



# Type Systems

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# Today

# Featherweight Java

1. Recall Syntax of FJ
2. Static Semantics
3. Dynamic Semantics (Evaluation)
4. Type Safety
5. Extensions

Many of today's slides come from

→ CS510 (2003 at Princeton by D.Walker)

→ CMPSCI530 (2004/2002 at UMass Amherst  
by R. Harper)



# 1. Recall Syntax of FJ

## Example

```
class Pt extends Object {  
    int x;  
    int y;  
    Pt(int x, int y) {  
        super();  
        this.x = x;  
        this.y = y;  
    }  
    int getx() { return this.x; }  
    int gety() { return this.y; }  
}
```



# 1. Recall Syntax of FJ

## Example

```
class CPt extends Pt {  
    color c;  
    CPt(int x, int y, color c) {  
        super(x, y);  
        this.c = c;  
    }  
    color getc () { return this.c; }  
}
```

# 1. Recall Syntax of FJ

## Example

```
class CPt extends Pt {
    color c;
    CPt(int x, int y, color c) {
        super(x, y);
        this.c = c;
    }
    color getc () { return this.c; }
}
```

```
class int extends Object { int() { super(); } }
class color extends Object { color() { super(); } }
```

# 1. Recall Syntax of FJ

Classes	$C ::=$	<code>class C extends D { <u>C</u> f; K <u>M</u> }</code>
Constructors	$K ::=$	<code>C (<u>C</u> x) { super(x); <u>this.f=x</u>; }</code>
Methods	$M ::=$	<code>C m (<u>C</u> x) { return t; }</code>
Terms	$t ::=$	<code>x</code> <code>  t.f</code> <code>  t.m(<u>t</u>)</code> <code>  new C(<u>t</u>)</code> <code>  (C) t</code>

Underlining indicates a sequence of arbitrary length ( $\geq 0$ )



# 1. Recall Syntax of FJ

Objects are immutable: **no mutation** of fields!

(→ cannot do a 'set method')

---

FJ Program = ( CT, t )

CT: class table

(e.g., CT(int)=class int extends .. )

t: term to be evaluated

## 2. Static Semantics

Judgement forms:

$A <: B$

subtyping

$\Gamma \vdash t : C$

term typing

$m \text{ ok in } C$

well-formed method

$C \text{ ok}$

well-formed class

$T \text{ ok}$

well-formed class table

$\text{fields}(C) = \underline{C\_f}$

field lookup

$\text{mtype}(m, C) = \underline{C} \rightarrow C$

method type lookup



## 2. Static Semantics

### Subtyping

Subtype relation  $<$ : determined by CT only!

$$\frac{\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \dots \}}{C : < D}$$

reflexive  $C : < C$

transitive  $\frac{C : < D \quad D : < E}{C : < E}$

## 2. Static Semantics

Environment  $\Gamma$  is mapping from variables  
to types (classes).

Variables can only appear in method bodies.

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = T}{\Gamma \vdash x : T}$$

→ Variables must be declared

## 2. Static Semantics

Field selection:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C_0 \quad \text{fields}(C_0) = \underline{C \ f}}{\Gamma \vdash t_0 . f_i : C_i}$$

→ field  $f_i$  must be present in  $C_0$

→ its type is specified in  $C_0$

## 2. Static Semantics

Method invocation (message send):

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C_0 \quad \text{mtype}(m, C_0) = \underline{C'} \rightarrow D \quad \Gamma \vdash \underline{t} : \underline{C} \quad \underline{C} <: \underline{C'}}{\Gamma \vdash t_0.m(\underline{t}) : D}$$

→ method must be present

→ argument types must be subtypes of parameters

## 2. Static Semantics

Instantiation (object creation):

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \underline{t} : \underline{C} \quad \underline{C} <: \underline{C}' \quad \text{fields}(D) = \underline{C}' \text{ f}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{new } D(\underline{t}) : D}$$

→ class name must exist

→ initializers must be of subtypes of fields

## 2. Static Semantics

Casting:

(up or down)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C \quad (C <: D \text{ or } D <: C)}{\Gamma \vdash (D)t_0 : D}$$

→ ALL casts (up/down) are statically acceptable!

→ stupid (side) casts can be detected:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C \quad \text{not}(D <: C \text{ or } D <: D) \quad \text{give warning!}}{\Gamma \vdash (D)t_0 : D}$$

## 2. Static Semantics

Why do we allow down-casts?

Needed for applying class-specific methods, e.g.:

```
((Pair) new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst).snd
```



→ At run-time, only up-casts will succeed.



