

Protocols and Associated Types in Swift

Slava Pestov

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What is Swift?

- Safe, expressive, systems language
- Open source: `swift.org`
- Apple, Linux, Windows
- C/Objective-C/C++ interop
- **Separately-compiled generic code**

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 - **Type checking**

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- **Separately-compiled generic code**
 - Runtime model
 - **Type checking**
 - Informal examples
 - Formal model
 - **String rewriting**

```
func identity(x: Int) -> Int {  
    return x  
}
```

```
func identity(x: String) -> String {  
    return x  
}
```

```
func identity<T>(x: T) -> T {  
    return x  
}
```

```
struct PairOfInts {  
    var first: Int  
    var second: Int  
}
```

```
enum IntOrPairOfInts {  
    case first(Int)  
    case second(PairOfInts)  
}
```

Generic Value Types

```
struct Pair<T> {  
    var first: T  
    var second: T  
}
```

```
enum Either<U, V> {  
    case first(U)  
    case second(V)  
}
```



```
protocol StreamOfInts {  
    mutating func next() -> Int  
}
```

Protocols with Associated Types

```
protocol Stream {  
    associatedtype Element  
    mutating func next() -> Self.Element  
}
```

```
struct NaturalNumbers: Stream {  
    var n = 0  
  
    mutating func next() -> Int {  
        n += 1  
        return n  
    }  
}
```

`<S> ... where S: Stream`

Conformance Requirements

```
func firstTwo<S>(_ s: inout S) -> Pair<S.Element>
    where S: Stream {
    return Pair(first: s.next(), second: s.next())
}
```

S.Element

Same-Type Requirements

```
protocol Equatable {
    static func ==(lhs: Self, rhs: Self)
}

func firstTwoEqual<S1, S2>(_ s1: inout S1,
                            _ s2: inout S2) -> Bool
    where S1: Stream,
           S2: Stream,
           S1.Element: Equatable,
           S1.Element == S2.Element {
    return s1.next() == s2.next()
}
```

`S1.Element == S2.Element`

Generic Signatures

A *generic signature* G is a list of root type parameters and requirements.

Requirements

- Conformance: $[T: P]$ for protocol P
- Same-type: $[T == U]$

(T and U are type parameters)

Type parameters

Recursively:

- Root: τ_i for $0 \leq i < n$
- Member: $U.A$ for type parameter U and associated type name A

Associated Requirements

(Warning: not the real Collection!)

```
protocol Collection {  
    associatedtype Element  
  
    var count: Int { get }  
    subscript(index: Int) -> Self.Element  
  
}
```

Associated Requirements

(Warning: not the real Collection!)

```
protocol Collection {
  associatedtype Element
  associatedtype Slice

  var count: Int { get }
  subscript(index: Int) -> Self.Element
  subscript(range: Range<Int>) -> Self.Slice
}
```

Associated Requirements

(Warning: not the real Collection!)

```
protocol Collection {
  associatedtype Element
  associatedtype Slice
  where Self.Slice: Collection

  var count: Int { get }
  subscript(index: Int) -> Self.Element
  subscript(range: Range<Int>) -> Self.Slice
}
```

Associated Requirements

(Warning: not the real Collection!)

```
protocol Collection {
  associatedtype Element
  associatedtype Slice
  where Self.Slice: Collection,
        Self.Element == Self.Slice.Element

  var count: Int { get }
  subscript(index: Int) -> Self.Element
  subscript(range: Range<Int>) -> Self.Slice
}
```

Requirement Signatures

The *requirement signature* of protocol P is a list of associated type names and associated requirements.

Associated requirements

- Conformance: $[\text{Self.U}: Q]_P$ for protocol Q
- Same-type: $[\text{Self.U} == \text{Self.V}]_P$

(Self.U and Self.V are relative type parameters)

Relative type parameters

Recursively:

- Root: Self
- Member: Self.V.A for relative type parameter Self.V and associated type name A

Protocol Generic Signature

The generic signature of a protocol P is denoted G_P :

- τ_0
- $[\tau_0: P]$

Relative type parameters of P are type parameters of G_P :

$$\text{Self.U} \Leftrightarrow \tau_0.U$$

G_P is the “simplest non-trivial” generic signature!

Binary Search Example

```
// Find index of 'e: E' within 'c: C'.  
func binarySearch<C, E>(_ c: C, _ e: E) -> Int  
    where C: Collection,  
           E: Comparable,  
           E == C.Element {  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
}
```


Binary Search Example

Generic signature of `binarySearch()`:

$$G := \tau_0, \tau_1, [\tau_0: \text{Collection}], [\tau_1: \text{Comparable}], [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}]$$

Requirement signature of `Collection`:

- `Element`
- `Slice`
- `[Self.Slice: Collection]Collection`
- `[Self.Element == Self.Slice.Element]Collection`

Binary Search Example

```
// Find index of 'e: E' within 'c: C'.
func binarySearch<C, E>(_ c: C, _ e: E) -> Int
    where C: Collection,
           E: Comparable,
           E == C.Element {
    if c.count == 0 { return 0 }
    let mid = c.count / 2
    if c[mid] == e {
        return mid
    } else if c[mid] < e {
        return binarySearch(c[0 ..< mid], e)
    } else {
        return mid + binarySearch(c[mid ..< c.count], e)
    }
}
```

Binary Search Example

Recursive call:

- `binarySearch(c[0 ..< mid], e)`

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- Substitution: $\{\tau_0 := \tau_0.\text{Slice}, \tau_1 := \tau_1\}$

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- `binarySearch(c[0 ..< mid], e)`
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- Is the `where` clause satisfied?

