

Formalising the Undeciability of Higher-Order Unification

Simon Spies

Advisor – Yannick Forster

Supervisor – Gert Smolka

Saarland University
Programming Systems Lab.

2nd October 2018

TIMELINE



TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$



TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$



SIMPLY TYPED λ -CALCULUS

$$s, t ::= \lambda x. s \mid s t \mid x \mid c$$
$$A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \mathcal{T}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{g}\}$$
$$\alpha \in \mathcal{TV}$$



SIMPLY TYPED λ -CALCULUS

$$s, t ::= \lambda x. s \mid s t \mid x \mid c$$
$$A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \mathcal{T}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \{a, b, g\}$$
$$\alpha \in \mathcal{TV}$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s : A}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash a : \mathcal{T}} \quad \overline{\Gamma \vdash b : \mathcal{T}}$$
$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash g : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}}$$

SIMPLY TYPED λ -CALCULUS

$$s, t ::= \lambda x. s \mid s t \mid x \mid c$$

$$A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \mathcal{T}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{g}\}$$

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{TV}$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s : A}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{a} : \mathcal{T} \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{b} : \mathcal{T}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{g} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}}$$

$$\frac{\forall (x : A) \in \Gamma. \Delta \vdash \sigma x : A}{\Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma}$$

SIMPLY TYPED λ -CALCULUS

$$s, t ::= \lambda x. s \mid s t \mid x \mid c$$

$$A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \mathcal{T}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{g}\}$$

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{TV}$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s : A}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{a} : \mathcal{T}} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{b} : \mathcal{T}}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{g} : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}}$$

$$\frac{\forall (x : A) \in \Gamma. \Delta \vdash \sigma x : A}{\Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma}$$

$$\boxed{s \succ t}$$

$$\frac{s \succ s'}{\lambda x. s \succ \lambda x. s'}$$



UNIFICATION

$$\mathbf{U} (\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A) :=$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A}$$



UNIFICATION

$$\mathbf{U} (\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A) :=$$

$$\exists \sigma$$

$$s[\sigma] \equiv t[\sigma]$$

$$\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A}$$

$$\boxed{s \equiv t}$$

$$\frac{s \triangleright v \quad t \triangleright v}{s \equiv t}$$



UNIFICATION

$$\mathbf{U} (\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A) := \\ \exists \sigma \Delta. \Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma \quad \text{and} \quad s[\sigma] \equiv t[\sigma]$$

$$\frac{\boxed{\Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A}}{\Gamma \vdash s : A \quad \Gamma \vdash t : A} \\ \Gamma \vdash s \stackrel{?}{=} t : A$$

$$\frac{\boxed{s \equiv t}}{s \triangleright v \quad t \triangleright v} \\ s \equiv t$$



EXAMPLE

$$\mathbf{U}(\Gamma \vdash \lambda xy. f x \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda xy. f y : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$$

$$\Gamma := f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$



EXAMPLE

$$\mathbf{U}(\Gamma \vdash \lambda xy. f x \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda xy. f y : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$$

$$\Gamma := f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

Solution:

$$\sigma := \{f \mapsto \lambda_. z\}$$

$$\Delta := z : \alpha$$



EXAMPLE

$$\mathbf{U}(\Gamma \vdash \lambda xy. f x \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda xy. f y : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha)$$

$$\Gamma := f : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

Solution:

$$\sigma := \{f \mapsto \lambda_. z\}$$

$$\Delta := z : \alpha$$

$$(\lambda xy. f x)[\sigma] \equiv \lambda xy. z$$

$$\equiv \lambda xy. (\sigma f) y$$



*n*th-ORDER UNIFICATION (\mathbf{U}_n)



