

# Type- and Control-Flow Analysis

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December 15, 2015  
Advances in Programming Languages and Systems (APLS)

## Control-flow analysis

A compile-time approximation of the “flow” of functions in program: which functions might be bound to a given variable at run time.

- an enabling analysis for the compilation of functional languages
  - because control flow is not syntactically apparent
- typically formulated for dynamically- or simply-typed languages

# Introduction

## Control-flow analysis

A compile-time approximation of the “flow” of functions in program: which functions might be bound to a given variable at run time.

- an enabling analysis for the compilation of functional languages
  - because control flow is not syntactically apparent
- typically formulated for dynamically- or simply-typed languages
  
- popular statically-typed functional languages are richly-typed
- System F (and extensions) are popular intermediate languages

Seek a control-flow analysis formulated for System F (and extensions).  
Exploit well-typedness to obtain more precise control-flow information.

# Example

$f1 = \lambda x1 . \dots$

$f2 = \lambda x2 . \dots$

$id = \lambda x . x$

$res1 = id \ f1$

$res2 = id \ f2$

# Example

f1 =  $\lambda x1 . \dots$

f2 =  $\lambda x2 . \dots$

id =  $\lambda x . x$



res1 = id f1


res2 = id f2

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f1 =  $\lambda x1 . \dots$

f2 =  $\lambda x2 . \dots$

id =  $\lambda x . x$



res1 = id f1

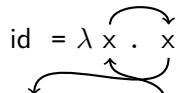
res2 = id f2

# Example

f1 =  $\lambda x1 . \dots$

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res2 = id f2

	OCFA
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	{ f1 , f2 }
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	{ f1 , f2 }
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2})$	{ f1 , f2 }

OCFA — “classic” **monovariant/context-insensitive** control-flow analysis

# Example

$f1 : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} = \lambda x1 : \text{Int}. \dots$

$f2 : \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool} = \lambda x2 : \text{Bool}. \dots$

$\text{id} : \forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha = \Lambda \alpha . \lambda x : \alpha . x$

$\text{res1} : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} = \text{id} \ [\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}] \ f1$

$\text{res2} : \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool} = \text{id} \ [\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}] \ f2$

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$f1 : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} = \lambda x1 : \text{Int}. \dots$

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	CFA
$\hat{\rho}(x^\alpha)$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}}, f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1}^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}})$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}}, f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2}^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}})$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}}, f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$

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$f1 : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} = \lambda x1 : \text{Int}. \dots$

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	CFA then type-filter
$\hat{\rho}(x^\alpha)$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}}, f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1}^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}})$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2}^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}})$	$\{ f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$

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$f1 : \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} = \lambda x1 : \text{Int}. \dots$

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	TCFA
$\hat{\rho}(x^\alpha)$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}}, f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1}^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}})$	$\{ f1^{\text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}} \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2}^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}})$	$\{ f2^{\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}} \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\alpha)$	$\{ \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int}, \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool} \}$



# Example

`id:∀α. α → α = Λα. λx:α. x`

`app:∀β. ∀γ. (β → γ) → β → γ =`

`Λβ.Λγ.λf:β → γ.λz:β. let g:β → γ = id [β → γ] f in g z`

`h1:int → int → int = λa1:int.λa2:int. a1+a2`

`h2:bool → int → int = λb1:bool.λb2:int. if b1 then b2+1 else b2`

`h3:str → int → int = λc1:str.λc2:int. len(c1)+c2`

`res1:int → int → int = id [int → int → int] h1`

`res2:bool → int → int = id [bool → int → int] h2`

`res3:int → int = app [str] [int → int] h3 "zzz"`

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$\text{res3}:\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} = \text{app } [\text{str}] [\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}] \text{ h3 "zzz"}$

	CFA
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(f)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(g)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
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	CFA then type-filter
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(f)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(g)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
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$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
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$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2})$	$\{ \lambda b1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res3})$	$\{ \lambda a2 , \lambda b2 , \lambda c2 \}$

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$\text{res3}:\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} = \text{app } [\text{str}] \ [\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}] \ \text{h3 } \text{"zzz"}$

