# Abstracting Gradual Typing

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# **Gradual Typing**

In a Nutshell

"traditional way"

#### Static vs Dynamic Type Checking

Long-standing divide in programming languages

#### static

early error detection enforce abstractions checked documentation efficiency

Java, Scala, C#/..., ML, Haskell, Go, Rust, etc.

#### dynamic

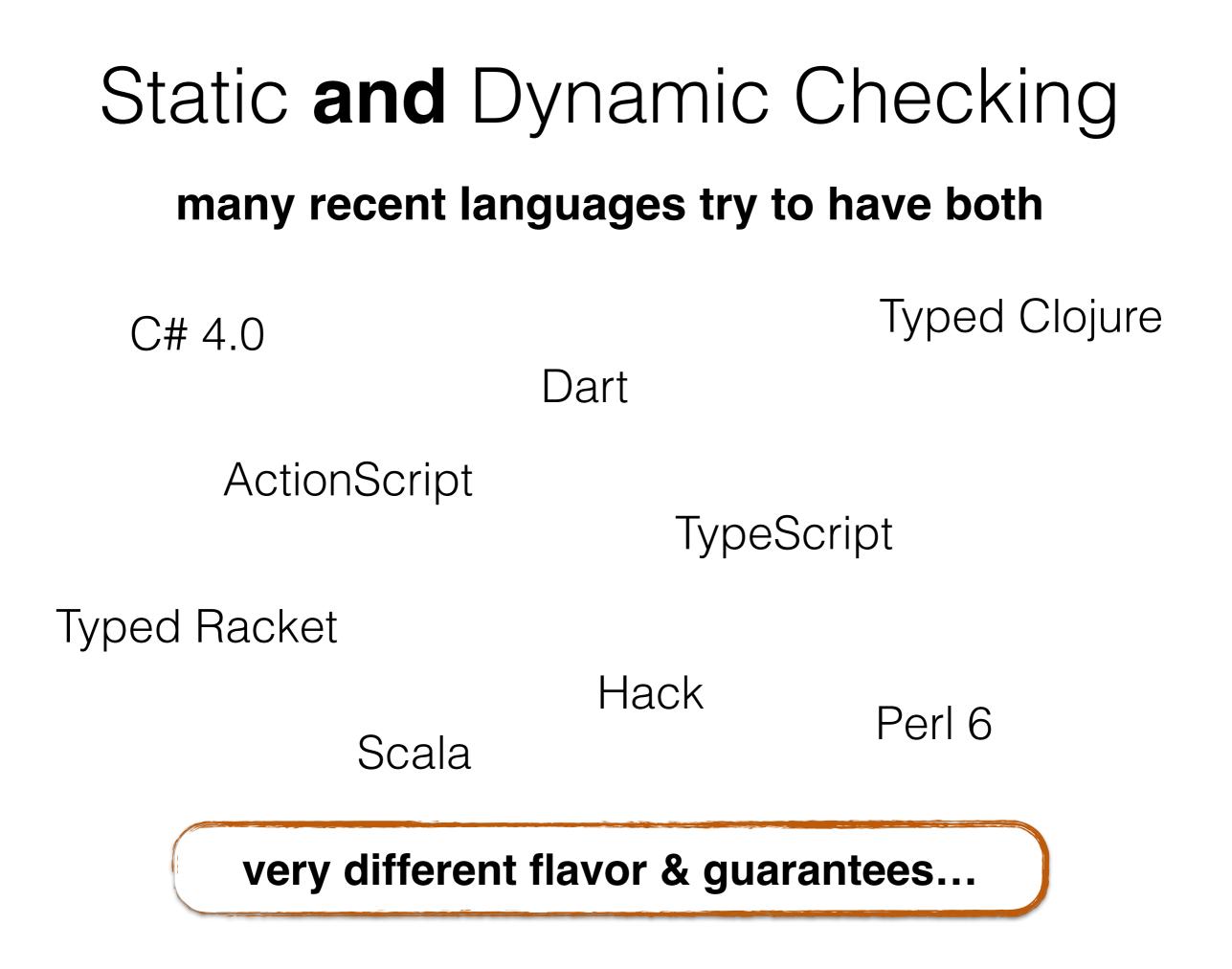
flexible programming idioms rapid prototyping no spurious errors simplicity

Python, JavaScript, Racket, Clojure, PHP, Smalltalk, etc.