n th-ORDER UNIFICATION (\mathbf{U}_n) $\text{ord } A$

$$\text{ord } \alpha = 1 \qquad \text{ord } \mathcal{T} = 1$$

$$\text{ord } (A \rightarrow B) =$$

$$\max \{ \text{ord } A + 1, \text{ord } B \}$$



n th-ORDER UNIFICATION (\mathbf{U}_n) $\boxed{\text{ord } A}$

$$\text{ord } \alpha = 1 \quad \text{ord } \mathcal{T} = 1$$

$$\text{ord } (A \rightarrow B) =$$

$$\max \{ \text{ord } A + 1, \text{ord } B \}$$

 $\boxed{\Gamma \vdash_n s : A}$

$$\frac{(x : A) \in \Gamma \quad \text{ord } A \leq n}{\Gamma \vdash_n x : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash_n s : B \quad \text{ord } A < n}{\Gamma \vdash_n \lambda x. s : A \rightarrow B}$$

TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_1 \\ \hline y_1 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_2 \\ \hline y_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \dots \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_n \\ \hline y_n \\ \hline \end{array}$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{y_1}} \quad \boxed{\frac{x_2}{y_2}} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{\frac{x_n}{y_n}}$$

Find

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{y_1}} \quad \boxed{\frac{x_2}{y_2}} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{\frac{x_n}{y_n}}$$

Find

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$

Such that

$$x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_k}$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{y_1}} \quad \boxed{\frac{x_2}{y_2}} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{\frac{x_n}{y_n}}$$

Find

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$

Such that

$$x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_k}$$

Example

$$\boxed{\frac{u}{uu}} \quad \boxed{\frac{v}{vv}} \quad \boxed{\frac{uvv}{u}}$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{y_1}} \quad \boxed{\frac{x_2}{y_2}} \quad \dots \quad \boxed{\frac{x_n}{y_n}}$$

Find

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$

Such that

$$x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_k}$$

Example

$$\boxed{\frac{u}{uu}} \quad \boxed{\frac{v}{vv}} \quad \boxed{\frac{uvv}{u}} \quad [1, \underbrace{3, 2}]$$



PCP with $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$

Given

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_1 \\ \hline y_1 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_2 \\ \hline y_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \dots \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline x_n \\ \hline y_n \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Find

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$

Such that

$$x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_k}$$

Example

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline u \\ \hline uu \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline v \\ \hline vv \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline uvv \\ \hline u \\ \hline \end{array} \quad [1, 3, 2] \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline u \\ \hline uu \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline uvv \\ \hline u \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline v \\ \hline vv \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline uvvvv \\ \hline uvvvv \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3 - \text{IDEA}$

$$\vdash_3 s : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$



$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3 - \text{IDEA}$

$$\vdash_3 s : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

$$s f_1 \cdots f_n t \equiv f_{i_1}(\cdots (f_{i_k} t) \cdots)$$



$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3 - \text{IDEA}$

$$\vdash_3 s : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

$$s f_1 \cdots f_n t \equiv f_{i_1}(\cdots (f_{i_k} t) \cdots)$$



$$\mathbf{PCP} \leq \mathbf{U}_3$$

$$\mathbf{PCP}(S) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{U}_3(f(S))$$

PCP \leq U₃ – ENCODING

Encoding

$$\overline{c_1 c_2 \cdots c_n} = \lambda x. c_1(c_2(\cdots(c_n x))) \quad c_i \in \{u, v\} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$$

PCP \leq U₃ - ENCODING

Encoding

$$\overline{c_1 c_2 \cdots c_n} = \lambda x. c_1(c_2(\cdots(c_n x))) \quad c_i \in \{u, v\} \subseteq \mathcal{V}$$

Properties

- $\overline{A} (\overline{B} s) \equiv \overline{A \# B} s$
- $$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \quad \Gamma \vdash v : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \overline{A} : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha}$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

PCP \leq **U₃** - REDUCTION

$$\mathbf{PCP}(S) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{U}_3(f(S))$$