	(T+C)FA
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(f)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(g)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2})$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res3})$	$\{ \lambda a2 , \lambda b2 , \lambda c2 \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\alpha)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \beta \rightarrow \gamma \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\beta)$	$\{ \text{str} \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\gamma)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \}$

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$\text{res3}:\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} = \text{app } [\text{str}] [\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}] \text{ h3 "zzz"}$

	(T+C)FA then type-filter
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(f)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(g)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
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$\hat{\phi}(\alpha)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \beta \rightarrow \gamma \}$
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$\hat{\rho}(\text{res3})$	$\{ \lambda a2 , \lambda b2 , \lambda c2 \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\alpha)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \beta \rightarrow \gamma \}$
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	(T&C)FA
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
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$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 \}$
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$\text{res2}:\text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} = \text{id } [\text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}] \text{ h2}$

$\text{res3}:\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} = \text{app } [\text{str}] [\text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}] \text{ h3 "zzz"}$

	(T&C)FA
$\hat{\rho}(x)$	$\{ \lambda a1 , \lambda b1 , \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(f)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(g)$	$\{ \lambda c1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res1})$	$\{ \lambda a1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res2})$	$\{ \lambda b1 \}$
$\hat{\rho}(\text{res3})$	$\{ \lambda c2 \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\alpha)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} , \beta \rightarrow \gamma \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\beta)$	$\{ \text{str} \}$
$\hat{\phi}(\gamma)$	$\{ \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int} \}$

# Introduction

A type- and control-flow analysis for System F

## Type-flow analysis

A compile-time approximation of the “flow” of types in program:  
which types might be bound to a given type variable at run time



determines type abstractions  
flowing to type applications



rejects flows incompatible  
with static typing

## Control-flow analysis

A compile-time approximation of the “flow” of functions in program:  
which functions might be bound to a given variable at run time

## A type- and control-flow analysis for System F

Types improve the precision of the control-flow analysis;  
improve the effectiveness of optimizations based on the analysis.

- inlining, copy propagation, dead-code elimination, ...

Type-flow analysis enables novel optimizations.

- polymorphic functions used at a finite number of types  
can be optimized to monomorphic instances
- optimization of intensional polymorphism (i.e., typecase  $\alpha$  of  $\dots$ )

- Specification-Based Formulation of TCFA (IFL'12)

A collection of declarative constraints that a valid analysis result must satisfy; given a proposed analysis result, verify that it satisfies the constraints.

- Soundness, Existence, Decidability, Computability, Complexity

- Flow-Graph-Based Formulation of TCFA (IFL'14)

A graph with edges corresponding to flow of abstract values; analysis result determined by graph reachability.

- Soundness, Algorithm, Complexity

- Related and Future Work

# Specification-based Formulation: Acceptability

$\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e$  “ $\hat{\phi}$  and  $\hat{\rho}$  are *acceptable* for  $e$ ”

$\hat{\phi}$  and  $\hat{\rho}$  approximate every run-time type and value environment that arises during evaluation

Abstract type environments map type variables to sets of (syntactic) types.  
Abstract value environments map variables to sets of (syntactic) values.

$$\begin{aligned} ATEnv = TyVar \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Type) &\ni \hat{\phi} ::= \{ \alpha \mapsto \{ \tau, \dots \}, \dots \} \\ AVEEnv = Var \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Val) &\ni \hat{\rho} ::= \{ x \mapsto \{ v, \dots \}, \dots \} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\overline{\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S x}$$

$$\frac{\lambda z:\tau_z. e_b \in \hat{\rho}(x) \quad \hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e_b \quad \hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e}{\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S \text{let } x:\tau_x = \lambda z:\tau_z. e_b \text{ in } e} \quad \frac{\Lambda \beta. e_b \in \hat{\rho}(x) \quad \hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e_b \quad \hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e}{\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S \text{let } x:\tau_x = \Lambda \beta. e_b \text{ in } e}$$

$$\frac{\bigwedge_{\lambda z:\tau_z. e_b \in \hat{\rho}(x_f)} \left( \forall v_a \in \hat{\rho}(x_a) . v_a \in \hat{\rho}(z) \wedge \forall v_b \in \hat{\rho}(\text{ResOf}(e_b)) . v_b \in \hat{\rho}(x) \right) \quad \hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S e}{\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \models_S \text{let } x:\tau_x = x_f \ x_a \text{ in } e}$$

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$$\hat{\phi} \models_S \tau_1 \approx \tau_2$$

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$\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  “expand” to a common closed type;  
 $\theta_1 = \theta_2$  is syntactic equality

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Is  $\hat{\phi} \models_S \tau_1 \approx \tau_2$  decidable?