Binary Search Example

Recursive call:

- `binarySearch(c[0 ..< mid], e)`
- `c[0 ..< mid]` returns a `τ_0 .Slice`
- Substitution: $\{\tau_0 := \tau_0.\text{Slice}, \tau_1 := \tau_1\}$
- Is the `where` clause satisfied?
 - `$[\tau_1: \text{Comparable}]$` : trivial
 - `$[\tau_0: \text{Collection}] \Rightarrow [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$`
 - `$[\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}] \Rightarrow [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$`

Are these “consequences” of G ?

`[τ_0 .Slice: Collection]`

`[$\tau_1 == \tau_0$.Slice.Element]`

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`[τ_0 .Slice: Collection]`

`[$\tau_1 == \tau_0$.Slice.Element]`

What about `τ_0 .Slice.Element` itself?

G defines a *theory* of *valid type parameters* and *derived requirements*:

- Elementary derivation steps: $\vdash E_i$
- Inference rules: $D_1, \dots, D_n \vdash D$

Definition

A *derivation* $G \vDash D$ is a (well-formed) sequence of derivation steps.

Elementary Derivation Steps

- For each root type parameter τ_i of G :

$$\vdash \tau_i \quad (\text{ROOT})$$

- For each explicit conformance requirement $[T: P]$ of G :

$$\vdash [T: P] \quad (\text{CONF})$$

- For each explicit same-type requirement $[T == U]$ of G :

$$\vdash [T == U] \quad (\text{SAME})$$

requirement signature of \mathbf{P}
+
 $[\mathbf{T} : \mathbf{P}]$
=
more steps

Inference Rules

For each $G \models [T : P]$:

- For each associated type A of P :

$$[T : P] \vdash T.A \quad (\text{ASSOC})$$

- For each $[\text{Self}.U : Q]_P$:

$$[T : P] \vdash [T.U : Q] \quad (\text{ASSOCCONF})$$

- For each $[\text{Self}.U == \text{Self}.V]_P$ of P :

$$[T : P] \vdash [T.U == T.V] \quad (\text{ASSOCSAME})$$

Replacement of `Self`:

$$T.U := \text{Self}.U / \{\text{Self} := T\}$$

Concatenation:

$$T.U := T + \text{Self}.U$$

Equivalence relation:

$$G \vDash [T == U]$$

Inference Rules

- For each $G \models T$:

$$T \vdash [T == T] \quad (\text{REFL})$$

- For each $G \models [T == U]$:

$$[T == U] \vdash [U == T] \quad (\text{SWAP})$$

- For each $G \models [T == U]$ and $G \models [U == V]$:

$$[T == U], [U == V] \vdash [T == V] \quad (\text{TRANS})$$

- For each $G \vDash [U: P]$ and $G \vDash [T == U]$:

$$[U: P], [T == U] \vdash [T: P] \quad (\text{EQUIV})$$

- For each $G \vDash [T: P]$, $G \vDash [T == U]$, and each associated type A of P :

$$[T: P], [T == U] \vdash [T.A == U.A] \quad (\text{MEMBER})$$

Derived Conformance Example

Recall $G \models [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$ from `binarySearch()`:

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Recall $G \models [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$ from `binarySearch()`:

$\vdash [\tau_0: \text{Collection}]$ (CONF)

$[\tau_0: \text{Collection}] \vdash [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$ (ASSOCCONF)

Derived Conformance Example

Recall $G \models [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$ from `binarySearch()`:

$\vdash [\tau_0: \text{Collection}]$ (CONF)

$[\tau_0: \text{Collection}] \vdash [\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}]$ (ASSOCCONF)

In fact,

$[\tau_0.\text{Slice}^n: \text{Collection}] \vdash [\tau_0.\text{Slice}^{n+1}: \text{Collection}]$ (ASSOCCONF)

`[Self.Slice: Collection]Collection` generates an infinite family of conformance requirements.

Recursive Conformance

`[Self.Slice: Collection]``Collection` generates an infinite family of conformance requirements.

Definition

`[Self.U: Q]``P` is *recursive* if G_Q uses `P`.

Recursive Conformance

$[\text{Self.Slice: Collection}]_{\text{Collection}}$ generates an infinite family of conformance requirements.

Definition

$[\text{Self.U: Q}]_P$ is *recursive* if G_Q uses P .

We just proved:

Theorem

If G uses a protocol with a recursive associated conformance requirement, then G generates an infinite theory.

