## Modular Programming through Precise Typing of Open Recursion

by

#### Andong Fan

A Thesis Submitted to The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Computer Science and Engineering

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This is to certify that I have examined the above MPhil thesis and have found that it is complete and satisfactory in all respects, and that any and all revisions required by the thesis examination committee have been made.

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### Modular Programming through Precise Typing of Open Recursion

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#### Abstract

We present a new variation of object-oriented programming built around three simple and orthogonal constructs: *classes* for storing object state, *interfaces* for expressing object types, and *mixins* for reusing and overriding implementations. We show that the latter can be made uniquely expressive by leveraging a novel feature that we call *precisely-typed open recursion*. This features uses this and super annotations to express the requirements of any given partial method implementation on the types of respectively the current object and the inherited definitions. Crucially, the fact that mixins do *not* introduce types nor subtyping relationships means they can be composed even when the overriding and overridden methods have incomparable types. Together with advanced type inference and structural typing support provided by the MLscript programming language, we show that this enables an elegant and powerful solution to the Expression Problem.

## Chapter 1

## Introduction

Every object-oriented programming (OOP) developer regularly uses the **super** keyword to access overridden definitions from inherited classes. Yet, this keyword has received relatively little attention in previous OOP literature and has been conspicuously absent from most previous research, with few exceptions [Goldberg et al. 2004]. This may be due to the assumption that **super**-calls can be resolved statically and are thus a mere syntactic convenience that is easily desugared into traditional core OOP features [Bettini et al. 2013]. In this thesis, we propose to challenge this assumption: noting that **super** is in fact *late-bound* in mixin-composition systems,<sup>1</sup> we describe an OOP approach which assigns *precise types* to **super**-calls to reflect the "open" nature of this late binding. Consider the following prototypical Point example class:

```
class Point(x: Int, y: Int)
```

This class simply defines two coordinates x and y as immutable fields.

Suppose we want to define a comparison function that works on points. We place this definition in a *mixin* declaration, for reasons that shall soon become clear:

```
mixin ComparePoint {
  fun compare(lhs: Point, rhs: Point): Bool =
    lhs.x == rhs.x and lhs.y == rhs.y }
```

Now suppose we want to compare colored points, but we would like the concept of colored comparison to be generally specified, so that it can be directly reused with other things than points. This can be done using the following combination of interface and mixin (Base is a type parameter):

```
interface Colored { color: Str }
mixin CompareColored[Base] {
  super: { compare: (Base, Base) → Bool }
  fun compare(lhs: Base & Colored, rhs: Base & Colored): Bool =
     super.compare(lhs, rhs) and lhs.color.equals(rhs.color) }
```

We define an interface specifying that a Colored object should contain a color method *or* field of type Str. We also define the CompareColored mixin, which implements a comparison method

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>**super** is bound at the time the mixin method where it appears is composed into a class, which can happen as late as runtime in many mixin-composition languages.

based on an assumed existing comparison method, inherited from an unknown parent implementation and referred to through **super**. The Base type parameter denotes the type compared by that unknown parent implementation; it is needed in order to leave the mixin *open-ended*, i.e., to allow mixing it with arbitrary parent implementations. Notice that the type of compare in CompareColored is *different* from the one specified in the **super** annotation, and is in particular not a subtype of it: the version defined in CompareColored takes parameters of *more precise* type Base & Colored, where & is an intersection type constructor, meaning that each parameter should be *both* a Base *and* a Colored. This difference is a crucial ingredient in our precisely-typed open recursion approach.

We now define ColoredPoint and place its comparison implementation in a module:

```
class ColoredPoint(x: Int, y: Int, color: Str)
    extends Point(x, y) implements Colored
```

module CompareColoredPoint extends ComparePoint, CompareColored[Point]

Note that the color method is implemented by the class field of ColoredPoint with the same name, and the module just desugars to:

```
class CompareColoredPoint extends ComparePoint, CompareColored[Point]
let CompareColoredPoint = new CompareColoredPoint
```

CompareColoredPoint did not need to define its own comparison method — that method was *composed automatically* by inheriting from the ComparePoint and CompareColored mixins, the latter using the correct Point base type argument. Note that mixins on the right override those on the left. The signature of CompareColoredPoint's compare method, which allows passing in colored points, is:

CompareColoredPoint.compare: (Point & Colored, Point & Colored)  $\rightarrow$  Bool

which is *not* a subtype of ComparePoint's compare method's type. This is fine because mixins in our approach do not introduce types, and there is thus no subtyping relationship between CompareColoredPoint and ComparePoint, which is reminiscent of Cook et al.'s famous assertion that *inheritance is not subtyping* [Cook et al. 1989].

Now imagine we want to deal with "*nested*" objects, which are objects that may optionally have a parent.<sup>2</sup> We can similarly define a comparison mixin for nested objects as follows:

```
interface Nested[A] { parent: Option[A] }
```

```
mixin CompareNested[Base, Final] {
  super: { compare: (Base, Base) → Bool }
  this: { compare: (Final, Final) → Bool }

  fun compare(lhs: Base & Nested[Final], rhs: Base & Nested[Final]): Bool =
    super.compare(lhs, rhs) and
    if lhs.parent is Some(p)
      then rhs.parent is Some(q) and this.compare(p, q)
      else rhs.parent is None
}
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Option[A] is defined as the usual algebraic data type, with cases Some[A](value: A) and None.

In this variant, we additionally use a this refinement, which specifies the *eventual* types of the methods the current object should support, after all inheritance and overriding is performed. The reason we use this and not super in the recursive this.compare(p, q) call is that we should take into account that p and q *themselves* may be nested points!

Finally, it is possible to compare points that are *both* nested *and* colored by directly composing the corresponding implementations:

Or alternatively, in a different order:

Mixin composition order is meaningful because it determines overriding order; moreover, in our approach, the types of methods may change through overriding — here, notice how we pass different type arguments to CompareColored and CompareNested in each version.

To support this idea of precisely-typed mixin composition, we present the **SuperOOP** system, a simple yet uniquely expressive core description of OOP built around three orthogonal concepts: *classes* for storing object state, *interfaces* for expressing object types, and *mixins* for reusing and overriding implementations.<sup>3</sup> Notably, we only support inheriting from interfaces and mixins, not from classes.<sup>4</sup> We show that these simple, orthogonal concepts are sufficient to explain the usual features of object-oriented programming languages, including those with complicated multiple-inheritance disciplines, like Scala's trait composition approach.

We also describe how the ideas of SuperOOP can be integrated into MLscript, a nascent MLinspired programming language with structural types and advanced type inference, based on the recently proposed MLstruct type system [Parreaux and Chau 2022]. Using this approach, all the types can be inferred automatically as long as they do not involve first-class polymorphism (which may require explicit annotations). For instance, in MLscript, the CompareColored mixin shown above could also be written as the more lightweight:

```
mixin CompareColored {
   fun compare(lhs, rhs) =
      super.compare(lhs, rhs) and lhs.color.equals(rhs.color) }
for which our compiler infers the following mixin signature:
```

<sup>3</sup>Such separation of concerns was already proposed by previous authors, such as Bettini et al. [2013] and Damiani et al. [2017], but the systems they developed did not support overriding and open recursion, which is the *raison d'être* of our approach.

<sup>4</sup>We see in Section 4.1 that the Point class inheritance example seen above can be desugared into our core  $\lambda^{\text{super}}$  calculus through interface inheritance and without requiring class inheritance.

Our specific contributions are summarized as follows:

- We explain the general ideas of SuperOOP in the context of the structurally-typed MLscript programming language, and how it allows solving interesting problems simply and elegantly, including the Expression Problem and derivatives (Section 2). SuperOOP mixins improve on the state of the art by allowing precise typing of open recursion, which to the best of our knowledge was never proposed before.
- We formalize the core concepts of SuperOOP, including its precisely-typed mixin inheritance mechanism, in a declarative type system called  $\lambda^{super}$ . We use big-step semantics to closely reflect a real implementation and prove the soundness of  $\lambda^{super}$  through the preservation and coverage properties (Section 3).
- We discuss the expressiveness and limitations of the presented design of SuperOOP as well as its implementation. We discuss several important approaches from previous literature on the topic of inheritance and the Expression Problem, explaining how these approaches compare to SuperOOP in detail (Section 4).
- We provide an implementation of MLscript/SuperOOP which demonstrates how type inference can be used to type check concise class and mixin definitions. Both the opensource repository and the archived artifact with documentation are available online. A demo of this implementation is included in the supplementary material of this thesis.<sup>5</sup>

The content of this thesis is largely based on the published conference paper authored by Fan and Parreaux [2023a] which follows up on concepts presented by Fan [2022] as a research abstract. The implementation is published as a companion research artifact [Fan and Parreaux 2023b] of the conference paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>The demo is also available at: https://hkust-taco.github.io/superoop/.

## **Chapter 2**

## **Motivation**

In this section, we introduce a motivating example in "super-charged" MLscript.

#### 2.1 The Expression Problem and Extensible Variants

In the field of modular programming, the *Expression Problem* (EP) [Wadler 1998] describes the dilemma posed by the modular extension for both data types and their operations in objectoriented and functional programming. There are many ways of tackling this problem, but one of the most straightforward is to rely on some notion of *extensible variants*, as done by Garrigue [2000] with OCaml's polymorphic variants. The general idea of extensible variants is that they are similar to algebraic data types (a.k.a. variants) except that one is able to specify which data type cases are allowed in a given type, and moreover one is able to add new data type cases after the fact.

MLscript supports a simple form of extensible variants implemented through *subtyping and structural types*. In this section, we see how the combination of this feature and SuperOOP's precise typing of open recursion can achieve what we believe is one of the simplest and cleanest solutions to the expression problem so far.

**A Quick Look at MLscript** We first take a quick look at MLscript's basic language features that enable a form of extensible variants and serve as key ingredients in our solution to the Expression Problem.

**Basic data type classes** Consider the following MLscript class definitions which encode a very minimal expression language that we will later extend in several directions.

```
class Lit(value: Int)
class Add[T](lhs: T, rhs: T)
```

The Lit class represents integer literals and the Add class represents addition. Note that the types of Add's value parameter are polymorphic, meaning that they can be chosen arbitrarily.

We will see that the ability to leave the types of subexpressions open is crucial to the extensibility of our approach.

**Union types** Based on these class definitions, we can construct types such as:

type LitOrAddLit = Lit | Add[Lit]

where '|' is called a *union type* constructor. LitOrAddLit represents the type of an expression that is *either* an integer literal *or* an addition between two integer literals.

**Equirecursive types** More interestingly, we can define the type of arbitrary expressions in our little language as:

type SimpleExpr = Lit | Add[SimpleExpr]

Notice that this type is *equirecursive*, meaning that SimpleExpr is *equivalent* to its unrolling Lit | Add[SimpleExpr]. This is quite convenient in the context of structural typing, and it allows us to have subtyping relationships (denoted as 'T1 <: T2', meaning that T1 is a subtype of T2) such as LitOrAddLit <: SimpleExpr. An equivalent way of specifying SimpleExpr without having to introduce a type declaration is through MLscript's 'as' binder (similar to 'as' in languages like OCaml), as in 'Lit | Add['a] as 'a' (where 'as' has least precedence).

**Evaluation** To use values in our small expression language, we define an eval recursive function:

```
fun eval(e) = if e is
Lit(n) then n
Add(lhs, rhs) then eval(lhs) + eval(rhs)
```

This function uses MLscript's syntax for pattern matching, which extends the traditional ifthen-else syntactic form with multi-way-if-style functionality and destructuring through an 'is' keyword [Parreaux 2022]. The type of this function is inferred by MLscript to be:

eval: (Lit | Add['a] as 'a)  $\rightarrow$  Int

**Default cases and constructor difference** It is quite instructive to consider what happens when default cases are used in MLscript, as in:

```
fun eval2(e) =
  if e is
   Lit(n) then n
   Add(lhs, rhs) then eval2(lhs) + eval2(rhs)
  else e
```

In this case, the type inferred is

eval2: (Lit | Add['a] | 'b\Lit\Add **as** 'a)  $\rightarrow$  (Int | 'b)

Above,  $\land$  is a *constructor difference* type operator,<sup>1</sup> which is used to *remove* concrete class type

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Constructor difference is not a primitive construct of MLscript's underlying type system, MLstruct [Parreaux and Chau 2022]. Type A  $\ B$  is encoded in that type system as A & ~**#**B, where & is the *type intersection* operator, ~ is the *type negation* operator, and **#**B represents the *nominal identity* of class B, i.e., its raw type constructor without

constructors from a given type (here, 'b). This type operator applies incrementally, as its lefthand side becomes concretely known upon type instantiation. For instance, after instantiating the type variable 'b to, say, Add[Int] | Bool in the type above, 'b\Lit\Add becomes (Add[ Int] | Bool)\Lit\Add, which is equivalent to just Bool. Since all negative occurrences of 'b (here, there is only one) are subject to this constructor difference, passing values for 'b which are of the Lit or Add forms is effectively prevented, which ensures type safety<sup>2</sup> [Parreaux and Chau 2022]. On the other hand, any other type constructor is allowed, for example, we could call eval2(true), with inferred result type Int | Bool.

#### 2.2 Open Recursion in MLscript with SuperOOP Mixins

Now let us consider putting our original evaluation function inside of a mixin, in order to enable future extensions. To make the recursion of evaluation *open*, we now recurse through method calls of the form 'this.eval' (here, 'this' is the class instance to be late-bound) instead of a direct eval recursive function call:

```
mixin EvalBase {
  fun eval(e) = if e is
   Lit(n) then n
   Add(lhs, rhs) then this.eval(lhs) + this.eval(rhs) }
```

The type signature inferred for that mixin definition is the following:

```
mixin EvalBase: ∀ 'A. {
  this: { eval: 'A → Int }
  eval: (Lit | Add['A]) → Int
}
```

Above, 'A is a *mixin-level* type variable,<sup>3</sup> meaning that it must be instantiated to a specific type each time the mixin is inherited as part of a class. Since mixins do *not* introduce types on their own, EvalBase cannot be used as a type. Using EvalBase as a type would be a problem because there would be no definite type to replace 'A with in the signature of its eval method — so we would not know how to type expressions such as x.eval when x has type EvalBase. Note that 'A can even be instantiated to *several incomparable types* within a single class, if EvalBase is inherited several times.

What is interesting here is that MLscript infers a this type refinement (also called *self type*), which specifies what the type of this should be for the mixin to be well-typed. Here, this

any fields or type parameters attached.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Perhaps counter-intuitively, we do not need to restrict the positive occurrences of 'b, as they are always effectively unrestricted due to covariance. Consider a function of type ('b\Lit\Add)  $\rightarrow$  'b. Substituting Mul | Lit | Add for 'b results in ((Mul | Lit | Add)\Lit\Add)  $\rightarrow$  (Mul | Lit | Add), which is equivalent to Mul  $\rightarrow$  (Mul | Lit | Add). This is a supertype of Mul  $\rightarrow$  Mul, which we could have obtained from substituting Mul for 'b in the first place, so this type would have been reachable even after a "properly restricted" substitution of 'b. In other words, it does not make much sense to restrict the positive occurrence of 'b and there is no practical need for it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>We use uppercase names for *mixin-level* type variables and lowercase names for *function-level* ones.

represents the final object obtained from the future mixin composition. Crucially, notice that the type of eval is *no longer recursive* — indeed, it no longer contains a recursive 'as' binder. This is because we have *opened* the recursion, and the type that is inferred for eval *precisely* specifies what this partial definition accomplishes: it examines the top level of an expression and when that expression is an Add, it calls eval open-recursively through this with the corresponding subexpressions, expecting integer results from that recursive call.

Opening recursion in this way allows us to adapt this partially-specified recursive function to different contexts, as we shall see shortly.

**Closing back** We can immediately tie the knot and obtain an implementation equivalent to the original recursive function eval by defining a module that only inherits from EvalBase:

```
module SimpleLang extends EvalBase
```

whose inferred type signature is:

```
module SimpleLang: {
   eval: (Lit | Add['a] as 'a) → Int
}
```

Something important happened here: by creating the module SimpleLang from the previous mixin, we effectively *tie the recursive knot* for the corresponding method. That is, to type check SimpleLang, MLscript constrains the "open" polymorphic type variable 'A associated with eval in EvalBase and instantiates it to the correct type to make the overall mixin composition type check. More specifically, remember that eval as defined in EvalBase was given type (Lit | Add['A])  $\rightarrow$  Int *assuming* that this had type { eval: ('A)  $\rightarrow$  Int }. Here, we know that the type of this is SimpleLang and that SimpleLang's eval implementation is the one inherited from EvalBase. So when constraining types to make the subtyping relation SimpleLang <: { eval: ('A)  $\rightarrow$  Int } hold, this leads to constraining (Lit | Add['A])  $\rightarrow$  Int <: ('A)  $\rightarrow$  Int, which in turn leads to the constraint 'A <: (Lit | Add['A]). So MLscript instantiates the type variable 'A to the principal solution, i.e the recursive type (Lit | Add['a]) **as** 'a, which satisfies this recursive constraint.

**Extending the operations** Now consider extending our code for a new expression pretty-printing method:

```
mixin PrettyBase {
  fun print(e) = if e is
   Lit(n) then toString(n)
   Add(lhs, rhs) then this.print(lhs) ++ "+" ++ this.print(rhs) }
```

Mixin PrettyBase defines a print method for Lit and Add. Its inferred type is analogous to that of EvalBase. This demonstrates that we can extend the operations performed on our simple language, which is one of the extensibility directions considered by the Expression Problem.

**Extending the data types** Next, consider another direction of code extension – defining a *new expression constructor*. We here define a negation expression type Neg:

class Neg[T](expr: T)

Now, the obvious question is how to extend some existing operations to this new data type constructor in a way that is as general and modular as possible.

### 2.3 super-charging OOP with Polymorphic Mixins

As noticed by Garrigue [2000], it is often useful to define components that extend *yet unknown* base implementations, so that the same components can be applied to different base implementations, and so that in general we can merge independently-defined languages together. This is possible to do in MLscript by defining mixins that make use of **this** and **super**, as in the following example:

```
mixin EvalNeg {
  fun eval(e) =
    if e is Neg(d) then 0 - this.eval(d)
    else super.eval(e)
}
```

which can be written more concisely using the following syntax sugar:

```
mixin EvalNeg { fun eval(override Neg(d)) = 0 - this.eval(d) }
```

We can include this partial Neg-handling recursion step as part of any previously-defined base implementation, such as our previous EvalBase. We get the following inferred type for EvalNeg, which precisely describes this property:

```
mixin EvalNeg: ∀ 'A 'B 'R . {
   this: { eval: 'A → Int }
   super: { eval: 'B → 'R }
   eval: (Neg['A] | 'B\Neg) → (Int | 'R)
}
```

We can see that the type signature of our mixin now includes a **super** refinement *in addition to* the **this** refinement. This is the key to enabling polymorphic extension: when composing such a mixin later on, MLscript will match up this **super** requirement with whatever implementation is provided by the previous mixin implementations in the chain of mixin composition. Recursive knots will only be tied when the mixin is composed as part of a class.

The PrettyNeg extension for pretty-printing is defined analogously.

**Tying the knot again** Finally, we can compose everything together as part of a new module: module Lang extends

EvalBase, EvalNeg, PrettyBase, PrettyNeg

And here is the type signature inferred for this definition:

```
• The base language
                                                             • Extension of data types
class Lit(value: Int)
                                                             class Neg[T](expr: T)
class Add[T](lhs: T, rhs: T)
                                                             mixin EvalNeg: forall 'A 'B 'R . {
mixin EvalBase: forall 'A. {
                                                              this: { eval: 'A -> Int }
  this: { eval: 'A -> Int }
                                                               super: { eval: 'B -> 'R }
  eval: (Lit | Add['A]) -> Int
                                                               eval: (Neg['A] | 'B\Neg) -> (Int | 'R)
  fun eval(e) = if e is
                                                               fun eval(e) =
   Lit(n) K
                 then n
                                                                 if e is Neg(d) then 0 - this.eval(d)
    Add(lhs, rhs) then
                                                                 else super.eval(e)
      this.eval(lhs) + this.eval(rhs)
                                                             }
}
                            EvalBase.eval <: EvalNeg.super.eval</pre>
• Extension of interpretations
                                                            • Compose everything together
                                                            class Lang extends
mixin PrettyBase {
                                                              EvalBase, EvalNeg, PrettyBase, PrettyNeg
 fun print(e) = if e is
                                                                                        <u>Ove</u>rrides
                                                                 Overrides
                 then toString(n)
   Lit(n)
   Add(lhs, rhs) then
                                                           class Lang: {
     this.print(lhs) ++ "+" ++ this.print(rhs) }
                                                             eval: (Lit | Add['a] | Neg['a] as 'a) \rightarrow Int
                                                              print: (Lit | Add['a] | Neg['a] as 'a) \rightarrow Str
                                                           }
```

Figure 1: Solution to the Expression Problem in MLscript/SuperOOP.