“Recursion” in abstract type environment foils exhaustive enumeration;  
may be infinitely many  $\theta$  such that  $\hat{\phi} \models_S \tau \Rightarrow \theta$ .

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$\hat{\phi} \vDash_S \tau_1 \approx \tau_2$  is decidable!

Interpret  $\hat{\phi}$  as (productions for) a *regular-tree grammar*;  
a derivation of  $\hat{\phi} \vDash_S \alpha \Rightarrow \theta$  is a parse tree.

Regular-tree grammars are closed under intersection  
and emptiness of regular-tree grammars is decidable.

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and emptiness of regular-tree grammars is decidable.

Least  $\hat{\rho}$  and  $\hat{\phi}$  such that  $\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \vDash_S e$  computable by lfp iteration.

# Considering Complexity

Is the type- and control-flow analysis *efficiently* computable?



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	Specification-Based (naïve lfp iteration)	Flow-Graph-Based (work-queue iteration)
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TCFA	$O(n^{13})$ $O(n^{10})$ amortized	$O(n^4)$ $O(l^3 + l^2m^2 + m^4)$

- $l$ : the size of variables, values, and calls
- $m$ : the size of type variables and types

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$$O(l^3 + m^4)$$



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- Expect size of programs of size  $n$  to be dominated by size  $l$  of variables, values, and calls, not by size  $m$  of type variables and types
  - A program may have many defs and uses of `int → int` funs, all sharing the same (top-level) type def

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  - A program may have many defs and uses of `int`  $\rightarrow$  `int` funs, all sharing the same (top-level) type def
- Not bad in theory; much better in practice
- Worst-case analysis assumes *every* value flows to *every* variable and *every* type flows to *every* type variable
  - But, CFA (and TCFA?) is useful and used in compilers
    - CFA finds many variables with small numbers (often 1) of values
    - TCFA finds many type variables with small numbers (often 1) of types
    - Algorithm only explores concl of found flows

# Related Work (and Lack Thereof)

- Need to distinguish between
  - flow analyses expressed as sophisticated type systems (many)
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- Need to distinguish between
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  - flow analyses of languages with sophisticated type systems (few)
  
- For simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus, OCFA not improved by type filtering
- For rank-1 polymorphism (i.e., “let”-polymorphism), either use
  - monomorphisation (explicitly eliminate polymorphism before analysis)  
Flow-directed Closure Conversion [Cejtin, Jagannathan, & Weeks (ESOP'00)]
  - polyvariance (implicitly eliminate polymorphism during analysis)  
Set-based Program Analysis of ML Programs [Heintze (LFP'94)]
- For full System F, assume type-based analyses are “good enough”

# Related Work (and Lack Thereof)

- Need to distinguish between
  - flow analyses expressed as sophisticated type systems (many)
  - flow analyses of languages with sophisticated type systems (few)
- Type-Directed Flow Analysis for Typed Intermediate Languages; Jagannathan, Weeks, & Wright (SAS'97)
  - limited to predicative System F with recursion
  - polyvariant analysis
  - diverges on programs using polymorphic recursion
- Type-sensitive Control-Flow Analysis; Reppy (ML'06)
  - Suggests mapping polymorphism to  $\top$

# Future Work

- Improve precision of type- and control-flow analysis
- Extend type- and control-flow to System  $F_\omega$
- Applications of type- and control-flow analysis

Improve precision of type- and control-flow analysis:

- Adapt well-known improvements to control-flow analyses:
  - polyvariant/context-sensitive analysis
  - reachability/demand-driven analysis
  - abstract reachability & abstract cardinality
  - ...



