicable to coverage checking and is one of the primary reasons for LYG's efficiency.

Besides efficiency, the accuracy of redundancy warnings involving COMPLETE sets hinge on negative constraints. To see why this isn't possible in other checkers that only track positive information, such as those of Karachalias et al. [2015] (section 7.1) and Maranget [2007] (section 7.2.2), consider the following example:

1171 <i>pattern True' = True</i>	<i>f False = 1</i>
1172 <i>{-# COMPLETE True', False #-}</i>	<i>f True' = 2</i>
	<i>f True = 3</i>

GMTM would have to commit to a particular COMPLETE set when encountering the match on *False*, without any semantic considerations. Choosing  $\{True', False\}$  here will mark the third GRHS as

1177 redundant, while choosing  $\{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$  won't. GHC's implementation used to try each COMPLETE  
 1178 set in turn and would disambiguate using a complicated metric based on the number and kinds of  
 1179 warnings the choice of each oset would generate [GHC team 2020], which was broken still [GHC  
 1180 issue 2017g].

1181 Negative constraints make LYG efficient in other places too, such as in this example:

1182  
 1183  $\text{data } T = A1 \mid \dots \mid A1000$   $\begin{array}{c} h A1 \_ = 1 \\ h \_ A1 = 2 \end{array}$   
 1184

1185 In  $h$ , GMTM would split the value vector (which is like LYG's  $\Delta$ s without negative constructor  
 1186 constraints) into 1000 alternatives over the first match variable, and then *each* of the 999 value  
 1187 vectors reaching the second GRHS into another 1000 alternatives over the second match variable.  
 1188 Negative constraints allow LYG to compress the 999 value vectors falling through into a single  
 1189 one indicating that the match variable can no longer be  $A1$ . Maranget detects wildcard matches to  
 1190 prevent blowup, but only can find a subset of all uncovered patterns in doing so (section 7.2.2).

## 1191 7.4 Strict fields in inhabitation testing

1192 To our knowledge, the `Inst` function in fig. 8 is the first inhabitation test in a coverage checking  
 1193 algorithm to take strict fields into account. This is essential in order to conclude that the `v` function  
 1194 from section 2.3 is exhaustive, which is something that even coverage checkers for call-by-value  
 1195 languages get wrong. For example, we ported `v` to OCaml and Idris<sup>3</sup>:

1196  
 1197  $\text{type void;}$   $v : \text{Maybe Void} \rightarrow \text{Int}$   
 1198  $\text{let } v(\text{None} : \text{void option}) : \text{int} = 0;$   $v \text{ Nothing} = 0$   
 1199

1200 OCaml 4.07.1 incorrectly warns that `v` is missing a case on `Some _`. Idris 1.3.2 does not warn, but  
 1201 if one adds an extra  $v(\text{Just } \_) = 1$  clause, it will not warn that the extra clause is redundant.

## 1202 7.5 Refinement types in coverage checking

1203 In addition to LYG, Liquid Haskell uses refinement types to perform a limited form of exhaustivity  
 1204 checking [Vazou et al. 2014, 2017]. While exhaustiveness checks are optional in ordinary Haskell,  
 1205 they are mandatory for Liquid Haskell, as proofs written in Liquid Haskell require user-defined  
 1206 functions to be total (and therefore exhaustive) in order to be sound. For example, consider this  
 1207 non-exhaustive function:

1208  
 1209  $\text{fibPartial} :: \text{Integer} \rightarrow \text{Integer}$   
 1210  $\text{fibPartial } 0 = 0$   
 1211  $\text{fibPartial } 1 = 1$

1212 When compiled, GHC fills out this definition by adding an extra  $\text{fibPartial } \_ = \text{error } \text{"undefined"}$   
 1213 clause. Liquid Haskell leverages this by giving `error` the refinement type:

1214  
 1215  $\text{error} :: \{ v : \text{String} \mid \text{false} \} \rightarrow a$

1216 As a result, attempting to use `fibPartial` in a proof will yield an inconsistent environment (and  
 1217 therefore fail to verify) unless the user can prove that `fibPartial` is only ever invoked with the  
 1218 arguments 0 or 1.

## 1219 8 CONCLUSION

1220 In this paper, we describe Lower Your Guards, a coverage checking algorithm that distills rich  
 1221 pattern matching into simple guard trees. Guard trees are amenable to analyses that are not easily

1222  
 1223 <sup>3</sup>Idris has separate compile-time and runtime semantics, the latter of which is call by value.

1226 expressible in coverage checkers that work over structural pattern matches. This allows LYG to  
 1227 report more accurate warnings while also avoiding performance issues when checking complex  
 1228 programs. Moreover, LYG is extensible, and we anticipate that this will streamline the process of  
 1229 checking new forms of patterns in the future.

1230

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