

## Last time

### System F $\omega$

$$\frac{K_1 \text{ is a kind} \quad K_2 \text{ is a kind}}{K_1 \Rightarrow K_2 \text{ is a kind}} \Rightarrow\text{-kind}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha :: K_1 \vdash A :: K_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda \alpha :: K_1. A :: K_1 \Rightarrow K_2} \Rightarrow\text{-intro}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash A :: K_1 \Rightarrow K_2 \\ \Gamma \vdash B :: K_1 \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash A B :: K_2} \Rightarrow\text{-elim}$$

(and encoding data types: 1, 2,  $\mathbb{N}$ , +, lists, nested types and  $\equiv$ )

This time

$$\Gamma \vdash M : ?$$

# What is type inference?

```
# fun f g x -> f (g x);;
- : ('a -> 'b) -> ('c -> 'a) -> 'c -> 'b = <fun>
```

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## Goal

succinctness of annotation-free code

+

safety and expressiveness of System  $F\omega$

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- : ('a -> 'b) -> ('c -> 'a) -> 'c -> 'b = <fun>
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## Goal

succinctness of annotation-free code

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safety and expressiveness of System  $F\omega$

## Bad news

the goal is unachievable

# The ML calculus

## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

$$\forall \alpha. \forall \beta. \alpha \rightarrow (\beta \rightarrow \beta)$$

$$\forall \alpha. (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \alpha$$

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta)$$

## Let-bound polymorphism

```
let id = fun x -> x  
in id id
```

```
let id x = x  
in id id
```

```
let f id = id id  
in f (fun x -> x)
```

```
(fun id -> id id)  
(fun x -> x)
```

## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \checkmark$$

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$$\forall \alpha. \forall \beta. \alpha \rightarrow (\beta \rightarrow \beta) \quad \checkmark$$

$$\forall \alpha. (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \alpha \quad \times$$

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta)$$

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let f id = id id  
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(fun id -> id id)  
(fun x -> x)
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let id = fun x -> x  
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let id x = x  
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let f id = id id  
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```

(**fun** id -> id id)  
(**fun** x -> x)

## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \checkmark$$

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## Let-bound polymorphism

```
let id = fun x -> x  
in id id
```

✓

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let id x = x  
in id id
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```
let f id = id id  
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```

(**fun** id -> id id)  
(**fun** x -> x)

## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \checkmark$$

$$\forall \alpha. \forall \beta. \alpha \rightarrow (\beta \rightarrow \beta) \quad \checkmark$$

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$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta) \quad \times$$

## Let-bound polymorphism

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let id = fun x -> x  
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✓

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let id x = x  
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(**fun** id -> id id)  
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## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \checkmark$$

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## Let-bound polymorphism

```
let id = fun x -> x  
in id id
```

✓

```
let id x = x  
in id id
```

✓

```
let f id = id id  
in f (fun x -> x)
```

✗

```
(fun id -> id id)  
(fun x -> x)
```

## Prenex quantification

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \checkmark$$

$$\forall \alpha. \forall \beta. \alpha \rightarrow (\beta \rightarrow \beta) \quad \checkmark$$

$$\forall \alpha. (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \alpha \quad \times$$

$$\forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow (\forall \beta. \beta \rightarrow \beta) \quad \times$$

## Let-bound polymorphism

```
let id = fun x -> x  
in id id
```

✓

```
let id x = x  
in id id
```

✓

```
let f id = id id  
in f (fun x -> x)
```

✗

```
(fun id -> id id)  
(fun x -> x)
```

✗

# Types and schemes

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash B \text{ is a type}} \mathcal{B}\text{-types}$$
$$\frac{\alpha \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \text{ is a type}} \alpha\text{-types}$$
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash A \text{ is a type} \\ \Gamma \vdash B \text{ is a type} \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B \text{ is a type}} \rightarrow\text{-types}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma, \bar{\alpha} \vdash A \text{ is a type}}{\Gamma \vdash \forall \bar{\alpha}. A \text{ is a scheme}} \text{scheme}$$

# Environments

$\frac{}{\cdot \text{ is an environment}}$   $\Gamma\text{-..}$

$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \Gamma \text{ is an environment} \\ \Gamma \vdash S \text{ is a scheme} \end{array}}{\Gamma, x : S \text{ is an environment}}$   $\Gamma\text{-:..}$