# Future Work

Improve precision of type- and control-flow analysis:

- Explore improvements motivated by well-typedness:

$$\frac{\bigwedge_{\lambda z:\tau_z . e_b \in \hat{\rho}(x_f)} \left( \begin{array}{l} \forall v_a \in \hat{\rho}(x_a) . \hat{\phi} \Vdash_S \text{TyOf}(v) \approx \tau_z \Rightarrow v_a \in \hat{\rho}(z) \wedge \\ \left( \begin{array}{l} \exists v_a \in \hat{\rho}(x_a) . \hat{\phi} \Vdash_S \text{TyOf}(v) \approx \tau_z \Rightarrow \\ \forall v_b \in \hat{\rho}(\text{ResOf}(e_b)) . \hat{\phi} \Vdash_S \text{TyOf}(v) \approx \tau_x \Rightarrow v_b \in \hat{\rho}(x) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)}{\hat{\phi}; \hat{\rho} \Vdash_S \text{let } x:\alpha_x = x_f \ x_a \text{ in } e}$$

- if no actual arguments flow to formal argument, then function could not be called (and no flow of function result)

# Future Work

Improve precision of type- and control-flow analysis:

- Explore improvements motivated by well-typedness:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rec loop} &= \Lambda \alpha. \lambda x:\alpha. \text{loop } [\alpha \times \alpha] (x,x) \\ \text{loop } [\text{Int}] &1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\phi}(\alpha) = \{ \text{Int}, \alpha \times \alpha \} \quad \hat{\phi} \models_S \alpha \Rightarrow (\text{Int} \times \text{Int}) \times \text{Int}$$

- but all dynamic instantiations of  $\alpha$  are “perfect binary trees”
- interpret (portions of) abstract type environment as an L-system?

# Future Work

Extend type- and control-flow analysis to System  $F_\omega$ :

$$\text{Kind} \ni \kappa ::= \star \mid \kappa \Rightarrow \kappa \quad \text{Type} \ni \tau ::= \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \alpha \mid \forall \alpha:\kappa. \tau \mid \lambda \alpha:\kappa. \tau \mid \tau \tau$$

- flow soundness with modified type-compatibility judgement:

$$\frac{\hat{\phi} \models_S \tau_1 \Rightarrow \theta_1 \quad \hat{\phi} \models_S \tau_2 \Rightarrow \theta_2 \quad \theta_1 \equiv_{\beta\eta} \theta_2}{\hat{\phi} \models_S \tau_1 \approx \tau_2}$$

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- is type compatibility decidable?

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- is type compatibility decidable?
  - $\theta_1 \equiv_{\beta\eta} \theta_2$  is decidable for well-kinded types (by normalization)
  - regular-tree grammar intersection/emptiness not directly applicable

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- is type compatibility decidable?
  - run a control-flow analysis over types to approximate applications; reduce to regular-tree grammar intersection/emptiness, with a loss of precision and completeness (wrt. type-compatibility judgement)

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- is type compatibility decidable?
  - algorithm for regular-tree grammar intersection somewhat similar to type equivalence with type definitions by weak-head normalization; combine the two algorithms in a decision procedure?

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- is type compatibility decidable?
  - canonizing substitution is alternative approach to type equivalence, maintaining types in a canonical  $\beta$ -normal/ $\eta$ -long form; exploit this added structure in a decision procedure?



Applications of type- and control-flow analysis:

- Flow Directed Defunctionalization of System F
  - compile higher-order polymorphic source language to first-order polymorphic target language
  - type- and control-flow analysis to minimize dispatches
- Flow-directed Closure Conversion [Cejtin, Jagannathan, & Weeks (ESOP'00)]
- Polymorphic Typed Defunctionalization [Pottier & Gauthier (POPL'04)]
- Defunctionalizing Polymorphic Types [Midtgaard (PhD Dissertation'07)]

# Type- and Control-Flow Analysis for System F

- Exploit types to obtain more precise control-flow information.
- Type-flow and control-flow are mutually beneficial.
- Sound analysis via specification-based formulation.
- Computable analysis via interpretation as regular-tree grammar.
- Efficient algorithm via flow-graph-based formulation.
- Many directions for future work.

## Questions?