Derived Same-Type Example

Recall $G \models [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ from `binarySearch()`:

$\vdash [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}]$ (SAME)

$[\tau_0: \text{Collection}]$

$\vdash [\tau_0.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ (ASSOC SAME)

$[\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}], [\tau_0.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$

$\vdash [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ (TRANS)

Derived Same-Type Example

Recall $G \models [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ from `binarySearch()`:

$\vdash [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}]$ (SAME)

$[\tau_0: \text{Collection}]$

$\vdash [\tau_0.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ (ASSOCSAME)

$[\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}], [\tau_0.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$

$\vdash [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}]$ (TRANS)

In fact,

$[\tau_0.\text{Slice}^n: \text{Collection}]$

$\vdash [\tau_0.\text{Slice}^n.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice}^{n+1}.\text{Element}]$ (ASSOCSAME)

$[\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}], [\tau_0.\text{Slice}^n.\text{Element} == \tau_0.\text{Slice}^{n+1}.\text{Element}]$

$\vdash [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice}^{n+1}.\text{Element}]$ (TRANS)

Generic signature G of `binarySearch()`:

- $\{\tau_0\}$
- $\{\tau_1, \tau_0.\text{Element}, \dots, \tau_0.\text{Slice}^n.\text{Element}, \dots\}$
- $\{\tau_0.\text{Slice}\}$
- ...
- $\{\tau_0.\text{Slice}^n\}$
- ...

Two fundamental problems:

Problem 1: Conformance

- Instance: Generic signature G , type parameter T , protocol P .
- Question: Is $G \models [T: P]$?

Problem 2: Equivalence

- Instance: Generic signature G , type parameters T and U .
- Question: Is $G \models [T == U]$?

generic signature



string rewrite system

Definition

Finite alphabet A for generic signature G :

- τ_i : for each root type parameter of G .
- A : for each unique associated type name A .
- $[P]$: for each protocol P used by G .

Random example:

```
protocol Chicken { associatedtype Egg }  
protocol Egg { associatedtype Egg }
```

$$A := \{\tau_0, \tau_1, \tau_2, [\text{Chicken}], [\text{Egg}], \text{Egg}\}$$

Definition

For any set A :

- A^* is the *free monoid* generated by A .
- $t \in A^*$ is a finite string, called a *term*.
- $x \cdot y$ is concatenation of x and y .
- ε is the empty term.

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Definitions

- $|t| \in \mathbb{N}$ is the *length* of t .
- If $t = x \cdot y \cdot z$, then y is a *subterm* of t .
- If $|y| < |t|$, then y is a *proper* subterm.

Definition of φ

Type parameter T maps to a term $\varphi(T) \in A^*$:

$$\varphi(\tau_i \cdot A_1 \dots A_n) := \tau_i \cdot A_1 \cdots A_n$$

Definition of φ

Type parameter T maps to a term $\varphi(T) \in A^*$:

$$\varphi(\tau_i.A_1 \dots A_n) := \tau_i \cdot A_1 \cdots A_n$$

Definition of φ_P

Relative type parameter $\mathbf{Self}.U$ maps to a term $\varphi_P(\mathbf{Self}.U) \in A^*$:

$$\varphi_P(\mathbf{Self}.A_1 \dots A_n) := [P] \cdot A_1 \cdots A_n$$

$$\langle A; R \rangle$$

- $A := \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$: finite alphabet of symbols
- $R := \{(u_1 \sim v_1), \dots, (u_m \sim v_m)\}$: finite set of *rewrite rules*
- \sim : the *term equivalence relation* on A^* generated by R .

Term Equivalence Relation

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- If $(u \sim v) \in R$, then $u \sim v$.
- If $x \sim y$ and $w, z \in A^*$, then $w \cdot x \cdot z \sim w \cdot y \cdot z$.

Term Equivalence Relation

R defines an equivalence relation \sim on A^* :

- If $(u \sim v) \in R$, then $u \sim v$.
- If $x \sim y$ and $w, z \in A^*$, then $w \cdot x \cdot z \sim w \cdot y \cdot z$.
- If $x \in A^*$, then $x \sim x$.
- If $x \sim y$, then $y \sim x$.
- If $x \sim y$ and $y \sim z$, then $x \sim z$.

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- If $x \in A^*$, then $x \sim x$.
- If $x \sim y$, then $y \sim x$.
- If $x \sim y$ and $y \sim z$, then $x \sim z$.

The derivations of this theory are called *rewrite paths*.