$\frac{\Gamma \text{ is an environment}}{\Gamma, \alpha \text{ is an environment}}$   $\Gamma\text{-::..}$

## Typing rules for $\rightarrow$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. M : A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow\text{-intro}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B \\ \Gamma \vdash N : A \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash M \ N : B} \rightarrow\text{-elim}$$

## Typing rules for schemes

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \quad \bar{\alpha} \cap fv(\Gamma) = \emptyset \quad \Gamma, x : \forall \bar{\alpha}. A \vdash N : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N : B} \text{ scheme-intro}$$

$$\frac{x : \forall \bar{\alpha}. A \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash B \text{ is a type} \quad (\text{for } B \in \bar{B})}{\Gamma \vdash x : A[\bar{\alpha} := \bar{B}]} \text{ scheme-elim}$$

# Milner's algorithm

# Substitutions

$[a_1 \mapsto A_1, a_2 \mapsto A_2, \dots a_n \mapsto A_n]$

For example, let

$\sigma$  be  $\{a \mapsto B, b \mapsto (B \rightarrow B)\}$

$A$  be  $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$

Then

$\sigma A$  is  $B \rightarrow (B \rightarrow B) \rightarrow B$ .

If

$\sigma A = B$  (for some  $\sigma$ )

then we say

$B$  is a *substitution instance* of  $A$ .

# Constraints

$$a = b$$

$$a \rightarrow b = \mathcal{B} \rightarrow b$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}$$

$$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

# Unification

$\text{unify} : \text{ConstraintSet} \rightarrow \text{Substitution}$

$$\text{unify}(\emptyset) = []$$

$$\text{unify}(\{A = A\} \cup C) = \text{unify}(C)$$

$$\text{unify}(\{a = A\} \cup C) = \text{unify}([a \mapsto A]C) \circ [a \mapsto A]$$

when  $a \notin \text{ftv}(A)$

$$\text{unify}(\{A = a\} \cup C) = \text{unify}([a \mapsto A]C) \circ [a \mapsto A]$$

when  $a \notin \text{ftv}(A)$

$$\text{unify}(\{A \rightarrow B = A' \rightarrow B'\} \cup C) = \text{unify}(\{A = A', B = B'\} \cup C)$$

$$\text{unify}(\{A = B\} \cup C) = FAIL$$

# Algorithm J

$J : \text{Environment} \times \text{Expression} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

$J(\Gamma, \lambda x.M) = b \rightarrow A$   
where  $A = J(\Gamma, x:b, M)$   
and  $b$  is fresh

$J(\Gamma, x) = A[\bar{\alpha} := \bar{b}]$   
where  $\Gamma(x) = \forall \bar{\alpha}.A$   
and  $\bar{b}$  are fresh

$J(\Gamma, M N) = b$   
where  $A = J(\Gamma, M)$   
and  $B = J(\Gamma, N)$   
and unify' ( $\{A = B \rightarrow b\}$ )  
succeeds  
and  $b$  is fresh

$J(\Gamma, \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N) = B$   
where  $A = J(\Gamma, M)$   
and  $B = J(\Gamma, x:\forall \bar{\alpha}.A, N)$   
and  $\bar{\alpha} = \text{ftv}(A) \setminus \text{ftv}(\Gamma)$

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
let id = λy.y in  
apply id) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) =  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

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J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
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J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) = b1
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) = b1  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, x) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