## 2. Static Semantics

Without the cast, typing of term fails:

---

```
(new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst).snd : Obj
```



## 2. Static Semantics

Without the cast, typing of term fails:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C_0 \quad \text{fields}(C_0) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}{\Gamma \vdash t_0.f_i : C_i}$$
$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair}}{(\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst}).\text{snd} : \text{Obj}}$$
$$\text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}$$

## 2. Static Semantics

Without the cast, typing of term fails:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C_0 \quad \text{fields}(C_0) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}{\Gamma \vdash t_0.f_i : C_i}$$
$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()) : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}}{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}}$$
$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}}{\text{(new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst}).\text{snd} : \text{Obj}}$$

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : C_0 \quad \text{fields}(C_0) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}{\Gamma \vdash t_0.f_i : C_i}$$
$$\frac{(\text{Pair}) \quad \text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst}, \text{Obj snd}}{(\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst}).\text{snd} : \text{Obj}}$$

(Pair)

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Obj}}{\text{Pair} <: \text{Obj}}$$
$$\frac{(\text{Pair}) \text{ new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair}}{(\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new A}(), \text{new B}()), \text{new A}()).\text{fst}).\text{snd} : \text{Obj}}$$
$$\text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}$$

(Pair)

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \underline{t} : \underline{C} \quad \underline{C} <: \underline{C}' \quad \text{fields}(D) = \underline{C}' \_f}{\Gamma \vdash \text{new } D(\underline{t}) : D}$$
$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()) : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}}{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()). \text{fst} : \text{Obj} \quad \text{Pair} <: \text{Obj}}$$
$$\frac{\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()). \text{fst} : \text{Obj} \quad \text{Pair} <: \text{Obj}}{(\text{Pair}) \text{ new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()). \text{fst} : \text{Pair} \quad \text{fields}(\text{Pair}) = \text{Obj fst, Obj snd}}$$
$$(\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()). \text{fst}). \text{snd} : \text{Obj}$$

(Pair)

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

$\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()) : \text{Pair}$	$\text{Pair} <: \text{Obj}$
$\text{new } A() : A$	$A <: \text{Obj}$

---

$\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()) : \text{Pair}$	$\text{fields}(\text{Pair}) =$ $\text{Obj fst}, \text{Obj snd}$
---	--

---

$\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()).\text{fst} : \text{Obj}$	$\text{Pair} <: \text{Obj}$
---	-----------------------------

---

$(\text{Pair}) \text{ new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()).\text{fst} : \text{Pair}$	$\text{fields}(\text{Pair}) =$ $\text{Obj fst}, \text{Obj snd}$
---	--

---

$(\text{new Pair}(\text{new Pair}(\text{new } A(), \text{new } B()), \text{new } A()).\text{fst}).\text{snd} : \text{Obj}$

(Pair)

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

<code>new Pair(new A(), new B()) : Pair</code>	<code>Pair &lt;: Obj</code>
<code>new A() : A</code> OK, because <code>fields(A) = []</code>	<code>A &lt;: Obj</code>

---

<code>new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()) : Pair</code>	<code>fields(Pair) =</code> <code>Obj fst, Obj snd</code>
---	--

---

<code>new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst : Obj</code>	<code>Pair &lt;: Obj</code>
--	-----------------------------

---

<code>(Pair) new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst : Pair</code>	<code>fields(Pair) =</code> <code>Obj fst, Obj snd</code>
--	--

---

`(new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst).snd : Obj`

`(Pair)`

## 2. Static Semantics

With the cast typing succeeds!

```
new A(): A  
new B(): B
```

```
A <: Obj  
B <: Obj
```

```
fields(Pair) =  
Obj fst, Obj snd
```

---

```
new Pair(new A(), new B()) : Pair
```

```
Pair <: Obj
```

```
new A() : A OK, because fields(A) = []
```

```
A <: Obj
```

---

```
new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()),  
          new A()) : Pair
```

```
fields(Pair) =  
Obj fst, Obj snd
```

---

```
new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()),  
          new A()).fst : Obj
```

```
Pair <: Obj
```

---

```
(Pair) new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()),  
                new A()).fst : Pair
```

```
fields(Pair) =  
Obj fst, Obj snd
```

---

```
(new Pair(new Pair(new A(), new B()), new A()).fst).snd : Obj
```

(Pair)