Definition of λ

Generic requirement D maps to a rule $\lambda(D) \in A^* \times A^*$:

$$\lambda([T : P]) := (\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T))$$

$$\lambda([T == U]) := (\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U))$$

Definition of λ

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$$\lambda([T: P]) := (\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T))$$

$$\lambda([T == U]) := (\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U))$$

Definition of λ_P

Associated requirement D in protocol P maps to a rule $\lambda_P(D) \in A^* \times A^*$:

$$\lambda_P([\text{Self.U}: Q]_P) := (\varphi_P(\text{Self.U}) \cdot [Q] \sim \varphi_P(\text{Self.U}))$$

$$\lambda_P([\text{Self.U} == \text{Self.V}]_P) := (\varphi_P(\text{Self.U}) \sim \varphi_P(\text{Self.V}))$$

Example

Rewrite system for generic signature G of `binarySearch()`:

- ① $(\tau_0 \cdot [\text{Collection}] \sim \tau_0)$
- ② $(\tau_0 \cdot \text{Element} \sim \tau_1)$
- ③ $(\tau_1 \cdot [\text{Comparable}] \sim \tau_1)$

Example

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- ② $(\tau_0 \cdot \text{Element} \sim \tau_1)$
- ③ $(\tau_1 \cdot [\text{Comparable}] \sim \tau_1)$
- ④ $([\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot [\text{Collection}] \sim [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice})$
- ⑤ $([\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot \text{Element} \sim [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Element})$

Theorem

Assume G is valid, $G \models T$, $G \models U$. Then,

- $G \models [T : P]$ **if and only if** $\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T)$.
- $G \models [T == U]$ **if and only if** $\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U)$.

Theorem

Assume G is valid, $G \vDash T$, $G \vDash U$. Then,

- $G \vDash [T : P]$ **if and only if** $\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T)$.
- $G \vDash [T == U]$ **if and only if** $\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U)$.

(\Rightarrow) Proof by structural induction on derivations:

- Elementary derivation step: property holds by construction.
- For each inference rule, assume property holds for all assumptions, show it holds for consequence.

Derived Conformance Example

To show $\lambda([\tau_0.\text{Slice}: \text{Collection}])$:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0 \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot [\text{Collection}] &\sim \tau_0 \cdot [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot [\text{Collection}] \\ &\sim \tau_0 \cdot [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice} \\ &\sim \tau_0 \cdot \text{Slice}\end{aligned}$$

Term Concatenation

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T & + & \text{Self.U} & = & T.U \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ \varphi(T) & \cdot & \varphi_P(\text{Self.U}) & \neq & \varphi(T.U) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{T} & + & \mathbf{Self.U} & = & \mathbf{T.U} \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ \varphi(\mathbf{T}) & \cdot & \varphi_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{Self.U}) & \neq & \varphi(\mathbf{T.U}) \end{array}$$

But if $\varphi(\mathbf{T}) \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \sim \varphi(\mathbf{T})$, then $\varphi(\mathbf{T}) \cdot \varphi_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{Self.U}) \sim \varphi(\mathbf{T.U})$:

Term Concatenation

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But if $\varphi(\mathbf{T}) \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \sim \varphi(\mathbf{T})$, then $\varphi(\mathbf{T}) \cdot \varphi_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{Self.U}) \sim \varphi(\mathbf{T.U})$:

$$\underbrace{\varphi(\mathbf{T})}_t \cdot \underbrace{\varphi_{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{Self.U})}_{[\mathbf{P}] \cdot u} \sim \underbrace{\varphi(\mathbf{T.U})}_{t \cdot u}$$

Because

$$t \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \cdot u \sim t \cdot u$$

Sketch of Proof

$[T : P] \vdash [T.U : Q]$ (ASSOCCONF)

Assume $\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T)$ and show $\varphi(T.U) \cdot [Q] \sim \varphi(T.U)$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(T.U) \cdot [Q] \\ & \sim \varphi(T) \cdot \varphi_P(\text{Self}.U) \cdot [Q] \\ & \sim \varphi(T) \cdot \varphi_P(\text{Self}.U) \\ & \sim \varphi(T.U) \end{aligned}$$

Derived Same-Type Example

To show $\lambda([\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Slice.Element}])$:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0 \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot \text{Element} &\sim \tau_0 \cdot [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Slice} \cdot \text{Element} \\ &\sim \tau_0 \cdot [\text{Collection}] \cdot \text{Element} \\ &\sim \tau_0 \cdot \text{Element} \\ &\sim \tau_1\end{aligned}$$

Sketch of Proof

$[T: P] \vdash [T.U == T.V]$ (ASSOCSAME)

Assume $\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(T)$ and show $\varphi(T.U) \sim \varphi(T.V)$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \varphi(T.U) \\ & \sim \varphi(T) \cdot \varphi_P(\mathbf{Self}.U) \\ & \sim \varphi(T) \cdot \varphi_P(\mathbf{Self}.V) \\ & \sim \varphi(T.V) \end{aligned}$$

The Ultimate Problem

We've reduced everything to...

The word problem

- Instance: String rewrite system $\langle A; R \rangle$, terms $x, y \in A^*$.
- Question: Is $x \sim y$?

R defines a *reduction relation* \rightarrow on A^* :

- If $(u \rightarrow v) \in R$, then $u \rightarrow v$.
- If $x \rightarrow y$ and $w, z \in A^*$, then $w \cdot x \cdot z \rightarrow w \cdot y \cdot z$.
- If $x \in A^*$, then $x \rightarrow x$.
- If $x \rightarrow y$ and $y \rightarrow z$, then $x \rightarrow z$.