```
module Lang: {
    eval: (Lit | Add['a] | Neg['a] as 'a) → Int
    print: (Lit | Add['a] | Neg['a] as 'a) → Str
}
```

We illustrate the mixins and their composition as our solution to the Expression Problem in fig. 1. The arrows illustrate how the method calls via this and super are dispatched and why the corresponding subtyping constraints on the arrows should be generated. The types in grey are only for illustration purposes here, as they can be fully inferred.

Again, what happens here is important to consider. We are now tying the knot with respect to *both* this and super in all the mixins making up the mixin inheritance stack:

- For this, as indicated by the pink arrow, eval call via this in the mixin EvalBase is dispatched to the *overriding* implementation of eval in the mixin EvalNeg, so we constrain that eval's type in EvalNeg is a subtype of the required type of this.eval in EvalBase. Similarly, we guarantee in the mixin EvalNeg that the type of eval satisfies the required type of this.eval. And the same for the print method.
- For **super**, we make sure that the member types provided by the first mixin EvalBase satisfy the **super** requirement of the second mixin EvalNeg by generating the subtyping constraint in blue, because as shown by the blue arrow, eval call via **super** in the mixin EvalNeg is dispatched to the *overridden* implementation of eval in EvalBase. After that, we compute new member types based on EvalNeg's contributions, before checking that the resulting type satisfies the **super** requirement of the next mixin in line, PrettyBase, etc.

This results in the inferred recursive types in the green box, which precisely characterize what shapes of data that Lang's eval and print methods can handle.

**Polymorphic extensibility** To demonstrate that our EvalNeg component is truly generic over the existing implementation it is to be merged upon, we can define yet another mixin that adds a new Mul language feature:

```
class Mul[T](lhs: T, rhs: T)
mixin EvalMul {
  fun eval(override Mul(l, r)) = this.eval(l) * this.eval(r) }
```

And then we compose all of these mixins together in two possible orders (the order determines which of Neg and Mul will be matched first):

module LangNegMul extends EvalBase, EvalNeg, EvalMul
module LangMulNeg extends EvalBase, EvalMul, EvalNeg

In both cases, the inferred signature is:

module LangNegMul: {
 eval: (Lit | Add['a] | Neg['a] | Mul['a] as 'a) → Int }

### 2.4 Pattern-Matching All the Way

To conclude this motivating example, we exemplify a capability of our system that most solutions to the expression problem lack, with the notable exception of polymorphic variants (see Section 5.1): the ability of *pattern matching deeply inside subexpressions*, which enables the definition of optimization passes.

For instance, below we define an EvalNegNeg optimization which shortcuts the evaluation of double negations, directly evaluating the doubly-negated expression instead:

```
mixin EvalNegNeg { fun eval(override Neg(Neg(d))) = this.eval(d) }
```

of inferred type:

```
mixin EvalNegNeg: ∀ 'A 'B 'C 'D . {
  super: {eval: (Neg['A] | 'B) → 'C}
  this: {eval: 'D → 'C}
  fun eval: (Neg[Neg['D] | 'A\Neg] | 'B\Neg) → 'C
}
```

This type deserves some explanation. The parameter type of eval is 'Neg[Neg['D] | 'A \ Neg] | 'B\Neg', which describes the fact that:

- eval accepts either an instance of Neg or, failing that, a 'B that is not a Neg;
- If the argument *is* a Neg, then its type argument must itself be either a Neg or an 'A that is not a Neg;
- If that nested type argument is a Neg, then its type argument must be 'D. Since this type argument is passed to this.eval, we get the this refinement {eval: 'D → 'C}.
- In case either the eval argument is not a Neg (so the argument is a 'B) or the eval argument is a Neg['A] where 'A is not a Neg, evaluation falls back to a super call, which is translated into the super refinement {eval: (Neg['A] | 'B) → 'C}.

This mixin can be merged onto any mixin stack to obtain the desired effect; for example: module Lang extends EvalBase, EvalNeg, EvalMul, EvalNegNeg

In this case, it is important to mix in EvalNegNeg *after* EvalNeg in the inheritance stack, so that the optimization semantics override the base semantics, and not the other way around. This is a fundamental property of optimization passes: their composition order matters.

## **Chapter 3**

## Core Language

In this section, we present an explicitly-typed core language that captures the core objectoriented concepts of SuperOOP, leaving type inference aside. We first informally present the key innovation and design concepts of SuperOOP's object-oriented type system and then define  $\lambda^{super}$ , a minimal declarative and explicitly-polymorphic calculus.

#### 3.1 Design Concepts

**Interfaces, mixins, and classes** Interfaces, mixins, and classes are three orthogonal building blocks that model OOP in our system. *Interfaces* define a set of method signatures. For an object conforming to an interface, it should support all the methods specified in that interface. Contrary to classes and mixins, which in our core language have no types, we associate each interface with its own type. *Mixins* provide *implementations* for methods. *Classes*, finally, implement interfaces through a linear composition of mixins and a set of parameters which represents the *state* of the object.

**Interface inheritance** As in most OOP languages, existing interfaces can be extended with additional methods through interface inheritance. A child interface may inherit from several parent interfaces (i.e., we support *multiple inheritance* of interfaces). Moreover, a child interface may override parent method signatures with *refined* signatures, as determined by the subtyping relation. As an example, consider the following interface composition:

interface I1 { a: S }; interface I2 { a: T }; interface I3 extends I1, I2 Method a's signature in the composed interface I3 is the *intersection* of the inherited signatures, i.e. S & T. Intersection types enable precise multiple interface inheritance, since they are used as greatest lower bounds of the inherited type signatures, which also makes the composed interface a subtype of all inherited interfaces.

**Mixin composition** SuperOOP mixins are compositional and reusable building blocks to construct classes. They provide partial method implementations that, when composed together, are checked to satisfy the interface that the class is meant to conform to. A mixin composition is simply a list of mixins. Each mixin in a mixin composition *overrides* not only method implementations but also method *types* inherited from previous mixins. So the type of a method may change along the mixin composition, but the type system ensures that the typing assumptions made by each implementation (in the form of **this** and **super** refinements) are satisfied. This also explains why mixins are not considered types (unlike, e.g., Scala traits): the fact that a mixin is present in the inheritance clause of a class does *not* imply that the resulting object will offer methods with types comparable to the ones provided by the mixin. Consider the following example with generics, where Option is the usual option type with constructors Some and None (here, **implements** { foo: ... } is a shorthand for defining an unnamed interface and adding it to the **implements** clause):

Generic mixin Bar[A] overrides the implementation of foo by wrapping the parent implementation of foo (i.e. **super**.foo) with the Some constructor. Importantly, Bar[A] has the type of **super** refined as { foo: A }, which gives **super**.foo type A. In this example, mixin Bar[Int] overrides method foo of type Int in mixin Foo, and Bar[Option[Int]] overrides foo of type Option[Int] provided by the inherited mixin composition (Foo, Bar[Int]).

**Precisely-Typed Open Recursion** A crucial feature of OOP, *open recursion* is the ability for a method to invoke itself or another method via a late-bound this instance, which may lead to evaluating overriding implementations. In most OOP languages with inheritance, the type of this is the current class' type. In these languages, method invocations on this are safe because overriding implementations from subclasses can only refine the types of overridden methods. By contrast, in SuperOOP, methods are overridden regardless of types, and the actual type of this is only decided when the mixin composition is finalized as part of a class definition. Therefore, a precise type specification for this is necessary for open recursive calls in mixin methods. Importantly, this type refinement can be polymorphic at the mixin level, being instantiated at mixin composition time (i.e., upon being used as part of a class definition). Such polymorphism allows for later extensions to the shapes of data types that a method may be made to work on, as described in chapter 2. Consider the following example:

```
mixin Mxn1 {
   this: { a: Str }
   fun a: Boolean = (this.a == "42")
}
mixin Mxn2 { fun a: Str = "42" }
class Cls extends Mxn1, Mxn2 implements { a: Str }
```

|                      | <u>Names, types, and terms</u>   |        |
|----------------------|--|--------|
| Class name           | С  |        |
| Mixin name           | M, N   |        |
| Interface name       | I, J   |        |
| Field name           | <i>m</i> , <i>p</i>  |        |
| Туре                 | $S, T, U, V ::= X, Y \mid I[\overline{T}] \mid S \to T \mid \forall X. T \mid S \& T \mid T$ | Object |
| Term                 | $e ::= x, y \mid $ this $\mid$ super $\mid \lambda x : T. e \mid \Lambda X. e$               |        |
|                      | $  e_1 e_2   e T   e.m   new C[\overline{T}](\overline{e})$                                  |        |
|                      | Interfaces, mixins, and classes  |        |
| Structural type      | $\mathcal{R} ::= \{ \overline{m:T} \}$   |        |
| Implementation       | $\mathcal{I} ::= \left\{ \ \overline{m:T=e} \ \right\}$                                      |        |
| Top-level definition | $\mathcal{D}$ ::=  |        |
| Interface            | $I[\overline{X}] \lhd \overline{J[\overline{T}]} \mathcal{R}$                                |        |
| Mixin                | $\mid M[\overline{X}]_T^{\mathcal{R}} I$   |        |
| Class                | $\mid C[\overline{X}](\overline{m:T}) \lhd I[\overline{T}], \overline{M[\overline{T}]}$      |        |
| Program              | $\mathcal{P} ::= \overline{\mathcal{D}}; e$  |        |



Method a has type Boolean in mixin Mxn1. The annotated precise type of this gives this.a type Str in Mxn1, allowing string comparison in a's implementation. Mixin Mx2 provides a's implementation of type Str. Class C implements a: Str by the mixin composition (Mxn1, Mxn2). The inheritance of Mxn1 is allowed since the interface that class Cls implements matches the annotated this type in Mxn1. In Mxn2, we could still access the super implementation of a in Mxn1 by refining the type of super.

#### 3.2 Formal Syntax

We now introduce the  $\lambda^{\text{super}}$  calculus, a formalization of SuperOOP. The design of this calculus is inspired by Featherweight Generic Java [Igarashi et al. 2001] and Pathless Scala [Martres 2021]. Throughout our formalization, we use the notation  $\overline{E_i}^{i \in n..m}$  to denote the repetition of syntax form  $E_i$  with index *i* from *n* to *m*. We use  $\overline{E}$  as a shorthand when *i* is not necessary for disambiguation. Moreover, we use  $[\overline{T/X}]$  to denote the conventional capture-avoiding substitution of a list of type parameters  $\overline{X}$  (which can possibly be empty) to  $\overline{T}$ . In definitions of metafunctions, we use  $\emptyset$  as a default vacuous result.

|                                | S-Refl                       | S-Top        | S                          | -INTERFACE<br>$S \in \text{parents}(I)^7$ | $\overline{T}$ ]) $\frac{S-1}{S}$ | $\frac{INV}{\langle \cdot T}$  | $\overline{T < \cdot \$}$ | S-Andl                             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| S <: T                         | $\overline{T <: T}$          | T <: Objete  | ect                        | $I[\overline{T}] <: S$                    | <u> </u>                          | $\overline{I[\overline{S}]} <$ | $<: I[\overline{T}]$      | $\overline{S_1 \& S_2 <: S_1}$     |
| S-Andr                         | S-And<br>S <: T <sub>1</sub> | $S <: T_2$   | S-Tra<br><i>S &lt;</i> : U | ns<br>J U <: T                            | S-Arrc $S_2 <: S$                 | $\frac{1}{1}$                  | $T_1 <: T_2$              | S-Forall<br>S <: T                 |
| $\overline{S_1 \& S_2 <: S_2}$ | <i>S</i> <: 2                | $T_1 \& T_2$ |                            | S <: T                                    | $\overline{S_1 \to T}$            | $S_1 <: S$                     | $_2 \rightarrow T_2$      | $\forall X. \ S <: \forall X. \ T$ |

Figure 3: Declarative subtyping.

The syntax of  $\lambda^{super}$  is presented in Figure 2. Meta-variables *S*, *T*, *U*, *V* range over types, which include type variables, interfaces with a list of type arguments, arrow types, universally quantified types, intersection types, and the top type Object. For terms *e*, there are term variables *x* and *y*. **this** and **super** are akin to term variables with special treatment. We have standard explicitly-typed lambda abstractions and term applications, as well as type abstraction and type application terms. Method invocation and access to object fields share a single syntax: we consider access to object fields as method invocation. Objects are created with a **new** keyword with term and type arguments supplied.

The top-level definitions of  $\lambda^{\text{super}}$  are interfaces, mixins, and classes. Every interface  $I[\overline{X}]$  has a type parameter list  $[\overline{X}]$ , a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}$ , and inherits multiple parent interfaces  $\overline{J[\overline{T}]}$ . A structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}$  contains a list of method signatures  $\overline{m:T}$  that specify methods' names and types. Mixins, parametrized by type parameters, provide method implementations I. Crucially, each mixin has a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}$  attached to **super** and a type T for **this** for precise typing of open recursion. Finally, a class has a class-level type parameter list, immutable object fields, an interface it implements, and a mixin composition  $M[\overline{T}]$  that provides method implementations. A program consists in a list of top-level definitions and a term that accesses them. For all top-level definitions, we require the standard well-formedness conditions that all names are uniquely defined and no class transitively inherits itself. In later rules, we assume terms' access to the underlying top-level definitions.

#### 3.3 Static Semantics

We present the static semantics of  $\lambda^{super}$  which includes a declarative subtyping, term typing, and well-formedness check of top-level definitions.

**Declarative subtyping** Figure 3 shows the declarative subtyping of  $\lambda^{\text{super}}$ . Most rules are unsurprising. Rule S-INTERFACE describes that an interface is a subtype of its parent interfaces. Auxiliary function parents( $I[\overline{T}]$ ) (defined in Figure 9 of Appendix A.1) returns the list of parent interfaces. For simplicity, we consider that interfaces are *invariant* in their type parameters (rule S-INV).

 $\Gamma ::= \epsilon \mid \Gamma, x : T \mid \Gamma, \text{ super} : \mathcal{R} \mid \Gamma, \text{ this} : T$ 

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-VAR} & T\text{-THIS} & T\text{-ABS} & T\text{-TABS} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma(x) = T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash x:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma(\mathbf{this}) = T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{this}:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma + Ass & T\text{-TABS} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash x:S \mapsto e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash e:T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash Ax:S. \ e:S \to T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash e:T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash AX. \ e:\forall X. \ T \end{array} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash e:\forall X. \ S \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash e:T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash e:T \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline T \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \\ \hline T \vdash e:T \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} T\text{-Access} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c}$$

T-SUPER  
$$\Gamma(super) = \mathcal{R}$$
T-New  
vparams $(C[\overline{T}]) = \overline{m_i : U_i}^{i \in 1..n}$ T-SUB  
 $\Gamma \vdash e : S$  $\frac{\mathsf{mrefn}(m, \mathcal{R}) = S}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{super.}m : S}$  $\overline{\Gamma \vdash e_i : U_i}^{i \in 1..n}$  $\mathsf{ctype}(C[\overline{T}]) = V$  $S <: T$  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{new} C[\overline{T}](\overline{e_i}^{i \in 1..n}) : V$  $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ 

Given that interface *I* is defined as  $I[\overline{X}] \lhd \overline{J[\overline{U}]} \mathcal{R}$ :

$$mtype(m, I[\overline{T}]) = \begin{cases} [\overline{T/X}]S & \text{if } (m:S) \in \mathcal{R} \\ S & \text{if } m \notin \mathcal{R} \text{ and } mtype(m, \& [\overline{T/X}]J[\overline{U}]) = S \\ \end{bmatrix}$$
$$mtype(m, S \& T) = \begin{cases} U \& V & \text{if } mtype(m, S) = U \text{ and } mtype(m, T) = V \\ U & \text{if } mtype(m, S) = U \text{ and } mtype(m, T) = \emptyset \\ V & \text{if } mtype(m, S) = \emptyset \text{ and } mtype(m, T) = V \end{cases}$$

 $mtype(m, T) = \emptyset$  otherwise

#### Figure 4: Term typing.

**Term typing** Figure 4 lists the typing rule of terms.  $\Gamma \vdash e : T$  is the term typing relation. A typing context  $\Gamma$  maps term variables to types, **super** to a structural refinement, and **this** to a type. The typing rules for term variables (T-VAR), lambda and type abstractions (T-ABS and T-TAbs), term and type applications (T-APP and T-TAPP), as well as the subsumption rule (T-SUB), are standard. Note that since **super** is not bound to a type (but to a structural refinement) in typing contexts, **super** itself will never be assigned a type, which matches the usual semantics of **super** that it should only receive method calls but not be passed around. The typing of method invocations is separated into two cases. If the receiver is a term (other than **super**) that has a type, we look up the method signature in the receiver's type. Function mtype(m, T) computes method type from its associated structural refinement using function mrefn( $m, \mathcal{R}$ ) (defined in Figure 9 of Appendix A.1). To type class instantiation (T-NEW), we check that all constructor arguments match the types of the class fields returned by function vparams( $C[\overline{T}]$ ), and the object

MIXINCHECK  $M[\overline{X}]_T^{\mathcal{R}} \{ \overline{m:S=e} \}$  M ok  $\frac{\forall (m:S=e) \in M. \quad \text{this}: T, \text{ super}: \mathcal{R} \vdash e:S}{M ok}$ 

CLASSCHECK

 $C \ ok$ 

$$I[\overline{X}] \lhd \overline{J[\overline{T}]} \{ \overline{m:S} \} \qquad \overline{J \ ok}$$

$$\forall (m:S) \in I . mtype(m, \& \overline{J[\overline{T}]}) = \emptyset \text{ or } \begin{cases} mtype(m, \& \overline{J[\overline{T}]}) = U \\ S <: U \end{cases}$$

$$I \ ok$$

$$C[\overline{X}](\overline{p:T}) \lhd I[\overline{U}], \overline{M_i[\overline{U'}]}^{i \in n..1}$$

$$I \ ok \quad \overline{M_i \ ok} \quad \overline{M_i \Rightarrow C} \quad \forall m \in \operatorname{mnames}(I[\overline{U}]) . \begin{cases} \operatorname{mtype}(m, I[\overline{U}]) = S \\ \operatorname{search}(m, 0, C) = V \\ V <: S \end{cases}$$

$$C \ ok$$

 $\boxed{\begin{array}{c} \text{InheritCheck} \\ C[\overline{X}](\overline{p:U'}) \lhd I[\overline{U}], \overline{M_i[\overline{V}]}^{i \in n..1} & M_i[\overline{Y}]_T^{\mathcal{R}} I \\ \\ \hline I[\overline{U}] <: [\overline{V/Y}]T & \forall (m:S) \in \mathcal{R} . \begin{cases} \text{search}(m, (i+1), C) = S' \\ S' <: [\overline{V/Y}]S \\ \\ \hline M_i \Rightarrow C \\ \end{array}} \end{array}}$ 

Figure 5: Well-formedness check of top-level definitions and mixin inheritance check.

has interface type  $ctype(C[\overline{T}])$  of the class (vparams and ctype are defined in Figure 9).

The design of mtype basically follows that of Pathless Scala [Martres 2021]. When a method signature is present in an interface, we directly return it. Otherwise, we search parent interfaces by calling mtype with the *intersection* of all parent interfaces (denoted as  $\& J[\overline{U}]$ ). Note that nullary intersection is Object. To compute a method signature from an intersection type, we recursively consider both sides of the intersection. When both types define the method, we take the intersection of corresponding results.

**Well-formedness of top-level definitions** Figure 5 shows the well-formedness check of mixins, classes, and interfaces. We put name lookup results of those structures as premises in the rules. The first premises of rules in Figure 5 are the case.

**Well-formed mixins** To check a mixin (*M* **ok**), we check that every method implementation can be typed at its signature with precise types of **this** and **super** in the context. Note that we bind **this** to a type while **super** to a structural refinement in each mixin. This syntactic difference

is rooted in the semantic difference between them. People often call **super** a "pseudo-variable" because it is merely a reference to call methods inherited from the parent class or mixin. In SuperOOP, the parent mixin in the composition hierarchy does *not* define an object type, and **super** should not be passed around, so it is enough to give **super** a *structural method refinement* to tell what types the overridden methods should have. On the other hand, **this** is late-bound to an object that has a type, can be passed around, and receives method calls. Hence **this** is annotated with a type, and the annotated type should be a supertype of the later defined class's type.

**Well-formed interfaces** An interface is well-formed (*I* ok) when its parent interfaces are all well-formed. A method signature should either be newly introduced (i.e., mtype $(m, \& J[\overline{T}]) = \emptyset$ ), or have a subtype of the intersection of all *m*'s signatures in parents (i.e., mtype $(m, \& J[\overline{T}]) = U$ ).

**Well-formed classes** Class well-formedness check (*C* ok) considers the following aspects:

- 1. The implemented interface and each mixin in the mixin composition are well-formed.
- 2. Open-recursive calls via **this** in the mixin composition are safe: the class type is a subtype of each mixin's **this** type annotation.
- 3. The mixin composition is correct: each mixin's structural refinement on **super** is satisfied.
- 4. The interface is satisfied: the class has all methods (and fields, as we uniformly treat fields and methods) required, and their signatures conform to the interface.

For **1**., *I* ok checks the interface, and  $\overline{M \ ok}$  checks each mixin. Relation  $M_i \Rightarrow C$  implements mixin inheritance check which deals with **2**. and **3**.. It checks if the inheritance of the *i*-th mixin in class *C*'s mixin composition is correct. Note that the index *i* here ranges in n..1 (as  $\overline{M_i[S]}^{i\in n..1}$ ), which means syntactically, the *rightmost* mixin in the mixin composition is the *first* one. Rule INHERITCHECK guarantees that, first, **this** type of the *i*-th mixin should be a *supertype* of the interface that the class conforms to, which satisfies **2**.. Second, for each method *m*'s signature in the structural refinement of **super**, the parent mixin composition provides a compatible implementation. Specifically, the type of *m*'s implementation provided by mixins ranging in n..(i + 1) (computed by search(m, (i+1), C), defined in Figure 6 and explained later) should be a *subtype* of the *i*-th mixin's **super** refinement on *m*, which satisfies **3**.. To satisfy **4**., for each method name *m* defined in the interface (computed by mnames, defined in Figure 9 of Appendix A.1), its implementation type provided by the class fields or mixin composition (computed by search(m, 0, C)) should be compatible with the signature specified by the interface (computed by mtype).

**Method implementation type search** Figure 6 defines function search (m, i, C) to search the implementation type of *m* provided by fields or mixins ranging in *n*..*i*. When i = 0, it searches

Given that class *C* is defined as  $C[\overline{X}](\overline{m_j:T_j}) \lhd I[\overline{S'}], \overline{M_i[\overline{S}]}^{i\in n...1}$ , and mixin  $M_i$  is defined as  $M_i[\overline{Y}]_V^{\mathcal{R}} I$ :

$$\operatorname{search}(m_j, 0, C) = \begin{cases} T_j & \text{if } m_j : T_j \in \overline{m_j : T_j} \\ U & \text{if } m_j \notin \overline{m_j : T_j} \text{ and } \operatorname{search}(m_j, 1, C) = U \end{cases}$$
$$\operatorname{search}(m, i, C) = \begin{cases} \overline{[S/Y]}U & \text{if } 0 < i \leq n \text{ and } (m : U = e) \in I \\ U & \text{if } 0 < i \leq n \text{ and } m \notin I \text{ and } \operatorname{search}(m, i + 1, C) = U \end{cases}$$

 $search(m, i, C) = \emptyset$  otherwise

Figure 6: Method implementation type search function.

class fields for the method name *m*. If *m* is not implemented by fields, the search continues with the first mixin (i = 1). For the *i*-th mixin, the search directly returns the method signature if *m* is implemented in the current mixin. Otherwise, it continues with the parent mixin (indexed (i + 1)). The search returns  $\emptyset$  if *i* exceeds the length of class *C*'s mixin composition (i > n), which means that *m* is not implemented in the class so the method implementation search fails.

#### 3.4 **Dynamic Semantics**

Figure 7 lists the syntax of values, results, and runtime contexts, and lists the evaluation rules that produce values (the rules that produce runtime errors are omitted and can be found in Figure 10 in appendix A.1). The big-step evaluation judgment  $\Xi \vdash e \downarrow r$  denotes that term e evaluates to result r under runtime context  $\Xi$ . The result of evaluation may be a normal value or an error. Values are either *closures* or *objects*. A runtime context  $\Xi$  binds values to term variables and a *configured object* to **this**. A configured object  $\{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\}$  is a pair of an object and a natural number *i* called the *search index*. This index directs the search for method implementation in the object fields and mixin composition at runtime. The evaluation rules for variables and term applications are standard. For type applications, we use a type substitution in the semantics, which will be no-op at runtime as all generic types are erasable – only class tags are used at runtime, which are concrete types that need no substitution. Note that the evaluation rule for **this** simply reads the configured object from the context and returns a plain object (i.e., with no search index). Class instantiations produce objects. Lambda and type abstractions are evaluated to closures. Note that  $\lambda^{super}$  would not need a value restriction [Wright 1995] even if we added imperative effects to it, because it does not evaluate under polymorphic abstractions. This is different from the real MLscript language, which does need a value restriction as it uses ML-style polymorphism.

**Method invocation and access to fields** Proper modeling of method invocation and access to fields are of our particular interest. The following procedure explains the overall idea:

Value
$$v, w ::= \langle \lambda x : T. e, \Xi \rangle \mid \langle \Lambda X. e, \Xi \rangle \mid C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})$$
Runtime context $\Xi ::= \epsilon \mid \Xi, x \mapsto v \mid \Xi, \text{ this } \mapsto \{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\}$ Result $r ::= \text{val } v \mid \text{err}$ 

| $\underline{\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r} \qquad \frac{E \text{-VAR}}{\Xi \vdash x \Downarrow \mathbf{val} v}$           | $     \begin{aligned}       E-THIS \\       \Xi(\mathbf{this}) &= \{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\} \\       \overline{\Xi \vdash \mathbf{this}} \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})   \end{aligned} $ |
|---|--|
| Е-Арр $\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \langle \lambda x : T. \ e, \ \Xi'  angle$                              | $\begin{array}{l} \text{E-TApp} \\ \Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \textbf{val} \langle \Lambda X. \ e', \ \Xi' \rangle \end{array}$   |
| $\Xi \vdash e_2 \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v  \Xi', x \mapsto v \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v'$         | $[T/X]\Xi' \vdash [T/X]e' \Downarrow $ val $v$   |
| $\Xi dash e_1 \ e_2 \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ v'$   | $\Xi \vdash e \ T \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ v$   |
| E-Abs   | E-TAbs   |
| $\overline{\Xi \vdash \lambda x: T. \ e \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \langle \lambda x: T. \ e, \ \Xi \rangle}$            | $\overline{\Xi \vdash \Lambda X. \ e \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \left< \Lambda X. \ e, \ \Xi \right>}$  |
| E-New E-  | Access   |
| $vparams(C[\overline{T}]) = \overline{m_i}$   | $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{\mathbf{val}} C[\overline{\mathcal{S}}](\overline{v})$  |
| $\overline{\Xi \vdash e_i \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v_i} \tag{t}$   | $his \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash super.m \Downarrow val  v'$   |
| $\Xi \vdash \mathbf{new} \ C[\overline{T}](\overline{e_i}) \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ C[\overline{T}](\overline{v_i})$ | $\Xi \vdash e.m \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v'$  |
| E-ArgMiss   | E-ArgHit   |
| $\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{0 \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\} \qquad m \notin \mathrm{vparams}(C)$                  | $[\overline{S}]) \qquad \qquad \Xi(this) = \{0 \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v_i})\}$  |
| (this $\mapsto \{1 \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \text{super}.m \Downarrow \text{val}$                | $v'$ vparams $(C[\overline{S}]) = \overline{m_i : U_i}$  |
| $\Xi \vdash \mathbf{super.} m \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ v'$   | $\Xi \vdash \mathbf{super}.m_i \Downarrow \mathbf{val} v_i$  |
| E-SuperMiss   |  |
| $\Xi(this) = \{i \star C[\overline{S}]\}$   | $[ar{5}](ar{v})\}$ $i>0$   |
| $m \notin \text{methods}(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v}))  (\text{this} \mapsto \{(i \in V) \mid i \in V\}$          | $(+ 1) \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \mathbf{super}.m \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ v'$  |
| $\Xi \vdash super.n$  | $v \Downarrow \mathbf{val} v'$   |

**E-SuperHit** 

$$\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\} \quad i > 0$$

$$(m: U = e) \in \mathsf{methods}(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})) \quad (\mathbf{this} \mapsto \{(i+1) \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash e \Downarrow \mathsf{val} v'$$

$$\Xi \vdash \mathsf{super.} m \Downarrow \mathsf{val} v'$$

Given that class *C* is defined as  $C[\overline{X}](...) \lhd I[\overline{U'}], \overline{M_i[\overline{U}]}^{i \in n..1}$ , and mixin  $M_i$  is defined as  $M_i[\overline{Y}]_V^{\mathcal{R}} \{ \overline{m:T=e} \}$ :

methods
$$(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})) = (m : [\overline{S/X}][\overline{U/Y}]T = [\overline{S/X}][\overline{U/Y}]e)$$

Figure 7: Big-step operational semantics producing values.

- 1. When the receiver is a term (modulo **super**), we first evaluate the term to an object and search through the object's fields for the method implementation (E-Access).
- 2. If the invoking method is not provided by any object field, we traverse the mixin composition of the class (E-ArgMiss).
- 3. If the invoking method is provided as an object field, we return the value bound to the field (E-ArgHit).
- If the invoking method is not implemented by the *i*-th mixin, we search the next mixin in the composition hierarchy (E-SUPERMISS). Helper function methods(*i*, C[S](v)) (defined in Figure 9 of Appendix A.1) returns all method implementations of the *i*-th mixin.
- 5. If the invoking method is implemented by the *i*-th mixin, we evaluate the method body with **this** bound to the configured object where the search index points to the parent mixin (E-SUPERHIT).

Configured object  $\{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$  is bound to **this** in the context; it specifies the object in which we search for method implementations as well as the current *level* of that search. When the configuring index is nil (i = 0), we search the object fields. Otherwise (i > 0), we search the *i*-th mixin, counting from the *rightmost* composed mixin of the object's class.

In rule E-Access, we evaluate the receiver to an object and trigger method implementation search by evaluating **super**.*m* with **this** bound to the object configured by 0, i.e., we start the search with the object fields. Two sets of MISS/HIT rules evaluate method invocations on **super**. Rules E-ARGMISS/HIT consider the object fields. If the method name is found in the constructor parameter list of the class (computed by vparams), the corresponding value is returned. Otherwise, we search the mixin composition by incrementing the configuring index to 1 and recursively evaluating **super**.*m*. Rules E-SUPERMISS/HIT deal with method calls on **super** when the configuring index is non-zero. If the method *m* is implemented in the *i*-th mixin, we evaluate the method body. If the implementation is missing, we search the next mixin by incrementing the configuring index to i + 1. Note that it is safe to drop the context (save for the binding of the configured object to **this**) in rules E-ARGMISS and E-SUPERMISS since the method body is always evaluated under a context containing only a binding from **this** to the configured object. If the method search fails, an error is produced. We do not need the call-site runtime environment in either case.

### 3.5 Metatheory

We now develop the metatheory of  $\lambda^{super}$ . We follow Ernst et al.'s approach to prove type soundness of our big-step style semantics. Different from soundness proof for small-step semantics, runtime error and divergence both lead to the non-existence of evaluation derivation in a bigstep semantics. Therefore, soundness proof of big-step semantics requires special treatment to

|   |  | VT-TABS1  |   |                                   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
|   | $\Gamma \models \Xi = \Xi$                                     | (this) = -  | $\{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ | $\Gamma \models \Xi$              | $\Xi(this) = \{i \star 0\}$   | $C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$      |  |
|   | $= \{i \star C[\overline{U}]$                                  | $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$ |   |                                   |   |  |  |
| $\begin{bmatrix} n \cdot T \end{bmatrix}$                       | $\Gamma, x: S,$  | super : 9   | $R \vdash e: T$                             | Γ, s                              | Т   |  |  |
| 0.1   | $\langle \lambda x : S. e, \Xi \rangle : S \to T$              |   |   | $\langle \Lambda$                 |   |  |  |
| VT-Object   |  | VT-Abs2   | 2   | VT-TA                             | bs2   | VT-Sub                                 |  |
| $vparams(C[\overline{T}])$                                      | $=\overline{m:U}$  | $\Gamma \models \Xi$  | this $\notin dom(\Gamma)$                   | $\Gamma \models \Xi$              | this ∉ dom(   | $\Gamma$ ) $v:S$                       |  |
| $\overline{v:U}$ ctype(C  | $\overline{T}]) = V \qquad \qquad \Gamma,  x : S \vdash e : T$ |   |   |                                   | S <: T  |  |  |
| $C[\overline{T}](\overline{v}):$                                | V  | $\langle \lambda x : S \rangle$                                 | $E. e, \Xi \rangle : S \to T$               | $\langle \Lambda \rangle$         | $X. e, \Xi \rangle : \forall X. T$  | v:T                                    |  |
| (   | C-ConsVar  |   | C-ConsThis                                  |                                   |   | C-Nil                                  |  |
|   | $\Gamma \models \Xi$ v   | r : T   | $\Gamma \models \Xi$                        | $C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})$ : | :T  |  |  |
|   | $\Gamma, x: T \models \Xi, \Xi$                                | $x \mapsto v$   | $\Gamma$ , this : $T \models \Xi$ ,         | this $\mapsto \{i\}$              | $\star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$                                       | $\overline{\epsilon \models \epsilon}$ |  |
| $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$ | $C[\overline{X}]($   | $(\overline{n:T'}) \lhd$  | $I[], \overline{M[]}  \forall ($            | $(m:T) \in \mathcal{R}$           | $\cdot \begin{cases} \text{search}(m, i) \\ [\overline{S/X}]U <: \end{cases}$ | (C, C) = U<br>T                        |  |
|   |  | $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$ |   |                                   |   |  |  |

Figure 8: Value typing of closures.

model divergence of term evaluation, discriminating runtime error and divergence. To solve the problem, an evaluation result is first divided into two: a value or a runtime error. The static type system should guarantee that, if a well-typed term evaluates to a result, it is always a value, and the result value preserves the term's type. This is called *preservation*. To handle divergence, evaluation is indexed by *fuel*. Each step of evaluation consumes one unit of fuel. When the fuel runs out, the evaluation terminates and returns a timeout result. This means we may always construct a *finite* derivation when evaluating any term. When a term evaluates to a timeout result regardless of fuel amount, it is said to diverge. Now we can model soundness of big-step semantics: a well-typed term evaluates to a value or it diverges. Note that preservation itself does not lead to soundness. To guarantee that any term evaluates to a result, we need a *coverage* lemma to rule out the situation when a term cannot be evaluated because of missing evaluation rules (preservation is vacuously true in this case). With both preservation and coverage, we have type soundness for a big-step semantics.

**Value typing** Our metatheory focuses on *strong* soundness, that is, we need to type values to ensure that the evaluation result keeps the type. Value typing rules of closures are listed in Figure 8. Rule VT-ABS1 types lambda abstraction body under a typing context  $\Gamma$  with the term variable bound to the input type and **super** refined by a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}$ . Here we perform two consistency checks. First, the typing context should be consistent with the runtime context ( $\Gamma \models \Xi$ ), i.e., each term variable is bound to a value that matches the variable's

type in the typing context. Second, to guarantee that calls to super implementations are always safe, the structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}$  giving precise types to calls on **super** in the closure body should be *consistent* with the configured object in the closure's context. Relation  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$  implements the second consistency check, which examines each method signature's compatibility with the method implementation type provided by the configured object. Rule VT-ABS2 deals with the case when **this** is unbound in closure's runtime context. In this case, no open-recursive calls are allowed in the lambda abstraction body, and the typing is standard. Rules VT-TABS1/2 work similarly on type abstraction closures. The object typing rules are nonsurprising.

**Soundness** We finally show the soundness results of our formal calculus. The complete proofs can be found in appendix A.2. For a program  $\mathcal{P}$ , we denote its top-level definitions as  $\overline{\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{P}}}$  and the associated term as  $e_{\mathcal{P}}$ . The preservation lemma is stated below:

**Lemma 3.1** (Preservation). If  $\overline{\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{P}} ok}$  and  $\epsilon \vdash e_{\mathcal{P}} : T$  and  $\epsilon \vdash e_{\mathcal{P}} \Downarrow r$  then  $r = \operatorname{val} v$  and v : T.

We define the *finite evaluation* relation [Ernst et al. 2006] here to augment our big-step semantics with fuel.

**Definition 3.2** (Finite evaluation). Define an evaluation relation  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_k r^+$  (where  $r^+ ::= r \mid kill$ , and k is the step-counting index, i.e. fuel) with evaluation rules copied from  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r$ . For each rule,  $\Downarrow$  in the conclusion is replaced by  $\Downarrow_k$ , and  $\Downarrow$  in premises is replaced by  $\Downarrow_{k-1}$ . Also, propagate timeout result of subderivations (the corresponding rules are listed in fig. 12 of appendix A.1). Finally, add the following axiom:

E-TIMEOUT  
$$\Xi \vdash e \downarrow_0$$
 kill

The soundness theorem of our calculus follows from the preservation lemma that rules out errors when evaluation terminates and the coverage lemma that ensures our evaluation rules with finite fuel always produce a result.

**Lemma 3.3** (Coverage). For all  $n, \Xi$ , and e, there exists an  $r^+$  such that  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_n r^+$ .

**Definition 3.4** (Expression divergence). *e* diverges  $\triangleq$  For all  $n, \epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  kill.

**Theorem 3.5** (Soundness). If  $\overline{\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{P}}}$  ok and  $\epsilon \vdash e_{\mathcal{P}} : T$  then (1)  $\epsilon \vdash e_{\mathcal{P}} \Downarrow \text{val } v \text{ and } v : T$ , or (2)  $e_{\mathcal{P}}$  diverges.

## **Chapter 4**

## Discussion

We now discuss the expressiveness, limitations, and implementation of SuperOOP as presented in this thesis.

### 4.1 Expressiveness and Limitations

Thanks to the clear separation of concerns between the orthogonal concepts of interfaces, mixins, and classes, and thanks to the flexibility of mixins, SuperOOP not only captures standard OOP features but can also be used to explain existing advanced OOP models.

**Desugaring traditional classes** A classic OOP class is desugared into three SuperOOP core language components: (a) a core-language class for its fields; (b) a core-language mixin for its implementations; and (c) a core-language interface for its method signatures. Although our core language does not directly support class inheritance, this feature can easily be desugared into SuperOOP. For example, recall ColoredPoint from chapter 1, which inherited from class Point. This class hierarchy can be desugared to SuperOOP as:

```
interface IPoint { x: Int; y: Int }
class Point(x: Int, y: Int) implements IPoint
interface IColoredPoint extends IPoint, Colored
class ColoredPoint(x: Int, y: Int, color: Color) implements IColoredPoint
```

**Multiple inheritance and linearization** Languages that support multiple inheritance usually have a *linearization* mechanism that determines the order of inherited parent classes, traits, or mixins. The underlying assumption is that each parent can only be inherited at most once, so if a parent transitively occurs more than once in an inheritance clause, the linearization mechanism removes all but its first occurrence. Consequently, linearization affects the semantics of method resolution and **super**-calls. For example, Scala uses linearization for its multiple trait inheritance system [Odersky et al. 2004]. The linearization of a Scala class definition of the

form class C extends  $B_0$ ,  $B_1$ , ...,  $B_n$  starts with  $B_0$ 's linearization and appends to it the linearization of  $B_1$  save for those traits that are already in the constructed linearization of  $B_0$ , etc. Several languages such as Python adopt the influential C3 linearization algorithm [Barrett et al. 1996]. Although SuperOOP does not natively support multiple class inheritance, we can still apply any linearization algorithms used by existing languages and desugar the result using core SuperOOP classes, interfaces, and mixins. On the other hand, in SuperOOP, one can inherit a given mixin an arbitrary number of times at different positions in the mixin inheritance stack. The resolution of method invocations simply follows the order of inherited mixins, which do not necessarily need to be linearized. So SuperOOP's approach is more general.

**Example encoding of Scala trait inheritance** The following example shows the idea of encoding Scala multiple trait inheritance in SuperOOP. Consider the following simple Scala code:

```
trait A { def a = 0 }
trait L extends A { override def a = 42 }
trait R(foo: Int) extends A { override def a = foo }
class LR(foo: Int) extends L, R(2 * foo)
```

There is a base trait A and two derived traits L and R overriding the base implementation of a. Note that R accesses its trait parameter. In SuperOOP, we can equivalently have:

```
mixin A { fun a = 0 }
mixin L { fun a = 42 }
interface I$R { foo$R: Int }
// R accesses its local parameter via a unique name
mixin R { this: I$R; fun a = this.foo$R }
interface I extends I$R { foo$LR: Int }
// R's local parameter is finally provided by the class
mixin $R { this: I; fun foo$R = this.foo$LR * 2 }
// LR is composed by the linearization of LR in Scala
class LR(foo$LR: Int) extends I, A, L, R, $R
```

**Mixin parameters** Mixin parameters are a powerful extension to the core SuperOOP language presented in this thesis. They for instance allow one to define flexible and efficient streaming processing abstractions that are composed through mixins, as in the following:

```
module MyPipeline extends
Map(x => x + 1),
Filter(x => x % 2 == 0),
Map(x => x * 2)
```

We use *two* instances of Map in the mixin composition above, showing that using **this** refinements to encode mixin parameters would not be sufficient, as each of these two Map instances needs to be given a *different* argument. Mixin parameters are implemented in MLscript/Super-OOP, but we omitted this extension from  $\lambda^{super}$  for simplicity. **Member access control** We have not yet modeled in the core language nor implemented any notions of encapsulation and visibility, such as the **private** and **protected** modifiers. We expect that modeling these features should be straightforward, as their design is mostly orthogonal to the features of SuperOOP.

## 4.2 Implementation in MLscript

We now briefly describe our implementation and possible alternative implementation strategies.

**Compilation to JavaScript** MLscript currently compiles to JavaScript, which supports classes as first-class entities. This means it is possible to define mixins directly, by using functions. For instance, the EvalNeg and EvalMul mixins and the LangNegMul class mentioned in chapter 2 are essentially compiled into the following JavaScript code:

```
function mkEvalNeg(base) {
  return class EvalNeg extends base {
    eval(e) {
        if (e instanceof Neg) return 0 - this.eval(e.expr)
        else return super.eval(e) } }
}
function mkEvalMul(base) {
    return class EvalMul extends base {
        eval(e) {
            if (e instanceof Mul) return this.eval(e.lhs) * this.eval(e.rhs)
            else return super.eval(e) } }
}
class LangNegMul extends mkEvalMul(mkEvalNeg(EvalBase))
```

One side effect of this straightforward implementation is that mixins in MLscript can be inherited an arbitrary number of times and that no inheritance linearization is needed. MLscript *classes*, on the other hand, follow the usual single-inheritance hierarchy discipline, which is useful for type checking pattern matching and inferring simple types for it.

**Compilation to other targets** We are also considering adding alternative compilation backends to MLscript, such as backend compilers targeting WebAssembly and the Java Virtual Machine. In that context, we can still follow the general JavaScript-based semantics described above, but we will make sure to evaluate the mixin functions at compilation time, to guarantee optimal performance and simple compilation. Super calls would then be resolved statically, allowing for efficient target code. Therefore, our approach to mixin composition should offer better performance than alternative solutions to the expression problem which rely on closure compositions and thus require virtual dispatch, like the approach of Garrigue [2000]. However, we reserve a rigorous performance evaluation for future work. **Separate compilation** An aspect of the Expression Problem as originally stated is that it should be possible to compile each extension separately before putting them all together. We can essentially achieve this even in the static compiler scenario by separately compiling method *implementations* and composing classes whose methods simply forward to these pre-compiled implementations. This is more or less the approach used by Scala for traits, which was shown to be practical in real-world scenarios.

**Type inference** Our proposed novel OOP model SuperOOP is the latest evolution of the MLscript programming language, which enables our elegant solution to the Expression Problem, as shown in chapter 2. MLscript and its underlying core type system MLstruct [Parreaux and Chau 2022] feature *principal* polymorphic type inference for structural types, i.e., types with functions, records, first-class unions and intersections, enabling extensible variants without needing row polymorphism. MLstruct itself evolved from a simplified take [Parreaux 2020] on the groundbreaking *algebraic subtyping* approach [Dolan 2017], whereby an algebraic take on the semantics of types enables principality of type inference, notably without backtracking in the type checker, which helps with the scalability of our approach.

**Case studies** In Appendix B, we provide case studies of MLscript/SuperOOP that include a modular evaluator of extended lambda calculus, as described by Garrigue [2000], and a simple "regions" DSL presented by Sun et al. [2022] and inspired by Hudak [1998] and Hofer et al. [2008]. These case studies showcase the flexibility of SuperOOP polymorphic mixins, the ability to handle mutually-recursive functions across different mixins, interpret complex data types, and optimize domain-specific languages via built-in nested pattern matching. Additionally, thanks to MLscript's powerful principal type inference [Parreaux and Chau 2022], those case studies type check without the help of a single type annotation (except for class field definitions).
## **Chapter 5**

## **Related Work**

In this chapter, we compare our approach to related work.

### 5.1 Solutions to the Expression Problem

There is a sea of work in extensible programming that address the Expression Problem, based on techniques such as polymorphic variants [Garrigue 1998] in OCaml, recursive modules [Nakata and Garrigue 2006] in ML, new programming paradigms [Carette et al. 2009; Oliveira and Cook 2012] like Compositional Programming [Zhang et al. 2021], and covariant class field type refinement in Scala [Wang and Oliveira 2016]. We survey a few of them by showing their solutions to the Expression Problem and discuss various design tradeoffs with respect to the approach of SuperOOP.

**Polymorphic Variants** The *polymorphic variant* solution [Garrigue 2000] probably comes closest to our approach. Open recursion there is implemented by way of an explicit parameter for recursive calls, and by manually tying the recursive knots. For example, one defines an open-recursive base implementation of evaluation on two expression data types as follows:

```
let eval_base eval_rec = function
| `Lit(n) → n
| `Add(e1, e2) → eval_rec e1 + eval_rec e2
(* val eval_base :
   ('a → int) → [< `Add of 'a * 'a | `Lit of int ] → int *)</pre>
```

Polymorphic variants differ from traditional variants or *algebraic data types* (ADTs) in that polymorphic variants allow the use of arbitrary constructors without a corresponding data type definition; they can be thought of as ADTs that are "not fully specified" and thus allow further extension. In the example above, two constructors `Lit and `Add are introduced. Function eval\_base takes a first parameter eval\_rec for open-recursive calls and the expression to evaluate as a second parameter. Parameter eval\_rec accepts expressions with type 'a, and the expression is required to have type [< `Add of 'a \* 'a | `Lit of int ], which allows either an `Add expression containing nested subexpressions of type 'a, or a `Lit instance with an

integer payload. Extending this base evaluator with new operations is done by composing it inside new functions. To extend the supported expression forms, one defines another evaluation implementation that works, e.g., on negations:

```
let eval_ext eval_rec = function
`Neg(e) → 0 - eval_rec e
(* val eval_ext : ('a → int) → [< `Neg of 'a ] → int *)</pre>
```

Finally, one needs to tie both implementations together:

Function eval dispatches the evaluation of the base and extended data types to the two evaluation sub-implementations, and it ties the recursive knots by passing itself as the entry point of the recursion. Note that eval has an inferred recursive type that accepts an expression recursively constructed by the three variants. Compared with our solution, from a programming style perspective, one programs with polymorphic variants in a functional way, while SuperOOP adopts a more object-oriented style. More importantly, polymorphic variants suffer from several practical drawbacks, including loss of polymorphism and approximated typing of pattern matching [Castagna et al. 2016]. Those drawbacks can be fixed by embracing "proper" implicit subtyping as in MLscript [Parreaux and Chau 2022]. In particular, we argue that union types are simpler than row polymorphism, which imperfectly emulates subtyping through unification [Parreaux and Chau 2022].

**OCaml's Object System** In OCaml class definitions, one can annotate "self" with a type signature and define "super" explicitly in a way that superficially looks similar to SuperOOP. One may be tempted to try and encode precise typing of open recursion in OCaml, to enable extensible programming with classes. However, this does not work due to OCaml's use of unification and its lack of subtyping: the self and super types are *unified* with the object type being defined, and thus all three must exactly coincide. By contrast, SuperOOP mixins allows *different* self and super types and allows overriding methods with *different* types, which is crucial for our technique. For example, we first define a base class with the receiver's type refined:

```
class ['a] base = object (self: < eval: 'a → int; .. >)
method eval = function
    | `Lit n → n
    | `Add(a, b) → self#eval a + self#eval b end
(* class ['a] base :
    object
        constraint 'a = [< `Add of 'a * 'a | `Lit of int ]
        method eval : 'a → int
    end *)</pre>
```

Note that the recursive knot of the expression type has already been tied as OCaml generates a constraint that 'a = [< `Add of 'a \* 'a | `Lit of int ]. If we try to extend the base class with evaluation on a new data type variant, OCaml will raise a unification error:

```
class ['a] ext = object (self) inherit ['a] base as super
method eval = function
| `Neg e → 0 - self#eval e
| e → super#eval e end
(* Error: This pattern matches values of type [> `Neg of 'a ]
            but a pattern was expected which matches values of type
            [< `Add of 'b * 'b | `Lit of int ] as 'b
            The second variant type does not allow tag(s) `Neg *)</pre>
```

Here OCaml tries to *unify* the type of eval in the base and extended implementation, i.e., **this #**eval and **super#**eval. The unification fails as **super#**eval's type is already closed, that is, it only accepts expressions constructed by Add and Lit, but **this#**eval is trying to match expressions of type [> `Neg **of** 'a ]. One may fix this unification error by extending pattern matching of the base implementation with a default case, therefore opening the type of eval in the base class. However, statically this fix will make the base implementation accept any expression variant that may not be handled by derived implementations.

**Featherweight Generic Go** Go is a popular programming language developed by Google. Featherweight Go (FG) and its generic version Featherweight Generic Go (FGG) proposed by Griesemer et al. [2020] are formal developments of Go with the goal of helping "get polymorphism right". FGG provides a solution to the Expression Problem based on generics and covariant matching of method receiver type refinements, as in:

```
func (e Plus(type a Evaler)) Eval() int {
  return e.left.Eval() + e.right.Eval()
}
```

Method Eval is generic in type variable 'a' which is upper-bounded by interface Evaler. Once dissociated from the quantification of a, the receiver type of the method is Plus(a), the type of a Plus instance with subexpressions of type 'a'. To extend the supported operations in the encoded language, one may define a similar pretty-printing method. Finally, one combines the interfaces for different interpretations together in a final expression type:

```
type Expr interface {
  Evaler
  Stringer
}
```

Type Expr composes two operations together, so it implements both of Evaler and Stringer (an interface for stringification). One can build and use such expressions as follows:

```
var e Expr = Plus(Expr){Lit{1}, Lit{2}}
var result Int = e.Eval()
var pretty string = e.String()
```

While this allows FGG to solve the Expression Problem, the features that enable this solution (i.e.

covariant receiver type refinements) are not part of the Go team's current design for generics [Griesemer et al. 2020]. Moreover, the inspection of data structures only happens at the *outer-most* level. If one wants to deeply transform an expression instance, that is, to inspect its inner structure and, for example, perform optimizations on it, one would have to make an additional method to delegate the inspection semantics itself. This approach, called *delegated method patterns* in Sun et al.'s work [Sun et al. 2022], is non-modular in FGG as it requires adding a new method for each inner structure inspection and to implement this method for each constructor of the data type, even those constructors that should otherwise fall into a default case of the encoded pattern matching, like in the following example encoding:

```
type Normer(type a Normer(a)) interface {
  Norm() a
  NormDele() a
}
func (e Lit) Norm() Lit {
  return e
}
func (e Lit) NormDele() Neg(Lit) {
  return Neg(Lit){e}
}
func (e Neg(type a Normer(a))) Norm() a {
  return e.expr.NormDele()
}
func (e Neg(type a Normer(a))) NormDele() a {
 return e.expr
}
type Expr interface {
 Evaler
 Stringer
 Normer(Expr)
}
```

Neg(Expr){Neg(Expr){Lit{1}}}.Norm().Eval()

However, this encoding does not really work in the presented FGG system and its implementation as Lit is not considered to implement Expr, because its Norm implementation is not exactly

returning Expr.

**Object Algebras** *Object Algebras* are a well-known object-oriented approach to solve the Expression Problem [Oliveira and Cook 2012]. The key to this solution is an abstract factory called *object algebra interface*, which contains data type constructor signatures, leaving their interpretation unspecified. An object algebra interface for expressions could be, in Scala syntax:

```
trait ExpAlg[Exp] {
  def Lit: Int => Exp
  def Add: (Exp, Exp) => Exp
}
```

Trait ExpAlg specifies two data type constructors, and it is parameterized by type parameter Exp that indicates the interpretation of expression data types. We can implement evaluation on expressions by implementing the object algebra interface:

```
trait IEval { def eval: Int }
trait Eval extends ExpAlg[IEval] {
  def Lit = n => new IEval { def eval = n }
   def Add = (e1,e2) => new IEval { def eval = e1.eval + e2.eval }
}
```

Trait Eval is an object algebra which implements ExpAlg with the type parameter instantiated to IEval. Trait IEval indicates that expressions can be evaluated to integers. To extend the language with new operations, we may simply define a new interpretation type and a corresponding object algebra interface implementation. On the other hand, for new data type extensions, we inherit the object algebra interface and the old implementation:

```
trait NegAlg[Exp] extends ExpAlg[Exp] {
  def Neg: Exp => Exp
}
trait EvalNeg extends NegAlg[IEval] with Eval {
  def Neg = (e) => new IEval { def eval = 0 - e.eval }
}
```

We can now define an expression instance and instantiate the language:

```
trait exp[Exp](f: NegAlg[Exp]) {
  f.Add(f.Lit(1), f.Neg(f.Lit(-1)))
}
object eval extends EvalNeg
println(exp(eval).eval)
```

In trait exp, the data type constructors are accessed through the input object algebra f. With different implementations of the object algebra interface passed in, the expression will be interpreted in different ways. However, as noticed by Zhang et al. [2021], one needs to create an expression instance for each data type interpretation, and there is no built-in approach to composing interpretations in different object algebras. Moreover, as data type constructors are specified through type *signatures* in object algebra interfaces, there is no way to have an inspectable representation of language instances without a complete definition of abstract syntax, blocking useful extensions such as modular transformations and optimizations.

**Compositional Programming** *Compositional programming* [Zhang et al. 2021] (implemented in the *CP* language) is a novel programming paradigm that features modularity. It supports a *merge operator* as the introduction term for intersection types. At the type level, the intersection type operator composes interfaces. At the term level, the merge operator composes *first-class traits* that contain data and operations. Similarly to Object Algebras, in Compositional Pro-

gramming, a *compositional interface* specifies data type signatures, leaving their interpretation unspecified, and concrete interpretations are defined in first-class traits:

```
type ExpSig<Exp> = {
  Lit : Int → Exp;
  Add : Exp → Exp → Exp;
};
type Eval = { eval : Int };
evalNum = trait implements ExpSig<Eval> => {
  (Lit n).eval = n;
  (Add e1 e2).eval = e1.eval + e2.eval;
};
```

Trait evalNum implements the compositional interface ExpSig<Eval> which specifies that Lit and Add support an evaluation method. Similarly, one can implement a pretty-printing operation by adding another concrete interpretation. To extend the expression language with new data types, one extends the compositional interface and implements new operations in derived traits. Finally, everything is tied together with the merge operator as shown below:

```
type NegSig<Exp> extends ExpSig<Exp> = {
   Neg : Exp → Exp → Exp;
};
evalNeg = trait implements NegSig<Eval> inherits evalNum => {
   (Neg e).eval = 0 - e.eval;
};
exp Exp = trait [self : NegSig<Exp>] => {
   test = new Neg (new Add (new Lit 1) (new Lit 2));
};
// Assume pretty-printing of expression is analogously defined
e = new evalNeg ,, printNeg ,, exp @(Eval & Print);
```

Trait exp contains an example expression. The self type annotation in square brackets enables the trait body to access the three data type constructors. With the merge operator, trait instance e is composed of traits that contain different expression interpretations and the test trait. Note that trait Exp is passed with an intersection type argument Eval & Print, meaning the expression language supports both evaluation and pretty-printing.

In recent follow-up work on Compositional Programming by Sun et al. [2022], different aspects of domain-specific language embedding are investigated, including the two-direction extensibility of language constructs and their interpretations, transformations and optimizations on language instances, etc. To illustrate the comparison of our approach's expressiveness regarding DSL embeddings, we adapted Sun et al. [2022]'s comparison table as in Table 1, where we added the last row and column in green. Since Compositional Programming does not natively support nested pattern matching (unlike our approach), deep inspection of data is only possible via the delegated method pattern (discussed above in the paragraph of Featherweight Generic Go), which is "not as convenient", as the authors put it and the half circles in the "Comp." column of the table. We also argue that this does *not* work well for defining *optimizations passes* in a modular way. Indeed, optimizations are fundamentally order-sensitive, and encoding them

|  | Shallow    | Deep       | Hybrid         | Poly.      | Comp.      | Ours       |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Transcoding free                       | •          | •          | $\bigcirc$     | •          | •          |            |
| Linguistic reuse                       | •          | $\bigcirc$ | •              | ullet      | •          | 0          |
| Language construct extensibility       | •          | $\bigcirc$ | lacksquare     | ullet      | •          |            |
| Interpretation extensibility           | $\bigcirc$ | •          | •              | $\bullet$  | •          | ٠          |
| Transformations and optimizations      | $\bigcirc$ | •          | •              | lacksquare | lacksquare | ٠          |
| Linguistic reuse after transformations | n/a        | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$     | ullet      | •          | $\bigcirc$ |
| Modular dependencies                   | $\bigcirc$ | lacksquare | ${}^{\bullet}$ | $\bigcirc$ | •          |            |
| Nested pattern matching                | $\bigcirc$ | •          | •              | $\bigcirc$ | lacksquare | ٠          |
| Modular optimization passes            | 0          | •          | •              | 0          | $\bigcirc$ | •          |

Table 1: A comparison of different DSL embedding approaches, adapted from Sun et al. [2022]'s Table 1. We added the last row and column in green to the original table.

in terms of CP's unordered patterns requires non-local transformations of the involved pattern matching structures. For instance, one cannot *independently* define separate optimization passes for evaluating Neg(Neg(e)) as e and Neg(Lit(n)) as Lit(0 - n), whereas doing so in MLscript/-SuperOOP and approaches that allow defining ordered transformation passes on data structures is straightforward, therefore the last row. MLscript/SuperOOP does not need to translate code into different representations, and by precisely typing **this**, we support expressing dependencies of methods across mixins, and by nested pattern matching as a language-level feature, we enjoy modular data structure transformation and optimization. Due to having language data structures as objects (as "deep" DSL embedding [Boulton et al. 1992]), it is not straightforward for our approach to have "linguistic reuse" [Krishnamurthi and Felleisen 2001]. We propose to remedy this as a future work direction discussed in section 6.2. For further details of this comparison table, we refer interested readers to Sun et al. [2022]'s paper.

**Approaches lacking type safety** It is much easier to solve the Expression Problem if one no longer cares about catching composition errors at compilation time. Zenger and Odersky [2001] propose to use exception-throwing default cases in base implementations and to override these cases in further extensions, which relies on the programmer *remembering* to override all default cases and to pass only supported expression forms to the various methods in the program. Similar to SuperOOP, in a method that defines the interpretation of extended data types and overrides the base interpretation, they delegate the interpretation of base data types to the overridden method using **super**. While just as flexible as SuperOOP, this approach is fundamentally unsafe and error-prone. Going further, at the other end of the spectrum, approaches such as monkey-patching and Julia-style multiple dispatch allow completely dynamic updates of base implementations, which trivially supports extension but is anti-modular, as reasoning about the well-foundedness of method calls on given argument types requires global knowledge of all extension points in the program and libraries.

### 5.2 Modeling Inheritance and Reuse

In this subsection, we discuss previous work related to modeling inheritance and code reuse.

In their seminal *Inheritance Is Not Subtyping* paper, Cook et al. [1989] introduced the crucial idea that inheritance could be unrestrained if it was decoupled from the subtyping relationship. However, they do not provide a specific source language in which to realize their ideas and only describe an imagined typed encoding of it, without an obvious way of connecting that encoding back to a hypothetical source language.

Bracha and Cook [1990] describe both a Smalltalk-style approach and a CLOS-style multiple inheritance approach for modeling single inheritance and super. The paper uses a notion of implementation "deltas"  $\Delta$ , which are not first-class and only used for explanation. In our approach, this notion of deltas exists as a first-class entity which we call *mixins*. Bracha and Cook describe mixins as a form of *abstraction* (over an unknown base class), and linearization as *application* (wiring in all the base classes), by analogy with the classical lambda calculus concepts. In our approach, abstraction is similarly done through super and application is done through extends, but we do not require linearization and allow mixins to be inherited an arbitrary number of times. While Bracha and Cook leverage the notion that subtyping is not inheritance and allow the types of methods to change, they do not support the idea of precise this and super annotations and thus cannot precisely type open recursion.

The concept of "mixin" described by Flatt et al. [2006, 1999, 1998] is related to ours, but conceptually different. While they do model **super**, their mixins necessarily conform to interfaces and are thus constrained to specific method signatures, preventing SuperOOP-style modular programming. The authors discuss the possibility of solving the EP with modules and their mixins in later work [Findler and Flatt 1998], but without proposing a static typing model.

Schärli et al. [2003] study and discuss many perceived problems with mixin composition. They suggest that *traits* are a better unit of abstraction. We agree that traits are useful for architecting OOP code in the large, but argue that mixins are independently useful: abstract (i.e., open-ended) base classes are specifically what unlocks the expressiveness of mixin inheritance and our new solution to the Expression Problem. We believe that mixins should be conceptualized as pure *whitebox implementation* bundles (the implementation itself being the API) by contrast with interfaces, which hide implementation detail, and traits, which enable a form of well-behaved (associative and commutative) multiple inheritance, and that all three could have a place in an OO programmer's toolkit.

The idea of separating reusable components from types was previously embraced by Bettini et al. [2013], who argue that the role of *units of reuse* and the role of *types* are competing, as also observed by Cook et al. [1989] and Snyder [1986]. The semantics of Bettini et al.'s trait systems are similar to Schärli et al.'s but provide additional flexibility, in that traits are composed with explicit operations on methods such as renaming and exclusion to resolve conflict. A similar idea is used by Damiani et al. [2017] in their design of a language enabling both trait reuse and

deltas of classes, in the context of Software Product Line Engineering.

Type classes as in languages like Haskell [Peyton Jones 2003] and Scala [Oliveira et al. 2010] also provide *data abstraction* and powerful parametrization and extensibility [Cook 2009]. SuperOOP's **super** is a way of *nesting* interpretations the same way one can design dependent type class instances. Any class hierarchy encoded solely with **super** refinements in SuperOOP translates straightforwardly to classic type classes. However, type classes *per se* are not enough for modular code reuse with recursive data structures, as that requires open recursion. As Oleg Kiselyov put it in his lecture on modular tagless-final interpreters [Kiselyov 2012]:

To be able to extend our de-serializer, we have to write it in the open recursion style. It is a bit unfortunate that we have to anticipate extensibility; alas, open recursion seems unavoidable for any extensible inductive de-serializer.

Explicit encodings of open recursion can be implemented in Haskell and Scala, but these would live outside of the type class definitions and are orthogonal to type classes. By contrast, Super-OOP directly provides precisely-typed open recursion via **this** refinements in mixins.

### 5.3 Big-Step Semantics and Its Soundness

Due to being close to an interpreter, big-step semantics have been proposed as a more natural and informative way of formalizing program semantics. We found that it is particularly appropriate once the language starts deviating significantly from simple variations of pure lambda calculus. In particular, the representation of **super** method lookup, which relies on having a *configured object* bound in the current runtime context, would be particularly easier to formalize using big-step semantics. Dagnino et al. [2020] describes a great overview of modeling divergence and proof of type soundness of big-step semantics. Amin and Rompf's work [Amin and Rompf 2017] proves soundness of F-sub in a big-step semantics. Jeremy Siek's article is a good short introduction to prove type safety of big-step semantics using fuel.<sup>1</sup> It summarizes:

In general, the solutions to proving big-step soundness seem to fall into three categories: (1) introduce a separate co-inductive definition of divergence for the language in question; (2) develop a notion of partial derivations; and (3) a time counter that causes a time-out error when it gets to zero. — that is, make the semantics step-indexed.

Our approach follows Ernst et al. [2006] who utilized fuel. Ernst et al. also provided a clear explanation of why fuel (and the separation of stuck terms from divergent terms) is necessary in their paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://siek.blogspot.com/2012/07/big-step-diverging-or-stuck.html

## Chapter 6

## **Conclusion and Future Work**

We presented a new approach to OOP which cleanly separates the concerns of *state*, *implementations*, and *interfaces* into the orthogonal constructs of *classes*, *mixins*, and *interfaces*. We showed that a refined typing of mixins allows for a new and powerful solution to the expression problem. We presented an implementation in MLscript, leveraging its flexible type inference capabilities to enable annotation-free modular programming.

Finally, we discuss future work directions on a trait system with extensible and open variant types, mixin families, and open classes.

### 6.1 Traits with Extensible Variants

As we discussed in section 4.1, any multiple trait inheritance system with linearization (such as Scala traits) can be encoded as SuperOOP mixins with the corresponding linearization algorithm applied. Taking a step further, thanks to SuperOOP-style precise typing of open recursion and MLscript's structural type system with first-class intersection and union types [Parreaux and Chau 2022], we can design a powerful *trait* system that supports users to provide *open variant type* definitions, methods with type annotations of those variant types, and extensions to the open variant types inherited from parent traits. This trait system can be type checked by elaborating to SuperOOP mixins as we have presented in this paper. Below we showcase a minimal lambda calculus evaluator programmed with such traits and its desugaring to mixins. Our example is inspired by the motivating example of Kravchuk-Kirilyuk et al. [2024].

**Surface trait system** The base language of this minimal lambda calculus has variables, lambda abstractions, and units as values. Expressions are values and applications of expressions. The data types are defined as the following classes and module:

```
class Var(x: Str)
class Lam[E](x: Str, e: E)
module Unit
class EVal[V](v: V)
class EApp[E](e1: E, e2: E)
```

Now we define the evaluation method that takes in expressions and returns an option of values in a trait LCBase. In this trait, extensible variant types are defined as *open types* that are referenced *in two different ways*, as in:

```
trait LCBase {
  open type Val = Unit | Var | Lam[this.Exp]
  open type Exp = EVal[this.Val] | EApp[this.Exp]

  virtual fun eval(e: Exp): Option[this.Val] =
    if e is
       EVal(v) then Some(v)
       EApp(e1, e2) then this.eval(e1).flatMap(f => this.apply(e2, f))

  fun apply(e2: this.Exp, f: this.Val): Option[this.Val] =
    if f is
       Lam(x, e) then this.eval(this.subst(x, e2, e))
    else None
  // substitutions of expressions and values omitted
}
```

Val and Exp are open type definitions. They are defined as union types. Open types are subject to further extensions. In the current trait, references to the open type itself (as Exp, for example) are interpreted as the union of variants defined exactly in this trait (EVal and EApp), whereas references via this (as this.Exp) are abstract types that represent the union of all the variants, including the *yet unknown* variants introduced in traits that inherit the current one, and they are only known when the trait inheritance hierarchy is finalized, so the type arguments of EApp and Eval are qualified with this because they are potentially nesting unknown variant types that are defined later. For method eval, it is annotated as virtual because it *only* matches on the expression of type Exp which includes the variants that are defined locally in this trait. Method eval is subject to future overrides that handle more variant extensions. On the other hand, method apply handles all possible values of variants introduced in future extensions, as it inspects f of type this.Val, so it does not need to be virtual and a default else case is necessary.

Then we consider extending the language with boolean values and if-expressions:

```
module True
module False
class EIf[E](e: E, e1: E, e2: E)
```

And the following trait definition:

```
trait LCIf extends LCBase {
  Val += True | False
  Exp += EIf[this.Exp]

  virtual fun eval(e: Exp): Option[this.Val] =
    if e is
      EIf(e, e1, e2) then eval(e).flatMap(b => branch(e1, e2, b))
    else super.eval(e)

  fun branch(e1: this.Exp, e2: this.Exp, b: this.Val): Option[this.Val] =
    if b is
      True then this.eval(e1)
      False then this.eval(e2)
    else None
}
```

```
module LC extends LCIf
```

Trait LCIf extends the base trait LCBase. The new variants of values and expressions are added to base types Val and Exp with a += operator. The type argument of EIf is this.Exp as Exp may include more variants, and eval is virtual because it only handles a variant of Exp that is currently defined, i.e. EIf. Note that Exp is now extended with +=, so in eval we delegate handling of other base expression variants to the overridden eval definition by calling super .eval. Similar to LCBase.apply, branch handles all possible values of this.Val, so it is not virtual.

**Desugaring traits to SuperOOP mixins** We now translate the traits shown above to mixins. Trait LCBase is desugared as (method implementations omitted):

References to open types are translated into references to local type synonyms. Val is translated to the union type LCBase#Val that only includes variants defined locally, while this.Val is translated to LCBase#ThisVal extended with other variants, as the union of LCBase#Val and the mixin-level type parameter ValExt. The upper bounds on the type parameters for variant type extensions disallow redefining existing variants parameterized by different type arguments in extensions of this trait, which is necessary to type check non-virtual methods such as apply. Desugaring of the extension trait LCIf is similar, while we need more mixin-level type parameters as base variant types (such as ValBase and ExpBase shown below):

```
mixin LCIf[ValBase, ExpBase,
	ValExt <: ~(#True | #False), ExpExt <: ~#EIf] {
type LCIf#Val = True | False | ValBase & ~(True | False)
type LCIf#ThisVal = LCIf#Val | ValExt
type LCIf#Exp = EIf[LCIf#ThisExp] | ExpBase & ~EIf
type LCIf#ThisExp = LCIf#Exp | ExpExt
fun eval(e: LCIf#Exp): Option[LCIf#ThisVal] = ...
fun branch(e1: LCIf#ThisExp, e2: LCIf#ThisExp, b: LCIf#ThisVal): Option[
LCIf#ThisVal] = ...
}</pre>
```

Finally, the lambda calculus evaluator can be instantiated as module LC that inherits mixins LCBase and LCIf, which supports evaluation of all types of expressions to values:

```
type ExpFinal = EVal[ValFinal] | EApp[ExpFinal] | EIf[ExpFinal]
type ValFinal = Uni | Var | Lam[ExpFinal] | True | False
module LC extends LCBase[True | False, EIf[ExpFinal]],
LCIf [Uni | Var | Lam[ExpFinal],
EVal[ValFinal] | EApp[ExpFinal],
Uni | Var | Lam[ExpFinal],
EVal[ValFinal] | EApp[ExpFinal]]
```

The mixin type arguments provided here can indeed be inferred by MLscript. Note that for LCBase, its expression variant extension is EIf; for LCIf, the base variants and extensions of expressions are both EVal and EApp, which are handled in the overridden mixin LCBase.

### 6.2 Mixin Families and Open Classes

**Mixin families** The other main item of future work we would like to look into is the *deep* composition of mixin *families* [Ernst 2001], reminiscent of Delta-Oriented Programming [Damiani et al. 2017; Schaefer et al. 2010] but with precisely-typed open recursion, as exemplified by the following code:

```
mixin Base {
   class Foo(x: Int)
}
mixin Derived1 {
   mixin Foo { fun get = this.x + 1 }
}
mixin Derived2 {
   mixin Foo { fun get = super.get * 2 }
}
```

whose inferred types would be:

```
class Base: {
   class Foo(x: Int): {}
}
mixin Derived1: {
   mixin Foo: {
    this: { x: Int }
    get: Int
   }
}
mixin Derived2 {
   mixin Foo: {
    super: { get: Int }
    get: Int
   }
}
```

An example usage of this could be, for instance:

class Final extends Base, Derived1, Derived2
Final.Foo(3).get // 8

**Cached interpretation with open classes** Consider the following code adapted from the "linguistic reuse" example of Sun et al. [2022]:

```
fun go(x) =
  if x is 0 then Lit(1)
  else
    let shared = go(x - 1)
    Add(shared, shared)
```

The execution of eval(go(n)) requires  $2^n$  computation time because, in SuperOOP, embedded language data types are represented by class definitions, that is, data structures are objects. The evaluation of the shared expression nodes is repeated when interpreting Add, even though the shared node itself is indeed shared on both sides of the Add node. Such representation is known as *initial embeddings* [Carette et al. 2009] or *deep embeddings* [Boulton et al. 1992] of eDSLs. On the contrary, if the expression language was implemented as a host language library, i.e. Lit and Add were endofunctions of integers and shared was an integer, when interpreting an expression constructed by the go function above, the shared variable would just hold the interpretation result, so the computation time would be linear in *n*. Such representation is called *shallow embeddings* which automatically reuses host language optimizations like the sharing behavior in this example [Jovanovic et al. 2014; Sun et al. 2022].

We could avoid repeated computations and reuse the interpreted results in SuperOOP by *caching* these results in the expression data types. With *open classes* as extensible base classes, we can modularly add new cached interpretations, as exemplified below:

```
trait Base {
  sealed class Exp
}
trait Example extends Base {
  class Lit(n: Int) extends Exp
  class Add(lhs: this.Exp, rhs: this.Exp) extends Exp
  fun go(x) = ... // as defined above
  val exp = go(10)
}
trait CacheSize extends Example {
 Exp += { lazy val size: Int }
 Lit += \{ size = n \}
 Add += { size = lhs.size + rhs.size }
}
module Lang extends CacheSize
Lang.exp.size
```

The data type classes in trait Example extend an open class Exp, which is **sealed** as it is sealed within the inheritance hierarchy of this trait. Exp can be incrementally extended with method signatures of new cached interpretations of expressions, and the data type classes extending it are required to implement the new interpretations.<sup>1</sup> To modularly extend the language with pretty-printing, we could have:

```
trait CachePrint extends Example {
  Exp += { lazy val print: String }
  Lit += { print = n }
  Add += { print = lhs.print ++ rhs.print }
}
module Lang' extends CacheSize, CachePrint
Lang'.exp.size
Lang'.exp.print
```

We envision that this future work will recover linguistic reuse for deep embeddings, while allowing modular data structure optimization through pattern matching and precise typing of open recursion, thus bringing us closer to "the holy grail of embedded language implementation", as remarked by Svenningsson and Axelsson [2015]:

The holy grail of embedded language implementation is to be able to combine the advantages of shallow and deep in a single implementation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In MLscript, we can implement class members by only providing their implementations as required by the type, without repeating the declarations.

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# Appendix A

## **Auxiliaries and Proofs**

### A.1 Auxiliaries

Figure 9 shows auxiliary definitions of  $\lambda^{super}$ . Figure 10 and Figure 11 show big-step evaluation rules that produce and propagate error (err) results. Figure 12 shows finite big-step evaluation rules (defined by definition 3.2) that propagate timeout (kill) results.

### A.2 Metatheory of $\lambda^{super}$

#### A.2.1 Preservation

#### Subtyping

Lemma A.1. The following forms of subtyping derivation are impossible:

- $I[\overline{V}] <: \{S \to T, \forall X. U, Y\}$
- $S \to T <: \{ \forall X. U, I[\overline{V}], Y \}$
- $\forall X. U <: \{S \to T, I[\overline{V}], Y\}$
- $Y <: \{I[\overline{V}], S \to T, \forall X. U\}$
- Object  $\langle : \{I[\overline{V}], S \to T, \forall X. U, Y\}$

*Proof.* By induction on each form of the impossible subtyping. For case S-TRANS, we prove by induction on the type in the middle.  $\Box$ 

**Lemma A.2.** If  $U \leq S \& T$  then  $U \leq S$  and  $U \leq T$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the subtyping derivation.

Case S-Refl Immediate.





**Case S-Interface** Impossible as parents only returns a list of parent interfaces.

Case S-And Immediate.

Case S-Trans By IH and S-TRANS.

**Lemma A.3.** If S & T <: U then S <: U or T <: U.

*Proof.* By induction on the subtyping derivation.

Case S-Refl Immediate.

Case S-Top Immediate.

Case S-AndL/R Immediate.

Case S-Trans By IH and S-TRANS.

**Lemma A.4.** If  $S_1 \rightarrow T_1 \lt: S_2 \rightarrow T_2$  then  $S_2 \lt: S_1$  and  $T_1 \lt: T_2$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the subtyping derivation (IH1).

Case S-Refl Immediate.

Case S-Arrow Immediate.



Figure 10: Big-step semantics producing errors.

**Case S-Trans** 
$$S_1 \rightarrow T_1 \lt: U$$
 and  $U \lt: S_2 \rightarrow T_2$ .

By induction on U (IH2), we have the following cases to consider after we rule out impossible forms of U with lemma A.1:

- $U = S_3 \rightarrow T_3$ . By IH1,  $S_3 \lt: S_1$  and  $T_1 \lt: T_3$  and  $S_2 \lt: S_3$  and  $T_3 \lt: T_2$ . We conclude with S-TRANS.
- $U = S_3 \& T_3$ . By lemma A.2,  $S_1 \to T_1 <: S_3$  and  $S_1 \to T_1 <: T_3$ . By lemma A.3, we have two cases to consider:
  - −  $S_3 <: S_2 \rightarrow T_2$ . We conclude with IH2 and S-TRANS.

− 
$$T_3 <: S_2 \rightarrow T_2$$
. We conclude with IH2 and S-TRANS.

**Lemma A.5.** If  $\forall Y. S \leq \forall X. T$  then X = Y and  $S \leq T$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the subtyping derivation (IH1).

Case S-Refl Immediate.

Case S-Forall Immediate.

| $\exists \vdash e \parallel r$   | $E-ErrPropTApp1$ $\underline{\Xi} \vdash e \Downarrow err$                   | $     E-ErrPropTApp2      \Xi \vdash e \Downarrow val \langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle      [T/X]\Xi' \vdash [T/X]e' \Downarrow err      \Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow err $ |  | $ \frac{E - ErrPropApp1}{\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow err} \\ \frac{\Xi \vdash e_1 \notin err}{\Xi \vdash e_1 e_2 \Downarrow err} $ |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
|  | $\Xi \vdash e \ T \Downarrow \mathbf{err}$                                   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | E-ErrPropApp3  |   |  |  |  |  |
| E-ErrPropApp2  | $\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow \operatorname{val} \langle \lambda x : T \rangle$ | T. e, $\Xi' angle$  | E-ErrPropN                                   | E-ErrPropNew   |  |  |
| $\Xi \vdash e_2 \Downarrow \mathbf{err}$   | $\Xi \vdash e_2 \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v  \Xi', x \vdash$             | $	al v  \Xi', x \mapsto v \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{err}$   |  | $\Xi \vdash e_i \Downarrow \mathbf{err}$   |  |  |
| $\overline{\Xi \vdash e_1 \ e_2 \Downarrow \mathbf{err}}$  | $\Xi \vdash e_1 \ e_2 \Downarrow \mathbf{e}_1$                               | rr  | $\Xi \vdash \mathbf{new}$ (                  | $\overline{\Xi \vdash \mathbf{new}  C[\overline{T}](\overline{e_i}^{i \in 1n}) \Downarrow \mathbf{err}}$                         |  |  |
| E-ErrPropAc  | CESS1 E-ErrProp  | Access2   |  |  |  |  |
| $e \neq super$   |  | $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{val} C[\overline{S}]$  | $\overline{b}](\overline{v})$                |  |  |  |
| $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{err}$ (this $\mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \operatorname{super.} m \Downarrow \operatorname{err}$ |  |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\Xi \vdash e.m \Downarrow \mathbf{e}$   | <br>r <b>r</b>   | $\Xi \vdash e.m \Downarrow \mathbf{err}$  |  |  |  |  |
| E-ErrPropArgMiss   | (-) ) (  |   |  |  |  |  |
| $\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{0 \star C[S]$  | $(\overline{v})\}$ $m \notin vparams(C[S])$                                  | $S])  (this \mapsto \{$   | $1 \star C[S](\overline{v})\}) +$            | $-$ super. $m \Downarrow err$  |  |  |
|  | $\Xi \vdash sup$   | er. <i>m</i> ↓ err  |  |  |  |  |
| E-ErrPropSuper   | Miss   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  | $\Xi(this) =$  | $\{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$   |  |  |  |  |
| $i \neq 0$ $m \notin m \in$  | $ethods(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v}))$ (this                             | $\mathbf{s} \mapsto \{(i+1) \star 0\}$  | $C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash su$ | <b>Iper</b> . $m \downarrow err$   |  |  |
|  | $\Xi \vdash sup$   | er. <i>m</i> ↓ err  |  |  |  |  |

E-ErrPropSuperHit

$$\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$$

$$i \neq 0 \qquad (m: T = e) \in \mathsf{methods}(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})) \qquad (\mathbf{this} \mapsto \{(i+1) \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash e \Downarrow \mathsf{err}$$

$$\Xi \vdash \mathsf{super}.m \Downarrow \mathsf{err}$$

## Figure 11: Big-step semantics propagating error results.



$$\Xi \vdash \mathbf{super}.m \Downarrow_k \mathbf{kill}$$

E-KillPropSuperHit

$$\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star C[S](\overline{v})\}\$$

$$i \neq 0 \qquad (m:T=e) \in \mathsf{methods}(i, C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})) \qquad (\mathbf{this} \mapsto \{(i+1) \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash e \Downarrow_{k-1} \mathsf{kill}\$$

$$\Xi \vdash \mathsf{super}.m \Downarrow_k \mathsf{kill}$$

Figure 12: Finite big-step semantics propagating timeout results.

**Case S-Trans**  $\forall Y.S <: U$  and  $U <: \forall X.T$ .

By induction on U (IH2), we have the following cases to consider after we rule out impossible forms of U with lemma A.1:

- $U = \forall Z. V.$  By IH1 and S-TRANS.
- $U = S_3 \& T_3$ . By lemmas A.2 and A.3, IH2, and S-TRANS.

**Lemma A.6.** If S <: T then [U/X]S <: [U/X]T.

Proof. By induction on the subtyping derivation.

#### Method Type Calculation (mtype)

**Lemma A.7.** For a list of types  $\overline{T}$ , for any  $T_i \in \overline{T}$ , if  $mtype(m, T_i) = S$  then  $mtype(m, \&\overline{T}) = S'$ and S' <: S.

*Proof.* By induction on the list of types.

- The conclusion is vacuously true if the list is empty.
- If *T<sub>i</sub>* is at the head of the list, by definition of mtype, *S'* = mtype(*m*, &(*T<sub>i</sub>*, *T̄*)) = *S* if mtype(*m*, &*T̄*) = Ø or *S'* = *S* & *S''* if mtype(*m*, &*T̄*) = *S''*. In both cases, *S'* <: *S*. We conclude by IH if *T<sub>i</sub>* is in the rest of the list. □

**Lemma A.8.**  $mtype(m, T) = \emptyset$  or mtype(m, T) = S.

*Proof.* By induction on the type *T*. When  $T = I[\overline{U}]$ , we conclude if  $m \in \mathcal{R}$ . Otherwise, by induction on the tree of interface inheritance (note we assume non-cyclic inheritance), we know *m*'s type can be calculated for all parent interfaces. By definition of mtype, the result is some type *S* if mtype of any super interface is not  $\emptyset$ , or  $\emptyset$  otherwise.

**Lemma A.9.** Define  $\diamond ::= T \mid \emptyset$ . If mtype $(m, T) = \diamond_1$  and mtype $(m, T) = \diamond_2$  then  $\diamond_1 = \diamond_2$ .

*Proof.* By induction on *T*. By lemma A.8 and IH, mtype is computable for every subtree of *T*. For an interface, as we assume methods are always uniquely declared, mtype of *m* in the interface is  $\emptyset$  if undefined or a unique type, and the mtype result is therefore unique.

**Lemma A.10.** If  $\mathcal{D}$  ok and mtype(m, T) = S and T' <: T then mtype(m, T') = S' and S' <: S.

*Proof.* By induction on the subtyping derivation.

Case S-Refl Immediate.

**Case S-Top** Impossible as  $mtype(m, Object) = \emptyset$ .

**Case S-Interface**  $I[\overline{U}] <: T \text{ and } T \in \text{parents}(I[\overline{U}])$ 

If *I* is defined as  $I[\overline{X}] \lhd J[\overline{U'}] \{ ... \}$ , by definition of parents,  $T = [\overline{U/X}]J^*[\overline{U^*}]$  and  $J^*[\overline{U^*}] \in \overline{J[\overline{U'}]}$ , then mtype $(m, [\overline{U/X}]J^*[\overline{U^*}]) = S$ . By lemma A.7, mtype $(m, \&[\overline{U/X}]J[\overline{U'}]) = S'$  and S' <: S. Consider the following cases:

- $m \notin I$ . By definition of mtypes, mtype $(m, I[\overline{U}]) = S'$  and S' <: S.
- $m: S^* \in I$ , then mtype $(m, I[\overline{U}]) = [\overline{U/X}]S^*$ . By  $\overline{\mathcal{D} \ ok}$ ,  $I \ ok$ . By  $I \ ok$ , mtype $(m, \&J[\overline{U'}]) = S''$  and  $S^* <: S''$ . By lemma A.6, mtype $(m, \&[\overline{U/X}]J[\overline{U'}]) = [\overline{U/X}]S'' = S'$  and  $[\overline{U/X}]S^* <: [\overline{U/X}]S'' = S'$ . By S-TRANS,  $[\overline{U/X}]S^* <: S$ .
- **Case S-Inv**  $I[\overline{U}] <: I[\overline{U'}]$  and  $\overline{U <: U'}$  and  $\overline{U' <: U}$

By lemma A.6, it is immediate to have equivalent results of mtype with equivalent type arguments for the input interface type.

**Case S-Andl**  $S_1 \& S_2 <: S_1$  and  $mtype(m, S_1) = T$ By definition and lemma A.8,  $mtype(m, S_1 \& S_2) = T$  if  $mtype(m, S_2) = \emptyset$  or  $mtype(m, S_1 \& S_2) = T \& T'$  if  $mtype(m, S_2) = T'$ . In both cases  $mtype(m, S_1 \& S_2) <: T$ .

Case S-Andr Symmetric to the former case.

**Case S-And**  $T <: T_1 \& T_2$  and mtype $(m, T_1 \& T_2) = S$ 

By lemma A.8, we consider the following cases:

- $mtype(m, T_1) = mtype(m, T_2) = \emptyset$ . Contradiction by lemma A.9.
- mtype $(m, T_1) = S_1$  and mtype $(m, T_2) = \emptyset$ , then mtype $(m, T_1 \& T_2) = S_1$ . By IH, mtype(m, T) = S' and  $S' <: S_1$ .
- mtype $(m, T_1) = \emptyset$  and mtype $(m, T_2) = S_2$ . Symmetric to the former case.
- mtype $(m, T_1) = S_1$  and mtype $(m, T_2) = S_2$ , then mtype $(m, T_1 \& T_2) = S_1 \& S_2$ . By IH and lemma A.9 and S-AND, mtype(m, T) = S' and  $S' <: S_1 \& S_2$ .

**Case S-Trans** T' <: U and U <: T and mtype(m, T) = SBy IH, mtype(m, U) = S'' <: S. By IH and lemma A.9, mtype(m, T') = S' <: S''. By S-TRANS, mtype(m, T') = S' and S' <: S.

#### Determinism

**Lemma A.11** (Determinism). If  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r_1$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r_2$  then  $r_1 = r_2$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the first and inversion on the second evaluation derivation.  $\Box$ 

#### **Inversion of Value Typing**

**Lemma A.12.** If  $\langle \lambda x : S. e, \Xi \rangle$ : *T* then there exists  $\Gamma$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$ , and  $\{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  such that:

1.  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ 2.  $\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ 3.  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ 4.  $\Gamma, x : S, \mathbf{super} : \mathcal{R} \vdash e : T'$ 5.  $S \rightarrow T' <: T$ or: 1.  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ 2.  $\mathbf{this} \notin dom(\Gamma)$ 3.  $\Gamma, x : S \vdash e : T'$ 4.  $S \rightarrow T' <: T$ 

*Proof.* By induction on the closure typing judgment. We conclude immediately for cases VT-ABs1 and VT-ABs2. For case VT-SuB, we conclude by IH and S-TRANS.

**Lemma A.13.** If  $\langle \Lambda X. e, \Xi \rangle$ : *T* then there exists  $\Gamma$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$ , and  $\{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$  such that:

- 1.  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ 2.  $\Xi(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$ 3.  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{S}](\overline{v})\}$ 4.  $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash e : T'$
- 5.  $\forall X. T' \leq T$

or:

1.  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ 

- 2. this  $\notin dom(\Gamma)$
- 3.  $\Gamma \vdash e: T'$
- 4.  $\forall X. T' <: T$

*Proof.* By induction on the closure typing judgment. We conclude immediately for cases VT-TABS1 and VT-TABS2. For case VT-SUB, we conclude by IH and S-TRANS. □

**Lemma A.14.** If  $C[\overline{T}](\overline{v}) : V$  then there exists  $\overline{m : U}$  and V' such that:

- 1. vparams $(C[\overline{T}]) = \overline{m:U}$
- 2.  $\overline{v:U}$
- 3. ctype $(C[\overline{T}]) = V'$
- 4. V' <: V

*Proof.* By induction on the object typing judgment. We conclude immediately for the case VT-OBJECT. For case VT-SUB, we conclude by IH and S-TRANS.

#### **Type Substitution**

**Lemma A.15** (Type substitution of typing). *If*  $\Gamma \vdash e : T$  *then*  $[S/X]\Gamma \vdash [S/X]e : [S/X]T$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the typing judgment. Note that we assume capture-avoiding type substitution.

**Lemma A.16** (Type substitution of mtype). If mtype(m, T) = S then mtype(m, [U/X]T) = [U/X]S.

*Proof.* By induction on *T*. For the case where *T* is an interface, we prove by induction on the tree of interface inheritance.  $\Box$ 

**Lemma A.17** (Type substitution of refinement consistency). *If*  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\}$  *then*  $[S/X]\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star [S/X](C[\overline{T}](\overline{v}))\}$ .

*Proof.* By inversion of the refinement consistency judgment and lemma A.6.

**Lemma A.18** (Type substitution of value typing). If v : T then [S/X]v : [S/X]T.

**Lemma A.19** (Type substitution of context consistency). If  $\Gamma \models \Xi$  then  $[T/X]\Gamma \models [T/X]\Xi$ 

Proof of lemmas A.18 and A.19. We prove two lemmas above together.

Goal - lemma A.19 By induction on the consistency judgment and lemma A.18 in IH.

Goal - lemma A.18 By induction on the value typing judgment and lemma A.19 in IH and lemma A.15. □

#### **Preservation Main Theorem**

**Lemma A.20** (General preservation). If  $\overline{\mathcal{D} ok}$  and  $\Gamma$ , super  $: \mathcal{R} \vdash e : T$  and  $\Gamma \models \Xi$  and  $\Xi$ (this) =  $\{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r$  then  $r = \operatorname{val} v'$  and v' : T.

**Lemma A.21** (Simple general preservation). If  $\overline{\mathcal{D} \ ok}$  and  $\Gamma \vdash e : T$  and  $\Gamma \models \Xi$  and this  $\notin$   $dom(\Gamma)$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow r$  then  $r = \operatorname{val} v'$  and v' : T.

*Proof of lemmas A.20 and A.21.* We prove that both lemmas hold together. **Goal - lemma A.20** By induction on the typing derivation (IH1).

**Case T-Var**  $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash x : T$ 

By the premise of typing,  $\Gamma(x) = T$ . We invert the evaluation derivation.

- $x \notin dom(\Xi)$  and r = err. As  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ ,  $x \in dom(\Xi)$ . Contradiction.
- $\Xi(x) = v$  and r =val v. As  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ , v : T.
- **Case T-This**  $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash$  this : T

Analogous to the former case.

- **Case T-Abs**  $\Gamma$ , **super** :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash \lambda x : S. e : S \to T$ We invert the evaluation derivation.  $r = \operatorname{val} \langle \lambda x : S. e, \Xi \rangle$ . We conclude with VT-Abs1.
- **Case T-TAbs**  $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash \Lambda X$ .  $e : \forall X$ . T

Analogous to the former case.

#### **Case T-App** $\Gamma$ , **super** : $\mathcal{R} \vdash e_1 e_2 : T$

By induction on the evaluation derivation (IH2):

- $\Xi \vdash e_1 e_2 \Downarrow$  err and at least one of  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  evaluates to err under  $\Xi$ . By IH1,  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  should both be evaluated to values, which leads to a contradiction.
- $\Xi \vdash e_1 e_2 \Downarrow \text{err}$  and  $\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow \text{val } D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})$ . By IH1,  $D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w}) : S \to T$ . By inversion lemma of object typing (Theorem A.14),  $\text{ctype}(D[\overline{U'}]) = V$  and  $V <: S \to T$ . Syntactically, ctype only yields an interface type  $I[\overline{U''}]$ , and interfaces types are not subtypes of function types (Theorem A.1). Contradiction.
- $\Xi \vdash e_1 \ e_2 \Downarrow \text{err}$  and  $\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow \text{val} \langle \Lambda X. \ e, \Xi' \rangle$ . By IH1,  $\langle \Lambda X. \ e, \Xi' \rangle : S \to T$ . By inversion lemma of type abstraction closure typing (Theorem A.13),  $\langle \Lambda X. \ e, \Xi' \rangle : \forall X. \ T'$  and  $\forall X. \ T' <: S \to T$ , which is impossible by Theorem A.1. Contradiction.
- $\Xi \vdash e_1 \ e_2 \ \Downarrow \ val \ v' \ and \ \Xi \vdash e_1 \ \Downarrow \ val \ \langle \lambda x : S'. \ e, \ \Xi' \rangle \ and \ \Xi \vdash e_2 \ \Downarrow \ val \ v \ and \ \Xi', \ x \mapsto v \vdash e \ \Downarrow \ val \ v'. \ By \ IH1, \ \langle \lambda x : S'. \ e, \ \Xi' \rangle : S \to T \ and \ v : S. \ By \ the \ inversion \ lemma \ of typing \ of closures (Theorem A.12), we have two cases to consider:$

- $\Gamma' \models \Xi'$  and  $\Xi'(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})\}$  and  $\mathcal{R}' \models \{i \star D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})\}, \Gamma', x : S', \mathbf{super} : \mathcal{R}' \vdash e : T', \text{ and } S' \to T' <: S \to T.$  By the inversion lemma of subtyping of function types (lemma A.4), S <: S' and T' <: T. By VT-SUB, v : S'. By C-CONSVAR,  $\Gamma', x : S' \models \Xi', x \mapsto v$ . By IH2 and VT-SUB, v' : T.
- $\Gamma' \models \Xi'$  and this  $\notin dom(\Gamma)$  and  $\Gamma', x : S' \vdash e : T'$ , and  $S' \to T' <: S \to T$ . By the inversion lemma of subtyping of function types (lemma A.4), S <: S'and T' <: T. By VT-SUB, v : S'. By C-CONSVAR,  $\Gamma', x : S' \models \Xi', x \mapsto v$ . By Theorem A.21 in IH2 and VT-SUB, v' : T.
- $\Xi \vdash e_1 e_2 \Downarrow \text{ err and } \Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow \text{ val } \langle \lambda x : S. e, \Xi' \rangle \text{ and } \Xi \vdash e_2 \Downarrow \text{ val } v \text{ and } \Xi', x \mapsto v \vdash e \Downarrow \text{ err.}$  By the same reasoning for the prior case,  $\Xi', x \mapsto v \vdash e \Downarrow \text{ val } v'$ , which leads to a contradiction by lemma A.11.

#### **Case T-TApp** $\Gamma$ , super : $\mathcal{R} \vdash e T : [T/X]S$

By induction on the evaluation derivation (IH2):