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J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) = b1  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, x) = b2
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) = b1  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, x) = b2  
unify({b1 = b2 → b3}) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = b1 → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, f) = b1  
J(·, f : b1, x : b2, x) = b2  
unify({b1 = b2 → b3}) = {b1 ↪ b2 → b3}
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b2 → b3, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, f x) = b3  
J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, f) = b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, x) = b2  
unify({b1 = b2 → b3}) = {b1 ↪ b2 → b3}
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, f : b2 → b3, λx.f x) = b2 → b3  
    J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, f x) = b3  
        J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, f) = b2 → b3  
            J(·, f : b2 → b3, x : b2, x) = b2  
ftv((b2 → b3) → b2 → b3) = {b2, b3}  
ftv(·) = {}  
{b2, b3} \ {} = {b2, b3}
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) =
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, y : b4, y)  
= b4
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
ftv(b4 → b4) = {b4}  
ftv(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3) = {}  
{b4} \ {} = {b4}
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id:∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b5
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id:∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b5  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id:∀α4.α4 → α4, apply)  
= (b6 → b7) → b6 → b7
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id: ∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b5  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, apply)  
= (b6 → b7) → b6 → b7  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, id)  
= b8 → b8
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
unify ( { ( b6 → b7 ) → b6 → b7 = ( b8 → b8 ) → b5 } )
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
unify ( { ( b6 → b7 ) → b6 → b7 = ( b8 → b8 ) → b5 } )  
= unify ( { b6 → b7 = b8 → b8 ,  
           b6 → b7 = b5 } )
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
unify ( { ( b6 → b7 ) → b6 → b7 = ( b8 → b8 ) → b5 } )
= unify ( { b6 → b7 = b8 → b8 ,
            b6 → b7 = b5 } )
= unify ( { b6 = b8 ,
            b7 = b8 ,
            b6 → b7 = b5 } )
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
unify ( { ( b6 → b7 ) → b6 → b7 = ( b8 → b8 ) → b5 } )
= unify ( { b6 → b7 = b8 → b8 ,
            b6 → b7 = b5 } )
= unify ( { b6 = b8 ,
            b7 = b8 ,
            b6 → b7 = b5 } )
= { b6 ↪ b8 , b7 ↪ b8 , b5 ↪ b6 → b7 }
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id: ∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b5  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, apply)  
= (b6 → b7) → b6 → b7  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, id)  
= b8 → b8
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id: ∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b8 → b8  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, apply)  
= (b8 → b8) → b8 → b8  
J(·, apply: ∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    id: ∀α4.α4 → α4, id)  
= b8 → b8
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) =  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    λy.y) = b4 → b4  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id:∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b8 → b8
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
    let id = λy.y in  
        apply id) =  
J(·, λf.λx.f x) = (b2 → b3) → b2 → b3  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3,  
    let id = λy.y in apply id) = b8 → b8  
J(·, apply:∀α2α3. (α2 → α3) → α2 → α3, id:∀α4.α4 → α4,  
    apply id) = b8 → b8
```

## Algorithm J in action

```
J(·, let apply = λf.λx.f x in  
let id = λy.y in  
apply id) = b8 → b8
```

# Type inference in practice

## Type inference and recursion

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : A \quad \bar{\alpha} \notin fv(\Gamma) \quad \Gamma, x : \forall \bar{\alpha}. A \vdash N : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let rec } x = M \text{ in } N : B} \text{ let-rec}$$

## Supporting imperative programming: the value restriction

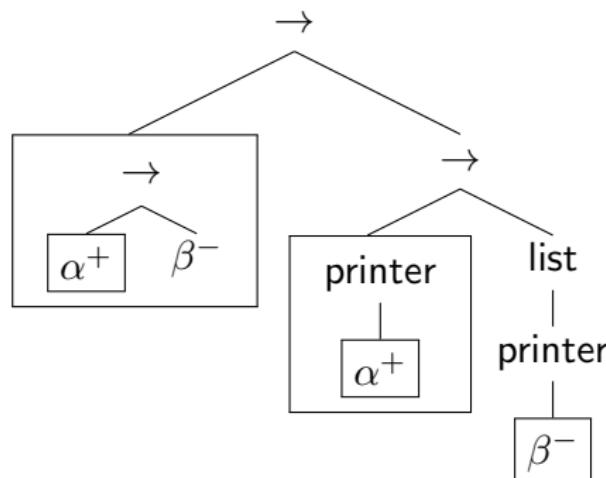
```
type 'a ref = { mutable contents : 'a }
val ref : 'a -> 'a ref
val ( ! ) : 'a ref -> 'a
val ( := ) : 'a ref -> 'a -> unit

let r = ref None in
  r := Some "boom";
  match !r with
    None -> ()
  | Some f -> f ()
```

## Relaxing the value restriction: variance

```
type 'a printer = 'a -> string
```

```
('a -> 'b) -> 'a printer -> 'b printer list
```



## Relaxing the value restriction: the rules

Should we generalize?

- ▶ covariant type variables
- ▶ invariant type variables
- ▶ contravariant type variables
- ▶ bivariant type variables

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## Relaxing the value restriction: the rules

Should we generalize?

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- ▶ invariant type variables ✗
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- ▶ bivariant type variables ✓

## Next time

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B}{\Gamma \vdash N : A}$$
$$\Gamma \vdash M\ N : B$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B}{\Gamma \vdash A}$$
$$\Gamma \vdash B$$