(Exactly like \sim but not symmetric!)

Algorithm

Outputs the *normal form* \tilde{t} of t :

- If $t = xuz$ for some $(u \rightarrow v) \in R$, set t to xvz and continue.
- Otherwise, output t .

If $t = \tilde{t}$, then t is *irreducible*.

Normal Form Algorithm

Algorithm

Outputs the *normal form* \tilde{t} of t :

- If $t = xuz$ for some $(u \rightarrow v) \in R$, set t to xvz and continue.
- Otherwise, output t .

If $t = \tilde{t}$, then t is *irreducible*.

Properties

- If \tilde{t} exists, then $t \sim \tilde{t}$.
- If $\tilde{x} = \tilde{y}$, then $x \sim y$.

Existence

$$\langle a; a \rightarrow aa \rangle$$

Normal form of a does not exist:

$$a \rightarrow aa \rightarrow aaa \rightarrow aaaa \rightarrow \dots$$

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Uniqueness

$$\langle a, b, c; ab \rightarrow a, bc \rightarrow b \rangle$$

ac and a are irreducible but also $ac \sim a$:

$$abc \rightarrow ab \rightarrow a$$

$$abc \rightarrow ac$$

Definition

\rightarrow is *Noetherian* if normal form algorithm terminates.

Termination

Definition

\rightarrow is *Noetherian* if normal form algorithm terminates.

Definition

A *reduction order* on A^* satisfies:

- If $u > v$, then $x \cdot u \cdot z > x \cdot v \cdot z$
- No infinite descending chains: $x_1 > x_2 > \dots > x_n > \dots$

Theorem

If each $(u \rightarrow v) \in R$ is *oriented* so that $u < v$, then \rightarrow is Noetherian.

Proof: If $t \rightarrow t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \rightarrow \dots$, then $t > t_1 > t_2 > \dots$ (property 1).
Therefore $\tilde{t} = t_n$ for some n (property 2).

Definition

\rightarrow is *confluent* whenever $x \rightarrow y$ and $x \rightarrow z$, there exists w such that $y \rightarrow w$ and $z \rightarrow w$.

Example

$$\langle a, b, c; ab \rightarrow a, bc \rightarrow b, ac \rightarrow a \rangle$$

Adding $(ac \rightarrow a)$ does not change \sim but makes \rightarrow confluent. This is called *completion*.

Definition

$\langle A; R \rangle$ is a *convergent rewrite system* if \rightarrow is Noetherian and confluent.

Church-Rosser Theorem

Assume $\langle A; R \rangle$ convergent. Then $x \sim y$ **if and only if** $\tilde{x} = \tilde{y}$.

Definition

If $t \rightarrow t_1$ and $t \rightarrow t_2$, (t_1, t_2) is a *critical pair*.

Definition

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Newman's Lemma

Assume \rightarrow is Noetherian. Left-hand sides of rewrite rules generate a finite set of critical pairs.

Algorithm

Resolving critical pair (t_1, t_2) :

- $t_1 \rightarrow \tilde{t}_1, t_2 \rightarrow \tilde{t}_2$.
- If $\tilde{t}_1 = \tilde{t}_2$: critical pair is *trivial*.
- If $\tilde{t}_1 > \tilde{t}_2$: add $(\tilde{t}_1 \rightarrow \tilde{t}_2)$ to R .
- If $\tilde{t}_1 < \tilde{t}_2$: add $(\tilde{t}_2 \rightarrow \tilde{t}_1)$ to R .

$$u \cdot v \cdot w$$

$$v$$

Overlap of the first kind

If $(u \cdot v \cdot w \rightarrow x), (v \rightarrow y) \in R$,

- Delete $(u \cdot v \cdot w \rightarrow x)$.
- Resolve $(u \cdot y \cdot w, x)$.

$$u \cdot v$$

$$v \cdot w$$

Overlap of the second kind

If $(u \cdot v \rightarrow x), (v \cdot w \rightarrow y) \in R$,

- Resolve $(x \cdot w, u \cdot y)$.

Reduction

For all $(u \rightarrow v) \in R$ where $v \neq \tilde{v}$,

- Replace $(u \rightarrow v)$ with $(u \rightarrow \tilde{v})$.

Knuth-Bendix completion might not terminate!

Knuth-Bendix completion might not terminate!

Question

What just defined the *basic lowering*. Does the basic lowering accept *all* generic signatures?