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$x_f \overline{x_1} \cdots \overline{x_n} z \stackrel{?}{=} x_f \overline{y_1} \cdots \overline{y_n} z$$

$$\Gamma := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha, v : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha, z : \alpha \\ x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right.$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uvz. x_f \overline{x_1} \cdots \overline{x_n} z \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uvz. x_f \overline{y_1} \cdots \overline{y_n} z$$

$$\Gamma := x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uvz. x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n z \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uvz. x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n z$$

$$\text{and} \quad \lambda uz. x_f u \cdots u z \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uz. u (d u z)$$

$$\Gamma := \begin{cases} d : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \\ x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \end{cases}$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uvz. x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n z \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uvz. x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n z$$

and $\lambda uz. x_f u \cdots u z \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uz. u (d u z)$

$$\Gamma := \begin{cases} d : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \\ x_f : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \underbrace{\cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \end{cases}$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uv. x_f \overline{x_1} \cdots \overline{x_n} \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uv. x_f \overline{y_1} \cdots \overline{y_n}$$

$$\text{and} \quad \lambda u. x_f u \cdots u \stackrel{?}{=} \lambda u. u (d u)$$

$$\Gamma := \begin{cases} d : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \\ x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \end{cases}$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uvh. h (x_f \overline{x_1} \cdots \overline{x_n}) (x_f u \cdots u)$$

$$\stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uvh. h (x_f \overline{y_1} \cdots \overline{y_n}) (u (d u))$$

$$\Gamma := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} d : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \\ x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \end{array} \right.$$

PCP \leq **U₃** – REDUCTION

PCP(S) \leftrightarrow **U₃**($f(S)$)

$$f : [x_1/y_1, \dots, x_n/y_n] \mapsto$$

$$\lambda uvh. h (x_f \overline{x_1} \cdots \overline{x_n}) (x_f u \cdots u)$$

$$\stackrel{?}{=} \lambda uvh. h (x_f \overline{y_1} \cdots \overline{y_n}) (u (d u))$$

$$\Gamma := \begin{cases} d : (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha \\ x_f : \underbrace{(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \alpha \end{cases}$$

$$A := (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha$$

TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$

TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

Coq

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$

EXAMPLE

Lemma

$$h\ s_1\ s_2 \equiv h\ t_1\ t_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall i. s_i \equiv t_i$$

EXAMPLE

Lemma

$$h\ s_1\ s_2 \equiv h\ t_1\ t_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall i. s_i \equiv t_i$$

- If $s \succ s'$ and $\text{isLam}(\text{head } s')$ then $\text{isLam}(\text{head } s)$
- If $s\ t \succ^* v$ then $s \succ^* s', t \succ^* t'$ and $v = s' t'$ for some s', t'
or $s \succ^* \lambda x. s', \text{isLambda}(\text{head } s)$ for some s'
- If $s_1\ s_2 \equiv t_1\ t_2$, $\text{isVar}(\text{head } s_1)$ and $\text{isVar}(\text{head } t_1)$ then $\forall i. s_i \equiv t_i$

TIMELINE

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$

DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS

$$e ::= x + y = z \mid x \cdot y = z \mid x = c \quad (x, y, z \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \mathbb{N})$$

DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS

$$e ::= x + y = z \mid x \cdot y = z \mid x = c \quad (x, y, z \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \mathbb{N})$$

$$\boxed{\sigma \vDash e}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x = c}{\sigma \vDash x = c}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x + \sigma y = \sigma z}{\sigma \vDash x + y = z}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x \cdot \sigma y = \sigma z}{\sigma \vDash x \cdot y = z}$$

DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS

$$e ::= x + y = z \mid x \cdot y = z \mid x = c \quad (x, y, z \in \mathcal{V}, c \in \mathbb{N})$$

$$\boxed{\sigma \vDash e}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x = c}{\sigma \vDash x = c}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x + \sigma y = \sigma z}{\sigma \vDash x + y = z}$$

$$\frac{\sigma x \cdot \sigma y = \sigma z}{\sigma \vDash x \cdot y = z}$$

$$\frac{\forall e \in E. \sigma \vDash e}{\mathbf{DE}(E)}$$

$DE \leq U_2 - \text{IDEA}$

DE \leq **U₂** - IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

DE \leq **U**₂ – IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Translation

$$x \ s \equiv +_n \ s$$

DE \leq U₂ - IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Addition

$$\boxed{+_n s}$$

$$+_0 s = s$$

$$+_n s = \mathbf{g a} (+_n s)$$

Translation

$$x s \equiv +_n s$$

DE \leq **U**₂ - IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Addition

$$\boxed{+_n s}$$

$$+_0 s = s$$

$$+_n s = \mathbf{g a} (+_n s)$$

Translation

$$x s \equiv +_n s \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x (+_1 \mathbf{a}) \stackrel{?}{=} +_1 (x \mathbf{a})$$