## 2. Static Semantics

### Well-Formed Classes

$$\frac{K = C(\underline{D}_g, \underline{C}_f) \{ \text{super}(); \text{this}.\underline{f} = \underline{f}; \} \quad \text{fields}(D) = \underline{D}_g \quad \underline{M} \text{ ok in } C}{\text{Class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C}_f; K \underline{M} \} \text{ ok}}$$

- constructor has arguments for all super-class fields and for all new fields
- initialize super-class before new fields
- new methods must be **well-formed**

## 2. Static Semantics

### Well-Formed Methods

$$\frac{\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \dots \} \\ \text{mtype}(m, D) \text{ equals } \underline{C} \rightarrow C_0 \text{ or undefined} \\ \underline{x:C}, \text{this}:C \vdash t_0 : E_0 \quad E_0 <: C_0}{C_0 \text{ M } (\underline{C} \ x) \{ \text{return } t_0; \} \text{ ok in } C}$$

→ must return a subtype of the result type

→ if overriding, then type of method must  
be same as before

## 2. Static Semantics

### Well-Formed Class Table

$$\frac{\text{for all } C \in \text{dom}(\text{CT}), T(C) \text{ ok}}{\text{CT ok}}$$

→ All classes in CT must be well-formed

### Well-Formed Program

$$\frac{\text{CT ok} \quad \vdash t : C}{(\text{CT}, t) \text{ ok}}$$

## 2. Static Semantics

### Method Type Lookup

$$\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C} \text{ f}; K \underline{M} \}$$
$$B \text{ m } (\underline{B} \text{ x}) \{ \text{return } t; \} \in \underline{M}$$

---

$$\text{mtype}(m, C) = \underline{B} \rightarrow B$$
$$\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C} \text{ f}; K \underline{M} \}$$
$$m \text{ not defined in } \underline{M}$$

---

$$\text{mtype}(m, C) = \text{mtype}(m, D)$$

Method Body Lookup works exactly the same.

→ returns  $(\underline{x}, t)$

## 2. Static Semantics

### Field Lookup

$\text{fields}(\text{Object}) = [ ]$

$$\frac{\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C\_f}; \text{K } \underline{M} \} \quad \text{fields}(D) = \underline{D\_g}}{\text{fields}(m, C) = \underline{D\_g}, \underline{C\_f}}$$

→ Concatenation of super-class fields, plus new ones

### 3. Dynamic Semantics (Evaluation)

Object values have the form  $\text{new } c(\underline{s}, \underline{t})$

where  $\underline{s}$  are the values of super-class fields  
and  $\underline{t}$  are the values of  $C$ 's fields.

$$\frac{\text{fields}(C) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}{\text{fields}(C) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}$$

$$(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . f_i \rightarrow v_i$$

field  
selection

$$\text{mbody}(m, C) = (\underline{x}, t_0)$$

$$\frac{\text{mbody}(m, C) = (\underline{x}, t_0)}{(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . m(\underline{u}) \rightarrow [x \rightarrow u, \text{this} \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})] t_0}$$

method  
invocation

$$C <: D$$

$$\frac{C <: D}{(D) (\text{new } C(\underline{v})) \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})}$$

casting

### 3. Dynamic Semantics (Evaluation)

Object values have the form  $\text{new } c(\underline{s}, \underline{t})$

where  $\underline{s}$  are the values of super-class fields  
and  $\underline{t}$  are the values of  $C$ 's fields.

$$\frac{\text{fields}(C) = \underline{C} \ \underline{f}}$$

$$(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . f_i \rightarrow v_i$$

field  
selection

$$\text{mbody}(m, C) = (\underline{x}, t_0)$$

$$\frac{}{(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . m(\underline{u}) \rightarrow [x \rightarrow u, \text{this} \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})] t_0}$$

method  
invocation

$$\frac{C <: D}$$

$$(\underline{D})(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})$$

stuck, if  $C$  is  
not a subtype  
of  $D$ !!!

casting

### 3. Dynamic Semantics (Evaluation)

Object values have the form  $\text{new } c(\underline{s}, \underline{t})$

where  $\underline{s}$  are the values of super-class fields  
and  $\underline{t}$  are the values of  $C$ 's fields.

$$\underline{\text{fields}(C)} = \underline{C \text{ f}}$$

$$(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . f_i \rightarrow v_i$$

$$\text{mbody}(m, C) = (\underline{x}, t_0)$$

---

$$(\text{new } C(\underline{v})) . m(\underline{u}) \rightarrow [x \rightarrow u, \text{this} \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})] t_0$$

$$C <: D$$

---

$$(D) (\text{new } C(\underline{v})) \rightarrow \text{new } C(\underline{v})$$

... plus usual CBV  
evaluation rules!