Finite Cross-Section

G has a *finite cross-section* if set of equivalence classes is finite.

finite theory $\not\subseteq$ finite cross-section

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```
protocol Z2 {  
  associatedtype A where Self.A: Z2, Self.A.A == Self  
}
```

G_{Z2} has an infinite theory: $\tau_0, \tau_0.A, \tau_0.A.A, \tau_0.A.A.A, \dots$

Finite Cross-Section

G has a *finite cross-section* if set of equivalence classes is finite.

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```

G_{Z2} has an infinite theory: $\tau_0, \tau_0.A, \tau_0.A.A, \tau_0.A.A.A, \dots$

G_{Z2} has a finite cross-section:

Representative:	General form:
τ_0	$\tau_0.A^{2n}$
$\tau_0.A$	$\tau_0.A^{2n+1}$

Theorem

$\langle A; R \rangle$ is basic lowering of G . Completion terminates **if and only if**:

- G has a finite cross-section.
- For each protocol P used by G , G_P has a finite cross-section.

Infinite Example

$G_{\text{Collection}}$ does not have a finite cross-section. Let's remove everything but the recursive “slice” type:

```
protocol N {  
  associatedtype A: N  
}
```

Rewrite rules:

- $([N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N] \cdot A)$
- $(\tau_0 \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0)$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N]$$
$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N]$$

Overlapping Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} \tau_0 \cdot [N] \\ [N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \end{array}$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot A \cdot [N]$$

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$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot A$$

$$(\tau_0 \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot A)$$

Overlapping Rules

$$\tau_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot [\mathbf{N}]$$
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$$(\tau_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot [\mathbf{N}] \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A})$$

...

$$[P] \cdot A \rightarrow [P]A$$

Definition

For each associated type \mathbf{A} of each protocol $[\mathbf{P}]$,

- $A := A \cup \{[\mathbf{P}]\mathbf{A}\}$
- $R := R \cup \{([\mathbf{P}] \cdot \mathbf{A} \rightarrow [\mathbf{P}]\mathbf{A})\}$

Reduction order: $[\mathbf{P}] < [\mathbf{P}]\mathbf{A} < \mathbf{A} < \tau_i$

Theorem

Adding a new symbol a and rewrite rule $(t \rightarrow a)$ does not change the term equivalence relation \sim .

Infinite Example, Revisited

```
protocol N {  
  associatedtype A: N  
}
```

Rewrite rules:

- $([N] \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A)$ —**new!**
- $([N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N] \cdot A)$
- $(\tau_0 \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0)$

New Overlapping Rules

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N]$$
$$[N] \cdot A$$

New Overlapping Rules

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N]$$

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$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N]A \cdot [N]$$

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N] \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A$$

New Overlapping Rules

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N]$$

$$[N] \cdot A$$

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N]A \cdot [N]$$

$$[N] \cdot A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N] \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A$$

$$([N]A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N]A)$$

New Overlapping Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} [N]A \cdot [N] \\ [N] \cdot A \end{array}$$

New Overlapping Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} [\mathbf{N}]A \cdot [\mathbf{N}] \\ [\mathbf{N}] \cdot A \end{array}$$

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New Overlapping Rules

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$$([N]A \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A \cdot [N]A)$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N]$$
$$[N] \cdot A$$

New Overlapping Rules

$$\begin{array}{c} \tau_0 \cdot [N] \\ [N] \cdot A \end{array}$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot A$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \tau_0 \cdot [N] \\ [N] \cdot A \end{array}$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot A$$

$$\tau_0 \cdot [N] \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A$$

$$(\tau_0 \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A)$$

We have a convergent rewrite system!

Conformance rules:

- $([N]A \cdot [N] \rightarrow [N]A)$
- $(\tau_0 \cdot [N] \rightarrow \tau_0)$

Name reduction rules:

- $([N] \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A)$
- $([N]A \cdot A \rightarrow [N]A \cdot [N]A)$
- $(\tau_0 \cdot A \rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A)$

Normal Form Example

$G_N \models [\tau_0.A.A.A : N]$. Therefore, $\tau_0.A.A.A.[N] \sim \tau_0.A.A.A :$

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$G_N \models [\tau_0.A.A.A : N]$. Therefore, $\tau_0.A.A.A.[N] \sim \tau_0.A.A.A :$

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0.A.A.A &\rightarrow \tau_0.[N]A.A.A \\ &\rightarrow \tau_0.[N]A.[N]A.A \\ &\rightarrow \tau_0.[N]A.[N]A.[N]A\end{aligned}$$

Normal Form Example

$G_N \models [\tau_0 \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A : N]$. Therefore, $\tau_0 \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A \cdot [N] \sim \tau_0 \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A$:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0 \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A &\rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A \cdot A \cdot A \\ &\rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A \cdot A \\ &\rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A\end{aligned}$$

Other side:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0 \cdot A \cdot A \cdot A \cdot [N] &\rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A \cdot [N] \\ &\rightarrow \tau_0 \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A \cdot [N]A\end{aligned}$$

Full lowering accepts:

- All generic signatures with finite cross-section.
- Some generic signatures with infinite cross-section: G_N , $G_{\text{Collection}}$, many more.

Question

Does the full lowering accept *all* generic signatures?

string rewrite system



generic signature

Encoding a Rewrite System

Example:

$$M := \langle a, b, c; ab \sim a, bc \sim b \rangle$$