- $\Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow err$  and *e* evaluates to err under  $\Xi$ . By IH1, *e* should be evaluated to a value, which leads to a contradiction.
- $\Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow \text{err}$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \text{val } D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})$ . By IH1,  $D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w}) : \forall X.S.$  By inversion lemma of object typing (Theorem A.14),  $\text{ctype}(C[\overline{U}]) = V$  and  $V <: \forall X.S.$  Syntactically, ctype only yields an interface type  $I[\overline{U'}]$ , and interfaces types are not subtypes of universal types, which leads to a contradiction by lemma A.1.
- $\Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow \text{err}$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \text{val} \langle \lambda x : S'. e', \Xi' \rangle$ . By IH1,  $\langle \lambda x : S'. e', \Xi' \rangle : \forall X. S.$  By inversion lemma of type abstraction closure typing (Theorem A.13),  $\langle \lambda x : S'. e', \Xi' \rangle : S' \rightarrow T'$  and  $S' \rightarrow T' <: \forall X. S$ , which is impossible by lemma A.1.
- $\Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow val v'$  and  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow val \langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle$  and  $[T/X]\Xi' \vdash [T/X]e' \Downarrow val v'$ . By IH1,  $\langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle : \forall X. S$ . By the inversion lemma of typing of type abstraction closures (Theorem A.13), we have two cases to consider:
  - $\Gamma' \models \Xi'$  and  $\Xi'(\mathbf{this}) = \{i \star D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})\}$  and  $\mathcal{R}' \models \{i \star D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w})\}$  and  $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R}' \vdash e' : S'$  and  $\forall Y.S' <: \forall X.S.$  By the inversion lemma of subtyping of universal types (lemma A.5), X = Y and S' <: S. By lemma A.19,  $[T/X]\Gamma' \models [T/X]\Xi'$ . By lemma A.15,  $[T/X]\Gamma'$ , super  $: [T/X]\mathcal{R}' \vdash [T/X]e' : [T/X]S'$ . By lemma A.17,  $[T/X]\mathcal{R}' \models \{i \star [T/X](D[\overline{U'}](\overline{w}))\}$ . By IH2, v' : [T/X]S'. By lemma A.6, [T/X]S' <: [T/X]S. By VT-SUB, v' : [T/X]S.
  - $\Gamma \models \Xi'$  and this  $\notin dom(\Gamma)$  and  $\Gamma \vdash e : S'$ , and  $\forall Y.S' <: \forall X.S.$  By the inversion lemma of subtyping of universal types (lemma A.5), X = Y and S' <: S. By lemma A.19,  $[T/X]\Gamma' \models [T/X]\Xi'$ . By lemma A.15,  $[T/X]\Gamma' \vdash [T/X]e' : [T/X]S'$ . By lemma A.21 in IH2, v' : [T/X]S'. By lemma A.6, [T/X]S' <: [T/X]S. By VT-SUB, v' : [T/X]S.

•  $\Xi \vdash e T \Downarrow \text{err and } \Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \text{val} \langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle$  and  $[T/X]\Xi' \vdash [T/X]e' \Downarrow \text{err. Using the same reasoning for the prior case, <math>[T/X]\Xi' \vdash [T/X]e' \Downarrow \text{val } v'$ , which leads to a contradiction by lemma A.11.

#### **Case T-Access** $\Gamma$ , **super** : $\mathcal{R} \vdash e.m : S$

By induction on reduction derivation (IH2):

- $\Gamma$ , **super** :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash e \Downarrow$  err. By premises and IH1, we know *e* will reduce to a value. Contradiction.
- $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash e \Downarrow \text{val} \langle \lambda x : U. e', ... \rangle$ . By IH1, we know  $\langle \lambda x : U. e', ... \rangle : T$  and mtype(m, T) = S. By Theorem A.12,  $\langle \lambda x : U. e', ... \rangle : S' \to T'$  and  $S' \to T' <: T$ . By lemma A.10, mtype $(m, S' \to T') = V$ , which is impossible.
- $\Gamma$ , super :  $\mathcal{R} \vdash e \Downarrow \text{val} \langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle$ . By IH1, we know  $\langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle$  : T and mtype(m, T) = S. By Theorem A.13,  $\langle \Lambda X. e', \Xi' \rangle$  :  $\forall X. S'$  and  $\forall X. S' <: T$ . By lemma A.10, mtype $(m, \forall X. S') = V$ , which is impossible.
- e = super, then  $\Gamma$ ,  $super : \mathcal{R} \vdash super : T$ , which is impossible.
- $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{val} C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})$  and  $(\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \operatorname{super}.m \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v' \operatorname{and} C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : T$ and mtype(m, T) = S. By IH1,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : T$ . By lemma A.14,  $\operatorname{ctype}(C[\overline{U}]) = T'$  and T' <: T. By lemma A.10,  $\operatorname{mtype}(m, T') = S'$  and S' <: S. We lookup class C's definition as  $C[\overline{X}] \lhd I[\overline{U'}]$ , .... By definition of  $\operatorname{ctype}, T' = [\overline{U/X}]I[\overline{U'}]$ , therefore  $\operatorname{mtype}(m, [\overline{U/X}]I[\overline{U'}]) = S'$ . By C ok,  $\operatorname{search}(m, 0, C) = S^*$  and  $\operatorname{mtype}(m, I[\overline{U'}]) =$  $S^{**}$  and  $S^* <: S^{**}$ . By lemma A.16,  $S' = [\overline{U/X}]S^{**}$ . By lemma A.6,  $[\overline{U/X}]S^* <:$  $[\overline{U/X}]S^{**}$ . By S-TRANS,  $[\overline{U/X}]S^* <: S$ . We pick a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}^* = \{m :$ S } and a typing context  $\Gamma^* = (\operatorname{this} : T)$ . By T-SUPER,  $\Gamma^*$ ,  $\operatorname{super} : \mathcal{R}^* \vdash \operatorname{super.m} :$ S. By definition of  $\operatorname{super}$  refinement consistency,  $\mathcal{R}^* \models \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ . By MC-CONSTHIS,  $\Gamma^* \models (\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\})$ . By IH2, v' : S.
- $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{val} C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})$  and  $(\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \operatorname{super}.m \Downarrow \operatorname{err.}$  Using the same reasoning for the prior case,  $(\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \operatorname{super.m} \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v'$ , which leads to a contradiction by lemma A.11.

#### **Case T-Super** $\Gamma$ , super : $\mathcal{R} \vdash$ super.m : S

mrefn $(m, \mathcal{R}) = S$ .  $\overline{X}$  is class C's type parameter list. By induction on the evaluation derivation (IH2):

- **super** evaluates to a value under Ξ. These cases are impossible by ERRSUPER and lemma A.11.
- this  $\notin dom(\Xi)$  and  $\Xi \vdash super.m \Downarrow err.$  Contradiction.
- methods $(i, C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}))$  undefined and  $i \neq 0$ . As  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and mrefn $(m, \mathcal{R}) = S$ , there must be a method implementation of *m* in part of the mixin composition from

index *i* to the end. Therefore, *i* cannot reach beyond the length of mixin composition and methods is defined. Contradiction.

- vparams( $C[\overline{U}]$ ) undefined and i = 0. As  $\mathcal{R} \models \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and mrefn $(m, \mathcal{R}) = S$ , there must be a method implementation of m as an object field or part of the mixin composition. Therefore, C must be defined and vparams( $C[\overline{U}]$ ) is therefore defined. Contradiction.
- $m \notin \operatorname{vparams}(C[\overline{U}])$  and  $(\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{1 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash \operatorname{super} m \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v$  and  $\mathcal{R} \models \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ . By  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ ,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : V$ . By inverting the super refinement consistency judgment,  $\operatorname{search}(m, 0, C) = S'$  and  $[\overline{U/X}]S' <: S$  As  $m \notin \operatorname{vparams}(C[\overline{U}])$ ,  $\operatorname{search}(m, 1, C) = S'$ . We pick a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}^* = \{m : S\}$  and a typing context  $\Gamma^* = (\operatorname{this} : V)$ . By definition of super refinement consistency,  $\mathcal{R}^* \models \{1 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ . By MC-CONSTHIS,  $\Gamma^* \models (\operatorname{this} \mapsto \{1 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\})$ . By T-SUPER,  $\Gamma^*$ ,  $\operatorname{super} : \mathcal{R}^* \vdash \operatorname{super} .m : S$ . By IH2, v' : S.
- vparams $(C[\overline{U}]) = \overline{m_i : S_i}$  and  $m = m_i$  and  $(\text{this} \mapsto \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v_i})\}) \vdash \text{super}.m \Downarrow$ val  $v_i$ . By assumption,  $\mathcal{R} \models \{0 \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ . By premise of evaluation, vparams $(C[\overline{U}]) = \overline{m_i : S_i}$ . By inverting the super refinement consistency judgment, search $(m, 0, C) = S'_i$  and  $[\overline{U/X}]S'_i <: S$ . As vparams $(C[\overline{U}]) = \overline{m_i : S_i}, [\overline{U/X}]S'_i = S_i$ . As  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ ,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : V$ . By lemma A.14,  $v_i : S_i$ . By rule VT-SUB,  $v_i : S$ .
- Given  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ , search(m, i, C) = S' and  $[\overline{U/X}]S' <: S$ . By premises,  $m \notin \text{methods}(i, C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}))$ , therefore search(m, (i + 1), C) = S'. By  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ ,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : V$ . We pick a structural refinement  $\mathcal{R}^* = \{m : S\}$  and a typing context  $\Gamma^* = (\text{this} : V)$ . By definition of super refinement consistency,  $\mathcal{R}^* \models \{(i + 1) \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ . By MC-CONSTHIS,  $\Gamma^* \models (\text{this} \mapsto \{(i + 1) \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\})$ . By T-SUPER,  $\Gamma^*$ , super :  $\mathcal{R}^* \vdash \text{super.}m : S$ . By IH2, v' : S.
- $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ . Since  $\Xi(\mathsf{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$ , there exists some T such that  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : T$ . By premises of evaluation, we have the method implementation  $(m : S' = e) \in \mathsf{methods}(i, C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}))$  and  $(\mathsf{this} \mapsto \{(i + 1) \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}) \vdash e \Downarrow \mathsf{val} v'$ . Therefore, we know that m is defined in mixin  $M_i$ . We lookup several definitions: mixin  $M_i$  as  $M_i[\overline{Y}]_{T'}^{\mathcal{R}'}I$ , the class C as  $C[\overline{X}] \triangleleft I[\overline{U'}], M_i[\overline{U''}]$ , and the original definition of m in I as m : S'' = e'. We denote the type substitution  $\sigma = [\overline{U/X}][\overline{U''/Y}]$ . By  $\overline{\mathcal{D} ok}$ , C ok. By C ok,  $M_i ok$ . By  $M_i ok$ ,  $(\mathsf{this} : T', \mathsf{super} : \mathcal{R}') \vdash e' : S''$ . By lemma A.15,  $(\mathsf{this} : \sigma T', \mathsf{super} : \sigma \mathcal{R}') \vdash \sigma e' : \sigma S''$ . By definition of methods,  $S' = \sigma S''$  and  $e = \sigma e'$ . Therefore,  $(\mathsf{this} : \sigma T', \mathsf{super} : \sigma \mathcal{R}') \vdash e : S'$ .

To apply IH2, we are to prove (1) (**this** :  $\sigma T'$ )  $\models$  (**this**  $\mapsto$  { $(i + 1) \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})$ }), (2)  $\sigma \mathcal{R}' \models$  { $(i + 1) \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})$ }. We now prove both aspects:

1. By  $C \ \boldsymbol{ok}, M_i \Rightarrow C$ . By  $M_i \Rightarrow C, I[\overline{U'}] <: [\overline{U''/Y}]T'$ . By lemma A.6,  $[\overline{U/X}]I[\overline{U'}] <: \sigma T'$ . By  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : T$  and lemma A.14,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : T''$  and T'' <: T and  $ctype(C[\overline{U}]) = T'' = [\overline{U/X}]I[\overline{U'}]$ . By VT-SUB,  $C[\overline{U}](\overline{v}) : \sigma T'$ . By C-ConsThis, we have (1).

2. By *C* ok,  $M_i \Rightarrow C$ . By  $M_i \Rightarrow C$ , for all  $(m : S^*) \in \mathcal{R}'$ , search $(m, i+1, C) = S^{**}$  and  $S^{**} <: [\overline{U''/Y}]S^*$ . By lemma A.6, for all  $(m : \sigma S^*) \in \sigma \mathcal{R}'$ , search $(m, i+1, C) = S^{**}$  and  $[\overline{U/X}]S^{**} <: [\overline{U/X}][\overline{U''/Y}]S^* = \sigma S^*$ . By definition of **super** refinement consistency, we have (2).

By IH2, v' : S'. By  $\mathcal{R} \models \{i \star C[\overline{U}](\overline{v})\}$  and definition of search, search $(m, i, C) = [\overline{U''/Y}]S''$  and  $[\overline{U/X}][\overline{U''/Y}]S'' = \sigma S'' = S' <: S$ . By VT-SUB, v' : S.

### **Case T-New** $\Gamma$ , super : $\mathcal{R} \vdash \text{new } C[\overline{T}](\overline{e}) : V$

By inverting the reduction derivation:

- Some *e* ∈ *e* evaluates to err under Ξ. By IH and premises, we know all arguments *e* should evaluate to values. Contradiction.
- It is impossible that the number of arguments provided does not match the constructor given that the object instantiation is well-typed.
- $\Xi \vdash \mathbf{new} \ C[\overline{T}](\overline{e}) \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ C[\overline{T}](\overline{v}) \text{ and } \overline{\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \mathbf{val} \ v} \text{ and } \mathrm{vparams}(C[\overline{T}]) = \overline{m:U}.$  By IH and premises,  $\overline{v:U}$ . By VT-OBJECT,  $C[\overline{T}](\overline{v}): V$ .

Case T-Sub By IH1 and VT-SUB.

**Goal - lemma A.21** By induction on the typing derivation and the evaluation derivation. The proof is mostly analogous and symmetric to the proof of lemma A.20 by using the two lemmas in the induction hypothesis alternately. Note that for this proof, case T-SUPER is impossible as  $\Gamma$  contains no **super** structural refinement by  $\Gamma \models \Xi$ .

Proof of Theorem 3.1. Corollary of lemma A.21.

#### A.2.2 Coverage and Soundness

*Proof of lemma 3.3.* By induction on *n* and case analysis on the shape of *e*. When n = 0, the theorem immediately follows by E-TIMEOUT. We now prove the case when n > 0.

- e = x. E-VAR handles the case when  $\Xi(x) = v$ . E-ERRVAR handles the case when x is unbound in  $\Xi$ .
- e =this. E-THIS handles the case when  $\Xi($ this $) = \{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\}$ . E-ERRTHIS handles the case when this is unbound in  $\Xi$ .
- e =**super**. By E-ErrSuper.
- $e = \lambda x : T. e'$ . By E-Abs.
- $e = \Lambda X. e'$ . By E-TABS.

- $e = e_1 e_2$ . By IH,  $\Xi \vdash e_1 \Downarrow_{n-1} r_1^+$  and  $\Xi \vdash e_2 \Downarrow_{n-1} r_2^+$ . We do case analysis on  $r_1^+$  and  $r_2^+$ . The cases when at least one of  $r_1^+$  and  $r_2^+$  is kill or err are handled by E-ERRPROPAPP1, E-ERRPROPAPP2, E-KILLPROPAPP1 and E-KILLPROPAPP2. When  $r_1^+ = \operatorname{val} v_1$  and  $r_2^+ = \operatorname{val} v_2$ , we do case analysis on  $v_1$ . The cases when  $v_1$  is a type abstraction closure or an object are handled by E-ERRAPP1 or E-ERRAPP2. When  $v_1$  is a lambda abstraction closure, we conclude by IH, E-APP or E-ERRPROPAPP3 or E-KILLPROPAPP3.
- e = e' T. By IH,  $\Xi \vdash e' \Downarrow_{n-1} r^+$ . We do case analysis on  $r^+$ . The cases when  $r^+$  is kill or err are handled by E-ERRPROPTAPP1 and E-KILLPROPTAPP1. When  $r^+ = val v$ , we do case analysis on v. The cases when v is a lambda abstraction closure or an object are handled by E-ERRTAPP1 or E-ERRTAPP2. When v is a type abstraction closure, we conclude by IH, E-TAPP or E-ERRPROPTAPP2 or E-KILLPROPTAPP2.
- e = e'.m. By IH,  $\Xi \vdash e' \Downarrow_{n-1} r^+$ . We discuss cases when  $e' \neq$  **super** or e' = **super** and do case analysis on  $r^+$ .
  - $e' \neq$  super. The cases when  $r^+$  is err or kill are handled by E-ERRPROPACCESS1 and E-KILLPROPACCESS1. When  $r^+$  is val v, we do case analysis on v. The cases when v is a lambda or type abstraction closure are handled by E-ERRACCESS1 or E-ERRACCESS2. When v is an object, we conclude by IH, E-ACCESS or E-ERRPROPACCESS2 or E-KILLPROPACCESS2.
  - e' = super. The case when  $r^+$  is kill is handled by E-KILLPROPACCESS1. When  $r^+$  is err or val v, we first discuss if this is bound in  $\Xi$ . If it is not, we conclude by E-ERRSUPERACCESS1. If it is  $(\Xi(\text{this}) = \{i \star C[\overline{T}](\overline{v})\})$ , we discuss i = 0 or i > 0.
    - \* i = 0. We discuss if vparams(C[T]) is defined or undefined, and m is in or not in vparams(C[T]). If vparams(C[T]) is undefined, we conclude by E-ERRSUPERACCESS3.
       Otherwise, if m is in vparams(C[T]), we conclude by E-ARGHIT. If it is not, we conclude by IH, E-ARGMISS or E-ERRPROPARGMISS or E-KILLPROPARGMISS.
    - *i* > 0. We discuss if methods(*i*, *C*[*T*](*v*)) is defined or undefined, and *m* is in or not in methods(*i*, *C*[*T*](*v*)). If it is undefined, we conclude by E-ERRSUPERACCESS2. Otherwise, if *m* is in methods(*i*, *C*[*T*](*v*)), we conclude by IH, E-SUPERHIT or E-ERRPROPSUPERHIT or E-KILLPROPSUPERHIT. If *m* is not in, we conclude by IH, E-SUPERMISS or E-ERRPROPSUPERMISS or E-KILLPROPSUPERMISS.
- $e = \text{new } C[\overline{T}](\overline{e_i}^{i \in 1..k})$ . By IH,  $\overline{\Xi \vdash e_i \Downarrow_{n-1} r_i^+}$ . If  $|\text{vparams}(C[\overline{T}])| \neq k$ , we conclude by E-ERRNEW. Otherwise, we do case analysis on  $\overline{r_i^+}$ . If at least one of  $\overline{r_i^+}$  is err or kill, we conclude by E-ERRPROPNEW or E-KILLPROPNEW. Otherwise (i.e.  $\overline{r_i^+} = \text{val } v_i$ ), we conclude by E-NEW.

**Lemma A.22.** If  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  err then  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow$  err or  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  kill.

*Proof.* By induction on the evaluation derivation. By IH, subderivation of  $\epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  err with an err result has a kill result by finite evaluation or err result by the original evaluation. In the former case, we conclude by deriving  $\epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  kill using timeout propagation rules. Otherwise, we derive  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow$  err.

**Lemma A.23.** If  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_n \operatorname{val} v$  then  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow \operatorname{val} v$ .

Proof. By induction on the finite evaluation derivation.

**Lemma A.24.** If  $\mathcal{P}$ : *T* then for all  $n, \epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow val v and v : T$ , or  $\epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow_n kill$ .

*Proof of lemma A.24.* By lemma 3.3,  $\epsilon \vdash e \Downarrow_n r^+$ . If  $r^+$  is kill, the lemma immediately follows. If  $r^+$  is err, by lemma A.22,  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow$  err or  $\Xi \vdash e \Downarrow_n$  kill. We conclude immediately in the latter case. In the former case, we reach a contradiction by lemma 3.1. If  $r^+$  is val v, we conclude by lemmas 3.1 and A.23.

*Proof of theorem* **3.5**. Corollary of lemma **A.24**.

# **Appendix B**

## **Examples from the Literature**

This appendix provides MLscript/SuperOOP implementations of the examples discussed in Section 5.1. The contents of these files were extracted directly from our test suite. All the lines that begin with // | were inserted by our testing infrastructure automatically, displaying the inferred types and evaluated results.

We have also made use of *modules* in our examples, but they are not a core concept of SuperOOP. Indeed, a module simply desugars to a parameterless class along with a let binding of the same name whose body is an instance of the class. More concretely, the declaration 'module M extends Ms implements Is' desugars to:

```
class M() extends Ms implements Is
let M = M()
```

### **B.1** Polymorphic Variants

```
From Garrigue [2000].
 class Cons[out A](head: A, tail: Cons[A] | Nil)
 module Nil
 //| class Cons[A](head: A, tail: Cons[A] | Nil)
 //| module Nil
 let l = Cons(1, Nil)
 //| let l: Cons[1]
 //| 1
 //| = Cons {}
 class NotFound()
 class Success[out A](result: A)
 //| class NotFound()
 //| class Success[A](result: A)
 fun list_assoc(s, l) =
   if 1 is
     Cons(h, t) then
       if s === h._1 then Success(h._2)
```
```
else list_assoc(s, t)
    Nil then NotFound()
//| fun list_assoc: \forall 'a 'A. (Eql['a], Cons[{_1: 'a, _2: 'A}] | Nil,) \rightarrow (
   NotFound | Success['A])
// fun list_assoc(s: Str, 1: Cons[{ _1: Str, _2: 'b }] | Nil): NotFound |
   Success['b]
class Var(s: Str)
//| class Var(s: Str)
mixin EvalVar {
  fun eval(sub, v) =
    if v is Var(s) then
      if list_assoc(s, sub) is
        NotFound then v
        Success(r) then r
}
//| mixin EvalVar() {
//| fun eval: (Cons[{_1: anything, _2: 'result}] | Nil, Var,) \rightarrow (Var | '
  result)
//| }
class Abs[A](x: Str, t: A)
class App[A](s: A, t: A)
//| class Abs[A](x: Str, t: A)
//| class App[A](s: A, t: A)
fun gensym(): Str = "fun"
//| fun gensym: () \rightarrow Str
fun int_to_string(x: Int): Str = "0"
//| fun int_to_string: (x: Int,) \rightarrow Str
mixin EvalLambda {
  fun eval(sub, v) =
    if v is
      App(t1, t2) then
        let l1 = this.eval(sub, t1)
        let l2 = this.eval(sub, t2)
        if t1 is Abs(x, t) then
          this.eval(Cons((x, l2), Nil), t)
        else
          App(11, 12)
      Abs(x, t) then
        let s = gensym()
        Abs(s, this.eval(Cons((x, Var(s)), sub), t))
    else
      super.eval(sub, v)
}
//| mixin EvalLambda() {
//| super: {eval: ('a, 'b,) \rightarrow 'c}
```

```
//| this: {eval: ('a, 's,) \rightarrow ('A & 'd) & (Cons[(Str, 'd,)], 't,) \rightarrow 'c &
   (Cons[(Str, Var,) | 'A0], 't0,) \rightarrow 'A1\}
//| fun eval: ('a & (Cons['A0] | Nil), Abs['t0] | App['s & (Abs['t] |
  Object & ^{\#}Abs] | Object & 'b & ^{\#}Abs & ^{\#}App,) \rightarrow (Abs['A1] | App['A]
  | 'c)
//| }
module Test1 extends EvalVar, EvalLambda
//| module Test1 {
//| fun eval: ∀ 'a. (Cons[{_1: anything, _2: 'result}] | Nil, Abs['b] |
  App['A] | Var,) \rightarrow ('result | 'a)
//| }
//| where
//| 'b <: Abs['b] | App['A] | Var
//|
      'A <: 'b & (Abs['b] | Object & ~#Abs)
//| 'result :> Var | 'a
//| 'a :> App['result] | Abs['result]
Test1.eval(Nil, Var("a"))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
//|
     'A :> 'a | Var
//| 'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//| res
//| = Var {}
Test1.eval(Nil, Abs("b", Var("a")))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
//| 'A :> Var | 'a
//| 'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//| res
//| = Abs {}
Test1.eval(Cons(("c", Var("d")), Nil), App(Abs("b", Var("b")), Var("c")))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
//|
      'A :> 'a | Var
//|
      'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//| res
//| = Var {}
Test1.eval(Cons(("c", Abs("d", Var("d"))), Nil), App(Abs("b", Var("b")),
  Var("c")))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
//|
       'A :> 'a | Abs[Var] | Var
//| 'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//| res
//| = Var {}
```

```
class Numb(n: Int)
```

```
class Add[A](1: A, r: A)
class Mul[A](1: A, r: A)
//| class Numb(n: Int)
//| class Add[A](1: A, r: A)
//| class Mul[A](1: A, r: A)
fun map_expr(f, v) =
  if v is
    Var
               then v
    Numb
               then v
    Add(l, r) then Add(f(l), f(r))
    Mul(l, r) then Mul(f(l), f(r))
//| fun map_expr: \forall 'l 'A 'l0 'A0. ('l \rightarrow 'A & 'l0 \rightarrow 'A0, Add['l] | Mul['
   10] | Numb | Var,) \rightarrow (Add['A] | Mul['A0] | Numb | Var)
mixin EvalExpr {
  fun eval(sub, v) =
    fun eta(e) = this.eval(sub, e)
    let vv = map_expr(eta, v)
    if vv is
      Var
                              then super.eval(sub, vv)
      Add(Numb(1), Numb(r)) then Numb(1 + r)
      Mul(Numb(l), Numb(r)) then Numb(l * r)
    else v
}
//| mixin EvalExpr() {
//| super: {eval: ('a, Var,) \rightarrow 'b}
//| this: {eval: ('a, 'c,) \rightarrow Object}
//| fun eval: ('a, 'b & (Add['c] | Mul['c] | Numb | Var),) \rightarrow (Numb | 'b)
//| }
module Test2 extends EvalVar, EvalExpr
//| module Test2 {
//| fun eval: \forall 'a. (Cons[{_1: anything, _2: Object & 'result}] | Nil, 'a
    & (Add['b] | Mul['b] | Numb | Var),) \rightarrow (Numb | Var | 'result | 'a | 'b
   )
//| }
//| where
//| 'b <: Add['b] | Mul['b] | Numb | Var
Test2.eval(Nil, Var("a"))
//| Numb | Var
//| res
//| = Var {}
Test2.eval(Cons(("c", Abs("d", Var("d"))), Nil), Var("a"))
//| Abs[Var] | Numb | Var
//| res
//| = Var {}
Test2.eval(Cons(("a", Numb(1)), Nil), Var("a"))
//| Numb | Var
```

```
//| res
//| = Var {}
Test2.eval(Cons(("a", Abs("d", Var("d"))), Nil), Add(Numb(1), Var("a")))
//| Abs[Var] | Add[Numb | Var] | Numb | Var
//| res
//| = Add {}
module Test3 extends EvalVar, EvalExpr, EvalLambda
//| module Test3 {
//| fun eval: ∀ 'A 'a. (Cons[{_1: anything, _2: 'result}] | Nil, Abs['b]
   | App['A] | Object \& 'c \& ~#Abs \& ~#App,) \rightarrow ('A0 | 'a)
//| }
//| where
//| 'result :> 'A0
//|
       <: Object
//| 'A0 :> Numb | Var | 'result | 'c | 'a
//| 'a :> App['A0] | Abs['A0]
     'c <: Add['b] | Mul['b] | Numb | Var
//|
     'b <: Abs['b] | App['A] | Object & 'c & ~#Abs & ~#App
//
//|
     'A <: 'b & (Abs['b] | Object & ~#Abs)
Test3.eval(Cons(("c", Abs("d", Var("d"))), Nil), Abs("a", Var("a")))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
//|
       'A :> 'a | Abs[Var] | Numb | Var
      'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//|
//| res
//| = Abs {}
Test3.eval(Cons(("c", Abs("d", Var("d"))), Nil), App(Abs("a", Var("a")),
   Add(Numb(1), Var("c"))))
//| ∀ 'a. 'A | 'a
//| where
      'A :> 'a | Abs[Var] | Add[Numb | Var] | Numb | Var
//|
//| 'a :> App['A] | Abs['A]
//| res
//| = Var {}
```

## **B.2** A Simple "Regions" DSL

From Sun et al. [2022]. Note that for better illustration of class/module method types, we provide several type synonyms to represent the variant types of the eDSL. The inferred type signatures are checked as subtypes of the method type annotations. For the unannotated raw version of this example, please refer to our open-source implementation repository or our artifact.

```
class Circle(radius: Int)
class Outside[out Region](a: Region)
class Union[out Region](a: Region, b: Region)
class Intersect[out Region](a: Region, b: Region)
class Translate[out Region](v: Vector, a: Region)
//| class Circle(radius: Int)
//| class Outside[Region](a: Region)
//| class Union[Region](a: Region, b: Region)
//| class Intersect[Region](a: Region, b: Region)
//| class Translate[Region](v: Vector, a: Region)
type BaseLang[T] = Circle | Intersect[T] | Union[T] | Outside[T] |
   Translate[T]
//| type BaseLang[T] = Circle | Intersect[T] | Outside[T] | Translate[T] |
   Union[T]
mixin SizeBase {
  fun size(r) =
    if r is
                     then 1
     Circle(_)
                     then this.size(a) + 1
     Outside(a)
     Union(a, b)
                     then this.size(a) + this.size(b) + 1
      Intersect(a, b) then this.size(a) + this.size(b) + 1
     Translate(_, a) then this.size(a) + 1
}
//| mixin SizeBase() {
//| this: {size: 'a \rightarrow Int}
//| fun size: (Circle | Intersect['a] | Outside['a] | Translate['a] |
  Union['a]) \rightarrow Int
//| }
*****
fun round(n: Num): Int = 0
//| fun round: (n: Num) \rightarrow Int
fun go(x, offset) =
 if x is 0 then Circle(1)
  else
    let shared = go(x - 1, round(offset / 2))
    Union(Translate(Vector(0 - offset, 0), shared),
         Translate(Vector(offset, 0), shared))
//| fun go: \forall 'Region. (0 | Int & ~0, Int) \rightarrow 'Region
//| where
//| 'Region :> Circle | Union[Translate['Region]]
// * Note that first-class polymorphism manages (correctly) to preserve the
   universal quantification
let circles = go(2, 1024)
//| let circles: \forall 'Region. 'Region
```

```
//| where
//| 'Region :> Circle | Union[Translate['Region]]
//| circles
//| = Union {}
class Univ()
class Empty()
class Scale[out Region](v: Vector, a: Region)
//| class Univ()
//| class Empty()
//| class Scale[Region](v: Vector, a: Region)
type ExtLang[T] = Univ | Empty | Scale[T]
//| type ExtLang[T] = Empty | Scale[T] | Univ
mixin SizeExt {
  fun size(a) =
   if a is
     Univ
               then 1
                then 1
     Empty
     Scale(_, b) then this.size(b) + 1
   else super.size(a)
}
//| mixin SizeExt() {
//| super: {size: 'a \rightarrow 'b}
//| this: {size: 'c \rightarrow Int}
//| fun size: (Empty | Object & 'a & ~#Empty & ~#Scale & ~#Univ | Scale['
  c] | Univ) \rightarrow (Int | 'b)
//| }
type RegionLang = BaseLang[RegionLang] | ExtLang[RegionLang]
//| type RegionLang = BaseLang[RegionLang] | ExtLang[RegionLang]
module TestSize extends SizeBase, SizeExt {
 fun size: RegionLang \rightarrow Int
}
//| module TestSize {
//| fun size: RegionLang \rightarrow Int
//| }
TestSize.size(Empty())
//| Int
//| res
//| = 1
TestSize.size(circles)
//| Int
//| res
//| = 13
```

```
TestSize.size(Scale(Vector(1, 1), circles))
//| Int
//| res
//| = 14
// a stupid power (Int ** Int) implementation
fun pow(x, a) =
  if a is 0 then 1
  else x * pow(x, a - 1)
//| fun pow: (Int, 0 | Int & ~0) \rightarrow Int
mixin Contains {
  fun contains(a, p) =
    if a is
      Circle(r)
                        then pow(p.x, 2) + pow(p.y, 2) <= pow(r, 2)</pre>
      Outside(a)
                         then not (this.contains(a, p))
      Union(lhs, rhs)
                       then
        this.contains(lhs, p) or this.contains(rhs, p)
      Intersect(lhs, rhs) then
        this.contains(lhs, p) and this.contains(rhs, p)
      Translate(v, a)
                         then
        this.contains(a, Vector(p.x - v.x, p.y - v.y))
}
//| mixin Contains() {
//| this: {contains: ('a, 'b) \rightarrow Bool & ('c, Vector) \rightarrow 'd}
//| fun contains: (Circle | Intersect['a] | Outside['a] | Translate['c] |
   Union['a], {x: Int, y: Int} & 'b) \rightarrow (Bool | 'd)
//| }
type BaseRegionLang = BaseLang[BaseRegionLang]
//| type BaseRegionLang = BaseLang[BaseRegionLang]
module TestContains extends Contains {
 fun contains: (BaseRegionLang, Vector) \rightarrow Bool
}
//| module TestContains {
//| fun contains: (BaseRegionLang, Vector) \rightarrow Bool
//| }
TestContains.contains(Translate(Vector(0, 0), Circle(1)), Vector(0, 0))
//| Bool
//| res
//| = true
TestContains.contains(Intersect(Translate(Vector(0, 0), Circle(1)),
                               Circle(1)), Vector(0, 0))
//| Bool
//| res
//| = true
TestContains.contains(circles, Vector(0, 0))
```

```
//| Bool
//| res
//| = false
// ***************** Dependencies, Complex Interpretations, and Domain-
   fun toString(a: Int): Str = "foo"
fun concat(a: Str, b: Str): Str = a
//| fun toString: (a: Int) \rightarrow Str
//| fun concat: (a: Str, b: Str) \rightarrow Str
mixin Text {
  fun text(e) =
    if e is
      Circle(r) then
        concat("a circular region of radius ", toString(r))
      Outside(a) then
        concat("outside a region of size ", toString(this.size(a)))
      Union
                 then
        concat("the union of two regions of size ", toString(this.size(e)))
      Intersect then
        concat("the intersection of two regions of size ",
          toString(this.size(e)))
      Translate then
        concat("a translated region of size ", toString(this.size(e)))
}
//| mixin Text() {
//| this: {size: (Intersect[nothing] | Translate['Region] | Union[nothing
  ] | 'a) \rightarrow Int}
//| fun text: (Circle | Intersect[anything] | Outside['a] | Translate['
  Region] | Union[anything]) \rightarrow Str
//| }
module SizeText extends SizeBase, Text {
  fun size: BaseRegionLang \rightarrow Int
  fun text: BaseRegionLang \rightarrow Str
}
//| module SizeText {
//| fun size: BaseRegionLang \rightarrow Int
//| fun text: BaseRegionLang \rightarrow Str
//| }
SizeText.text(circles)
//| Str
//| res
//| = 'the union of two regions of size '
SizeText.size(circles)
//| Int
//| res
```

```
SizeText.text(Intersect(Translate(Vector(0, 0), Circle(1)), Circle(1)))
//| Str
//| res
//| = 'the intersection of two regions of size '
SizeText.size(Intersect(Translate(Vector(0, 0), Circle(1)), Circle(1)))
//| Int
//| res
//| = 4
mixin IsUniv {
  fun isUniv(e) =
    if e is
      Univ
                       then true
      Outside(a)
                       then this.isEmpty(a)
      Union(a, b) then this.isUniv(a) or this.isUniv(b)
      Intersect(a, b) then this.isUniv(a) and this.isUniv(b)
      Translate(_, a) then this.isUniv(a)
                     then this.isUniv(a)
      Scale(_, a)
    else false
}
//| mixin IsUniv() {
//| this: {isEmpty: 'a \rightarrow 'b, isUniv: 'c \rightarrow Bool & 'd \rightarrow 'b}
//| fun isUniv: (Intersect['c] | Object & ~#Intersect & ~#Outside & ~#
   Scale & ~#Translate & ~#Union & ~#Univ | Outside['a] | Scale['d] |
   Translate['d] | Union['c] | Univ) → (Bool | 'b)
//| }
mixin IsEmpty {
  fun isEmpty(e) =
    if e is
                       then true
      Univ
      Outside(a)
                     then this.isUniv(a)
      Union(a, b)
                      then this.isEmpty(a) or this.isEmpty(b)
      Intersect(a, b) then this.isEmpty(a) and this.isEmpty(b)
      Translate(_, a) then this.isEmpty(a)
                     then this.isEmpty(a)
      Scale(_, a)
    else false
}
//| mixin IsEmpty() {
//| this: {isEmpty: 'a \rightarrow Bool & 'b \rightarrow 'c, isUniv: 'd \rightarrow 'c}
//| fun isEmpty: (Intersect['a] | Object & ~#Intersect & ~#Outside & ~#
   Scale & ~#Translate & ~#Union & ~#Univ | Outside['d] | Scale['b] |
   Translate['b] | Union['a] | Univ) → (Bool | 'c)
//| }
module IsUnivIsEmpty extends IsUniv, IsEmpty {
 fun isEmpty: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
  fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
}
```

//| = 13

```
//| module IsUnivIsEmpty {
//| fun isEmpty: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| }
module IsUnivIsEmpty extends IsEmpty, IsUniv {
  fun isEmpty: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
  fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
}
//| module IsUnivIsEmpty {
//| fun isEmpty: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| }
IsUnivIsEmpty.isUniv(circles)
//| Bool
//| res
//| = false
IsUnivIsEmpty.isEmpty(circles)
//| Bool
//| res
//| = false
mixin Eliminate {
  fun eliminate(e) =
    if e is
      Outside(Outside(a)) then this.eliminate(a)
                           then Outside(this.eliminate(a))
      Outside(a)
      Union(a, b)
                            then
        Union(this.eliminate(a), this.eliminate(b))
      Intersect(a, b)
                            then
        Intersect(this.eliminate(a), this.eliminate(b))
      Translate(v, a) then Translate(v, this.eliminate(a))
                          then Scale(v, this.eliminate(a))
      Scale(v, a)
    else e
}
//| mixin Eliminate() {
//| this: {
//| eliminate: 'a \rightarrow 'b & 'c \rightarrow 'Region & 'd \rightarrow 'Region0 & 'e \rightarrow '
  Region1 & 'f \rightarrow 'Region2 & 'g \rightarrow 'Region3
//| }
//| fun eliminate: (Intersect['e] | Object & 'b & ~#Intersect & ~#Outside
    & ~#Scale & ~#Translate & ~#Union | Outside['c & (Object & ~#Outside |
   Outside['a])] | Scale['g] | Translate['f] | Union['d]) → (Intersect['
   Region1] | Outside['Region] | Scale['Region3] | Translate['Region2] |
   Union['Region0] | 'b)
//| }
```

module TestElim extends Eliminate {

```
fun eliminate: RegionLang \rightarrow RegionLang
}
//| module TestElim {
//| fun eliminate: RegionLang \rightarrow RegionLang
//| }
TestElim.eliminate(Outside(Outside(Univ())))
//| RegionLang
//| res
//| = Univ {}
TestElim.eliminate(circles)
//| RegionLang
//| res
//| = Union {}
module Lang extends SizeBase, SizeExt, Contains, Text, IsUniv, IsEmpty,
   Eliminate {
  fun contains: (BaseRegionLang, Vector) \rightarrow Bool
  \textbf{fun} \text{ eliminate: RegionLang } \rightarrow \text{ RegionLang}
  \textbf{fun} \text{ isEmpty:} \quad \text{RegionLang} \rightarrow \text{Bool}
  fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
  fun text:
}
//| module Lang {
//| fun contains: (BaseRegionLang, Vector) \rightarrow Bool
//| fun eliminate: RegionLang \rightarrow RegionLang
//| fun isEmpty: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| fun isUniv: RegionLang \rightarrow Bool
//| fun size: RegionLang \rightarrow Int
//| fun text: BaseRegionLang \rightarrow Str
//| }
Lang.size(circles)
//| Int
//| res
//| = 13
Lang.contains(circles, Vector(0, 0))
//| Bool
//| res
//| = false
Lang.text(circles)
//| Str
//| res
//| = 'the union of two regions of size '
```

## Lang.isUniv(circles)

//| Bool //| res //| **=** false

## Lang.isEmpty(circles)

//| Bool //| res //| **=** false

## Lang.size(Lang.eliminate(circles))

//| Int //| res //| = 13