#### why should we have to choose?

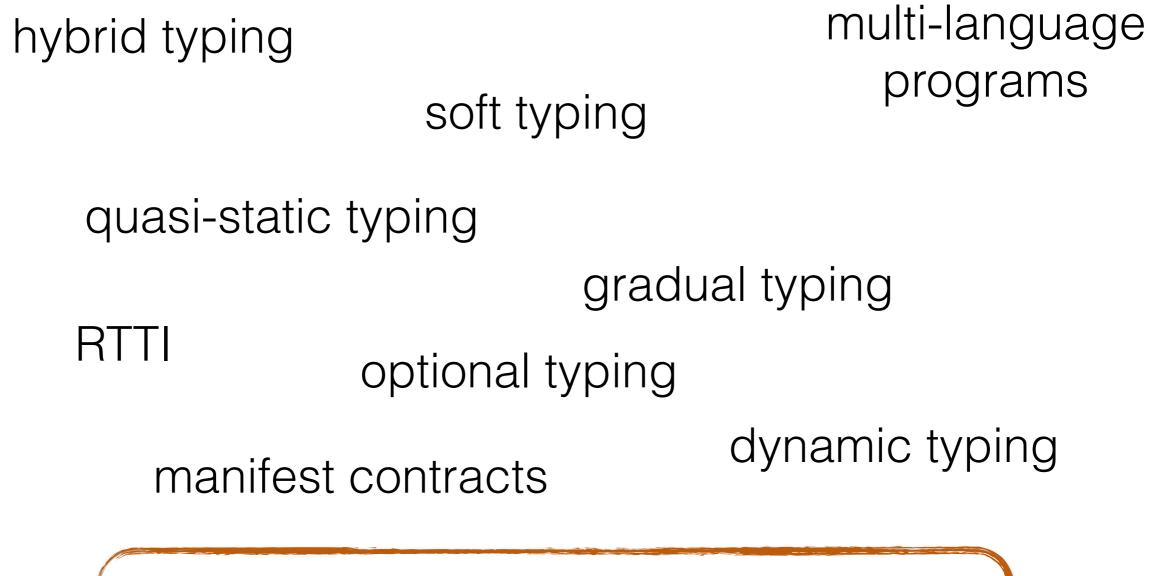
#### can't we have both?





#### Static and Dynamic Checking

#### many different theories too!



very different flavor & guarantees...

## Gradual Typing

[Siek & Taha, 2006]

- **Combine** both checking disciplines in a single language
- Programmer **controls** which discipline is used where
- Supports seamless **evolution** between static/dynamic
- Pay-as-you-go: static regions can be safely optimized

### Fully Static & Fully Dynamic

Gradual as superset of static and dynamic

def f(x) = x + 2
def h(g) = g(1)
h(f)
→ 3 √

def f(x) = x + 2
def h(g) = g(true)
h(f)
→ true + 2 ★
runtime error

def f(x:int) = x + 2def h(g:int $\rightarrow$ int) = g(1) h(f) def f(x:int) = x + 2
def h(g:int→int) = g(true)
h(f)
static error