### 3. Dynamic Semantics (Evaluation)

#### Method Body Lookup

$$\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C} \text{ f}; K \underline{M} \}$$
$$B \text{ m } (\underline{B} \text{ x}) \{ \text{return } t; \} \in \underline{M}$$

---

$$\text{mbody}(m, C) = (\underline{x}, t)$$
$$\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \underline{C} \text{ f}; K \underline{M} \}$$
$$m \text{ not defined in } \underline{M}$$

---

$$\text{mbody}(m, C) = \text{mbody}(m, D)$$

- "Dynamic Dispatch" - climbs up the class hierarchy searching for the method
- static semantics guarantees that method exists!



## Easy Questions:

1. How can you (Church-) encode Booleans in FJ?
2. What is the smallest nonterminating FJ program?
3. Why is FJ Turing complete?
4. Why can casts not be (fully) statically checked?



## 4. Type Safety

### Theorem (Preservation)

Let CT be a well-formed class table.

If  $t : C$  and  $t \rightarrow t'$  then  $t' : C'$  for some  $C' \leq C$ .

- Proof by induction on the length of evaluations.
- Type may get “smaller” during execution, due to casting!

how?



## 4. Type Safety

### Canonical Forms Lemma.

If  $v: C$ , then  $v = \text{new } D(t_0)$  with  $D <: C$  and  $t_0$  value.

- Values of class type are objects (instances)
- The **dynamic** class of an object may be lower in the subtype hierarchy than the **static** class.



## 4. Type Safety

### Theorem (Progress)

Let CT be a well-formed class table.

If  $t : C$  then either

1.  $t$  is a value, or
2.  $t = (C) \text{ new } D(v_0)$  and  $\text{not}(D <: C)$ , or
3. there exists  $t'$  such that  $t \rightarrow t'$ .

---

→ Proof by induction on typing derivations.

→ Well-typed programs CAN GET STUCK!! But only because of casts..

→ Precludes “message not understood” error.



## 5. Extensions

Which static type check can we easily generalize?

## 5. Extensions

Which static type check can we easily generalize?  
→ Method Override!

### Well-Formed Methods

$$\frac{\text{CT}(C) = \text{class } C \text{ extends } D \{ \dots \} \\ \text{mtype}(m, D) \text{ equals } \underline{C} \rightarrow C_0 \text{ or undefined} \\ \underline{x}: C, \text{ this}: C \vdash t_0 : E_0 \quad E_0 <: C_0}{C_0 \text{ M } (\underline{C} \ x) \{ \text{return } t_0; \} \text{ ok in } C}$$

→ must return a subtype of the result type

→ if overriding, then type of method must  
be same as before





## 5. Extensions

Why does this work out?

Assume  $C <: C'$  and  $t_0 : C$ . We want that also  $t_0 : C'$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mtype}(m, C) &= \underline{D} \rightarrow D \\ \text{mtype}(m, C') &= \underline{D'} \rightarrow D' \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $t_0.m(\underline{t})$

→ Type of message send is  $D$  and  $D <: D'$ , so of type  $D'$ .

→ Type of  $\underline{t}$  might be  $\underline{D'}$ , hence  $\underline{D}$ , so message send is OK.

## 5. Extensions

Java adds **array covariance**:

$$\frac{C \prec: D}{C [] \prec: D []}$$

- No problem for FJ, which does not support assignment.
- With assignment, might store a supertype value in an array of the subtype. Subsequent retrieval at subtype unsound!
- Java inserts a per-assignment run-time check to ensure safety



## 5. Extensions

### Static Fields:

- Must be initialized as part of the class definition (not by the constructor)
- In what order are initializers evaluated? – could require initialization to a constant.

### Static Methods:

- Essentially just recursive functions
- no overriding
- static dispatch to the class, not the instance.



## 5. Extensions

### Final Methods:

→ Preclude override in a subclass

### Final Fields:

→ Only sensible in the presence of mutation!

### Abstract Methods:

→ Some methods are undefined (but declared)

→ Cannot form an instance if any method is abstract



## 5. Extensions

### Interfaces:

→ Essentially “fully abstract” classes

→ No instances admitted

→ Allow “multiple inheritance”. No dispatch ambiguity  
because no instance!



## 5. Extensions

Class Tables:

Type checking requires the entire program!

- Class table is a global property of  
the program and libraries
- Cannot type check classes separately from another