DE \leq **U₂** - IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Addition

$$\boxed{+_n s}$$

$$+_0 s = s$$

$$+_n s = \mathbf{g} \mathbf{a} (+_n s)$$

Translation

$$x s \equiv +_n s \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x (+_1 \mathbf{a}) \stackrel{?}{=} +_1 (x \mathbf{a})$$

$$x = c \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x \mathbf{a} \stackrel{?}{=} +_c \mathbf{a}$$

DE \leq **U**₂ - IDEA

$$\Gamma := \{x : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Addition

$$\boxed{+_n s}$$

$$+_0 s = s$$

$$+_n s = \mathbf{g a} (+_n s)$$

Translation

$$x s \equiv +_n s \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x (+_1 \mathbf{a}) \stackrel{?}{=} +_1 (x \mathbf{a})$$

$$x = c \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x \mathbf{a} \stackrel{?}{=} +_c \mathbf{a}$$

$$x + y = z \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad x (y \mathbf{a}) \stackrel{?}{=} z \mathbf{a}$$

CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

CONCLUSION

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$

CONCLUSION

G. Huet (1973)

$$\text{PCP} \leq \text{U}_3$$

W. Goldfarb (1981)

$$\text{DE} \leq \text{U}_2$$

Future Work

- Semi-unification
- System F typeability
- System F inhabitation

RELATED WORK I



G. Huet.

The undecidability of unification in third order logic.
Information and control, 1973.



W. Goldfarb.

The undecidability of the second-order unification problem.
Theoretical Computer Science, 1981.



Y. Forster, E. Heiter, G. Smolka.

Verification of PCP-Related Computational Reductions in Coq.
International Conference on Theorem Proving, 2018.



W. Farmer.

Simple second-order languages for which unification is undecidable.
Theoretical Computer Science, 1991.

RELATED WORK II



A. Schubert.

Second-order unification and type inference for Church-style polymorphism.

Proceedings of the 25th ACM SIGPLAN-SIGACT symposium on Principles of programming languages, 1998.



J. Levy and M. Veanes.

On the undecidability of second-order unification.

Information and Computation, 2000.

MULTIPLICATION

$$x \cdot y = z \rightsquigarrow$$

$$G \ a \ b \ (g \ (g \ (z \ a) \ (y \ b)) \ a) \stackrel{?}{=} \ g \ (g \ a \ b) \ (G \ (x \ a) \ (+_1 \ b) \ a)$$

$$G \ b \ a \ (g \ (g \ (z \ b) \ (y \ a)) \ a) \stackrel{?}{=} \ g \ (g \ b \ a) \ (G \ (x \ b) \ (+_1 \ a) \ a)$$

SET UNIFICATION

$$\mathbf{SU}_n^A \{ \Gamma \vdash_n s_i \stackrel{?}{=} t_i : A \mid 1 \leq i \leq k \} := \\ \exists \sigma \Delta. \Delta \vdash \sigma : \Gamma \quad \text{and} \quad \forall i. s_i[\sigma] \equiv t_i[\sigma]$$

$$\mathbf{SU}_2^{\mathcal{T}} \leq \mathbf{U}_2$$

$$\{\Gamma \vdash_2 s_i \stackrel{?}{=} t_i : \mathcal{T} \mid 1 \leq i \leq k\} \mapsto$$

$$\Gamma \vdash_2 g s_1 (\cdots (g s_k a)) \stackrel{?}{=} g t_1 (\cdots (g t_k a)) : \mathcal{T}$$