```
protocol M {
```

```
}
```

Encoding a Rewrite System

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$$M := \langle a, b, c; ab \sim a, bc \sim b \rangle$$

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protocol M {  
  associatedtype A  
  associatedtype B  
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```

Encoding a Rewrite System

Example:

$$M := \langle a, b, c; ab \sim a, bc \sim b \rangle$$

```
protocol M {  
  associatedtype A: M  
  associatedtype B: M  
  associatedtype C: M  
}
```

Encoding a Rewrite System

Example:

$$M := \langle a, b, c; ab \sim a, bc \sim b \rangle$$

```
protocol M {  
  associatedtype A: M  
  associatedtype B: M  
  associatedtype C: M  
  where A.B == A, B.C == B  
}
```

Solving Word Problems

We have $ac \sim a$ but $ca \not\sim b$:

```
func wordProblems<T: M>(_: T.Type) {  
    sameType(T.A.C.self, T.A.self) // okay  
    sameType(T.C.A.self, T.B.self) // type error  
}  
  
func sameType<T>(_: T.Type, _: T.Type) {}
```

Understanding the Encoding

G_M encodes the word problem in $\langle A; R \rangle$:

- $t \in A^*$ **if and only if** $G_M \models T$.
- $u \sim v$ **if and only if** $G_M \models [U == V]$.

Understanding the Encoding

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- $u \sim v$ **if and only if** $G_M \models [U == V]$.

$\langle A; R \rangle$

\Downarrow

G_M

\Downarrow

$\langle A', R' \rangle$

Historical sketch:

- Thue (1914): word problem
- Gödel (1931): incompleteness
- Turing (1936): effective computability
- Post (1945): word problem is undecidable

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Theorem

(Tseitin, 1956) Undecidable if a given term t is equivalent to aaa :

$$\langle a, b, c, d, e; ac \sim ca, ad \sim da, bc \sim cb, bd \sim db, eca \sim ce, \\ cdca \sim cdcae, caaa \sim aaa, daaa \sim aaa \rangle$$

Undecidable Example

```
// error: cannot build rewrite system for protocol;  
// rule length limit exceeded
```

```
protocol M {  
  associatedtype A: M  
  associatedtype B: M  
  associatedtype C: M  
  associatedtype D: M  
  associatedtype E: M  
  where A.C == C.A, A.D == D.A,  
        B.C == C.B, B.D == D.B,  
        E.C.A == C.E, C.D.C.A == C.D.C.A.E,  
        C.A.A.A == A.A.A, D.A.A.A == A.A.A  
}
```

Undecidable problem

- Instance: Type parameter T .
- Question: Is $G_M \models [T == \tau_0.A.A.A]$?

- Formal theory of associated requirements.

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- Formal theory of associated requirements.
- Generic signature \Rightarrow string rewrite system.
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- Knuth-Bendix solves word problem if successful.
- finite theory \subsetneq finite cross-section \subsetneq all generic signatures
- Accept *all* finite cross-section, and *some* infinite cross-section.
- No decision procedure can accept *all* generic signatures.

- Separately-compiled generics (2013)
- Standard library collections (2015)
- Recursive conformances (2017)
- Undecidability (2020)
- Requirement Machine (2022)
- Formal model (2023)

- Reference guide, *Compiling Swift Generics*:
download.swift.org/docs/assets/generics.pdf
- Recorded talk, *Implementing Swift Generics*:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctS8FzqcRug

Thank You!

Backup Slides

```
func identity<T>(x: T) -> T {  
    return x  
}
```

Calling convention of `identity()`:

- Pointer to *type metadata* for T
- Pointer to argument of type T
- Pointer to return buffer for value of type T

Type metadata:

- **size**
- **alignment**
- **destroy** value when it leaves scope
- **copy** value if use extends lifetime
- **move** value if this is final use

Implementations:

- Trivial types (`Int`, etc): bitwise copy
- Reference types: copy +1, destroy -1
- Generic structs and enums (`Either<U, V>`, etc):
 - Instantiation function
 - Compute size and alignment from `U` and `V`
 - Generic move, copy, destroy operations

