Reimplementation and Extension of Java Type Unification

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Background Java is a programming language where it is necessary to declare types explicitly. With type inference, type declarations can be omitted, making programs shorter and easier to write. In [1], a type inference algorithm for Java is introduced. This algorithm uses a constraint-based type unification, which, for a given set of type constraints, computes all possible typings of a program [2]. The type unification algorithm has been implemented as part of a compiler [3], which supports implicitly typed Java programs.

Extension The Java type unification is extended by real function types [4]. Additionally, some cases concerning wildcard types are added, that were not considered in [2]. This leads to a simplification of the algorithm.

Reimplementation The old implementation is too inefficient to handle inputs of relevant size. A complete reimplementation aims to improve efficiency by using immutable data structures.

References

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