Lemma

$$g s_1 s_2 \equiv g t_1 t_2 \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall i. s_i \equiv t_i$$

FORMALISATION

$$\boxed{A s}$$

$$\text{nil } s = s$$

$$(t :: A) s = t (A s)$$

$$\boxed{s A}$$

$$s \text{ nil} = s$$

$$s (t :: A) = (A s) t$$

$$\boxed{\Lambda_n s}$$

$$\Lambda_0 s = s$$

$$\Lambda_{S_n} s = \lambda x. \Lambda_n s$$

PCP

Definition in¹

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_j \text{ nil} &= \text{nil} \\ \tau_j (a :: A) &= x_j \uplus \tau_j A && a = x_1/x_2 \\ \mathbf{PCP}(S) &:= \exists A \subseteq S, A \neq \text{nil}. \tau_1 A = \tau_2 A\end{aligned}$$

Our Definition

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_j \text{ nil} &= \text{nil} \\ \tau_j (i :: A) &= x_j \uplus \tau_j A && S[i] = x_1/x_2 \\ \mathbf{PCP}(S) &:= \exists A: \mathcal{L} \mathbb{F}_{|S|}, A \neq \text{nil}. \tau_1 A = \tau_2 A\end{aligned}$$

¹Forster, Heiter, and Smolka 2017.

$\text{PCP}(S) \rightarrow \mathbf{U}_3(f(S))$ **Given**

$$[i_1, \dots, i_k]$$

Pick

$$\Delta := z : \alpha$$

$$\sigma := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_f \mapsto \lambda x_1 \dots x_n. x_{i_1} (\dots (x_{i_k} z)) \\ d \mapsto \lambda u. \underbrace{u(\dots (u z))}_{k-1} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma x_f) \overline{x_1} \dots \overline{x_n} &\equiv \overline{x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_k}} z \\ &= \overline{y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_k}} z \\ &\equiv (\sigma x_f) \overline{y_1} \dots \overline{y_n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma x_f) u \dots u &\equiv u(\dots (u z)) \\ &\equiv u((\sigma d) u) \end{aligned}$$

$$U_3(f(S)) \rightarrow \mathbf{PCP}(S)$$

$$(\lambda uvh. h (x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n) (x_f u \cdots u))[\sigma] \equiv (\lambda uvh. h (x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n) (u (d u)))[\sigma]$$

We get

$$\sigma x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n \equiv \sigma x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n \tag{1}$$

$$\sigma x_f u \cdots u \equiv u (\sigma d u) \tag{2}$$

By normalisation $\sigma x_f \equiv \lambda x_1 \cdots x_l. s$ for some l, s where s is normal. By (2) and typing we know that $1 < l \leq n$ and $s \equiv x_i s'$.

CONTINUED

Case analysis.

- Let $l < n$. Then $\sigma x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n \equiv (\bar{x}_l s'[\bar{x}_1/x_1, \dots, \bar{x}_l/x_l]) \bar{x}_{l+1} \cdots \bar{x}_n$
and $\sigma x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n \equiv (\bar{y}_l s'[\bar{y}_1/x_1, \dots, \bar{y}_l/x_l]) \bar{y}_{l+1} \cdots \bar{y}_n$. Thus
 $\bar{x}_{l+1} \equiv \bar{y}_{l+1}$ by (1) and $x_{l+1} = y_{l+1}$.
- Let $l = n$. Let x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k} be the longest sequence s.t.
 $s = x_{i_1}(\cdots(x_{i_k} s''))$. Then
 $\sigma x_f \bar{x}_1 \cdots \bar{x}_n \equiv \bar{x}_{i_1}(\cdots(\bar{x}_{i_k} s''[\bar{x}_1/x_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n/x_n]))$ and
 $\sigma x_f \bar{y}_1 \cdots \bar{y}_n \equiv \bar{y}_{i_1}(\cdots(\bar{y}_{i_k} s''[\bar{y}_1/x_1, \dots, \bar{y}_n/x_n]))$. Since u, v cannot
appear free in s'' we get $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_k}$.