```
func firstTwo<S>(_ s: inout S) -> Pair<S.Element>  
  where S: Stream
```

Calling convention of `firstTwo()`:

- Pointer to type metadata for `S`
- Pointer to *witness table* for `[S: Stream]`

Witness table layout of `[S: Stream]`:

- Type metadata for `Element`
- Concrete implementation of `next()`

Problem 3: Name lookup

- Instance: Generic signature G , type parameter T .
- Question: All protocols P such that $G \models [T: P]$?

Type checking “`foo.bar`” where `foo` is a T :

- Some P where $G \models [T: P]$ must declare a member named `bar`.
- Reduces to Problem 1.

Problem 4: Type parameter validity

- Instance: Generic signature G , type parameter T .
- Question: Is $G \models T$?

Reduces to Problem 3:

- τ_i validity: immediate.
- U.A: valid iff exists P declaring A such that $G \models [U: P]$.

Problem 5: Generic signature validity

- Instance: Generic signature G .
- Question: Is G valid?

Generic signature of `binarySearch()`:

$$G := \tau_0, \tau_1, [\tau_0: \text{Collection}], [\tau_1: \text{Comparable}], [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}]$$

Now, $G \models [\tau_1 == \tau_0.\text{Element}]$ but $G \not\models \tau_0.\text{Element}$!

Valid generic requirements

- $[T : P]$ is valid if $G \vDash T$.
- $[T == U]$ is valid if $G \vDash T$ and $G \vDash U$.

Valid associated requirements

- $[\text{Self}.U : Q]_P$ is valid if $G_P \vDash \tau_0.U$.
- $[\text{Self}.U == \text{Self}.V]_P$ is valid if $G_P \vDash \tau_0.U$ and $G_P \vDash \tau_0.V$.

Theorem

Assume all explicitly-written requirements of G are valid. Then all derived requirements of G are valid.

- Base case $\vdash E_i$: E_i is known valid.
- Inductive step $D_1, \dots, D_n \vdash D$: show D is valid if all D_i are.

Interesting cases:

$[T: P] \vdash [T.U: Q]$ (ASSOCCONF)

$[T: P] \vdash [T.U == T.V]$ (ASSOCSAME)

We know $G \vDash T$, must show $G \vDash T.U$ (or $G \vDash T.V$)

Formal substitution on $G_P \vDash \tau_0.U$:

- $\vdash \tau_0$ becomes $G \vDash T$
- $\vdash [\tau_0: P]$ becomes $G \vDash [T: P]$
- In all other steps, replace τ_0 with T

We get $G \vDash T.U$!

$[U: P], [T == U] \vdash [T: P]$ (EQUIV)

Assume $\varphi(U) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(U)$ and $\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U)$. Then,

$$\varphi(T) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(U) \cdot [P] \sim \varphi(U) \sim \varphi(T)$$

$[T: P], [T == U] \vdash [T.A == U.A]$ (MEMBER)

$\varphi(T) \sim \varphi(U)$ implies $\varphi(T) \cdot A \sim \varphi(U) \cdot A$.

Set of irreducible type terms $\mathcal{I}(G) \subset A^*$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\text{for all } G \vDash T: \tilde{\varphi}(T)\} \\ & \cup \\ & \{\text{for all } G_P \vDash \tau_0.U: \tilde{\varphi}_P(\mathbf{Self}.U)\} \end{aligned}$$

- $\tilde{\varphi}(T)$: normal form of $\varphi(T)$
- $\tilde{\varphi}_P(\mathbf{Self}.U)$: normal form of $\varphi_P(\mathbf{Self}.U)$

If $\langle A; R \rangle$ is convergent (possibly infinite):

$$\langle A; R \rangle \text{ finite} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{I}(G) \text{ finite}$$

No element of $\mathcal{I}(G)$ is a proper suffix of any other:

$$\tau_i \cdot \mathbf{A}_{i_1} \cdots \mathbf{A}_{i_m} \quad [\mathbf{Q}] \cdot \mathbf{A}_{j_n} \cdots \mathbf{A}_{j_1}$$

- If $t \in \mathcal{I}(G)$ and $t \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \sim t$, then $(t \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \sim t) \in R$.
- If $(t \cdot [\mathbf{P}] \sim t) \in R$, then $t \in \mathcal{I}(G)$.

Valid Type Parameters Supplement

If $G \vDash U.A$, $G \vDash [U: P]$ for some P declaring A . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(U.A) &= \varphi(U) \cdot A \\ &\sim \varphi(U) \cdot [P] \cdot A \\ &\sim \varphi(U) \cdot [P]A\end{aligned}$$

Name symbols reduce to associated type symbols: $[P]A < A$.

Problem 4: Type parameter validity

Assume G is valid. Then $G \vDash T$ **if and only if** $\tilde{\varphi}(T)$ does not contain name symbols.

Now, $\tilde{\varphi}_P(\mathbf{Self.U})$ might be a *proper suffix* of $\tilde{\varphi}(\mathbf{T})$:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\varphi}(\mathbf{T}) &= \tau_i \cdot [P_1]A_1 \cdots [P_n]A_n \\ \tilde{\varphi}_P(\mathbf{Self.U}) &= \begin{cases} [P] \\ [P]A_1 \cdots [P_n]A_n \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

Problem 3: Name lookup

If t irreducible, then $t \cdot [P] \sim t$ **if and only if** $t = u \cdot v$ for some $(v \cdot [P] \rightarrow v) \in R$, and $u \in A^*$. We build the *property map*:

- Record all $(v \cdot [P] \rightarrow v)$ in a multi-map with key v .
- Keys stored in suffix trie.
- Given \mathbf{T} , check every suffix of $\tilde{\varphi}(\mathbf{T})$.

Theorem

Given a string rewrite system $\langle A; R \rangle$, the full lowering outputs a convergent rewrite system for G_M **if and only if** $\langle A; R \rangle$ can be extended to a convergent rewrite system over A compatible with shortlex order on A^* .

Completion can fail:

- Bad choice of alphabet
- Reduction order

Some rewrite systems have no convergent presentation over *any* alphabet.