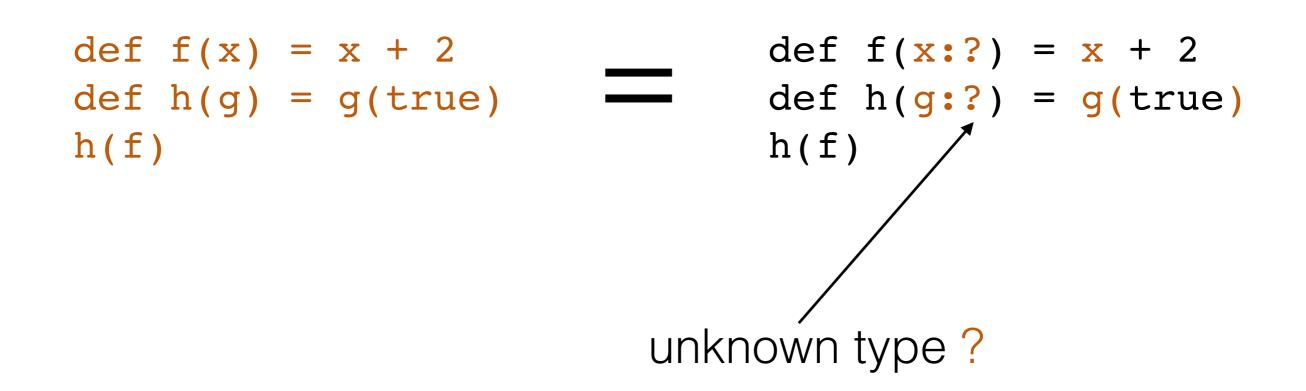
#### Sound Interoperability

Partially-typed programs

def f(x:int) = x + 2 def h(g) = g(1) h(f)  $\rightarrow 3 \checkmark$ def f(x:int) = x + 2 def h(g) = g(true) h(f)  $\rightarrow f(true) \bigotimes$ runtime error at the boundary

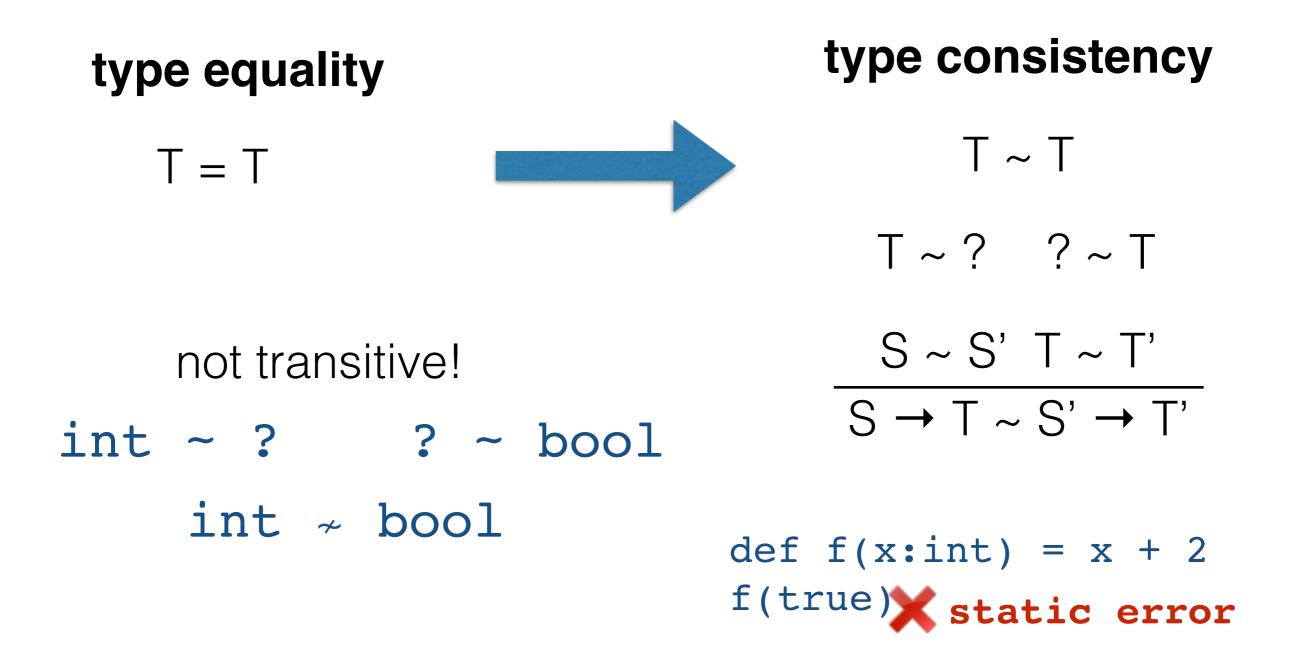
protect assumptions made in static code

#### Inside Gradual Typing

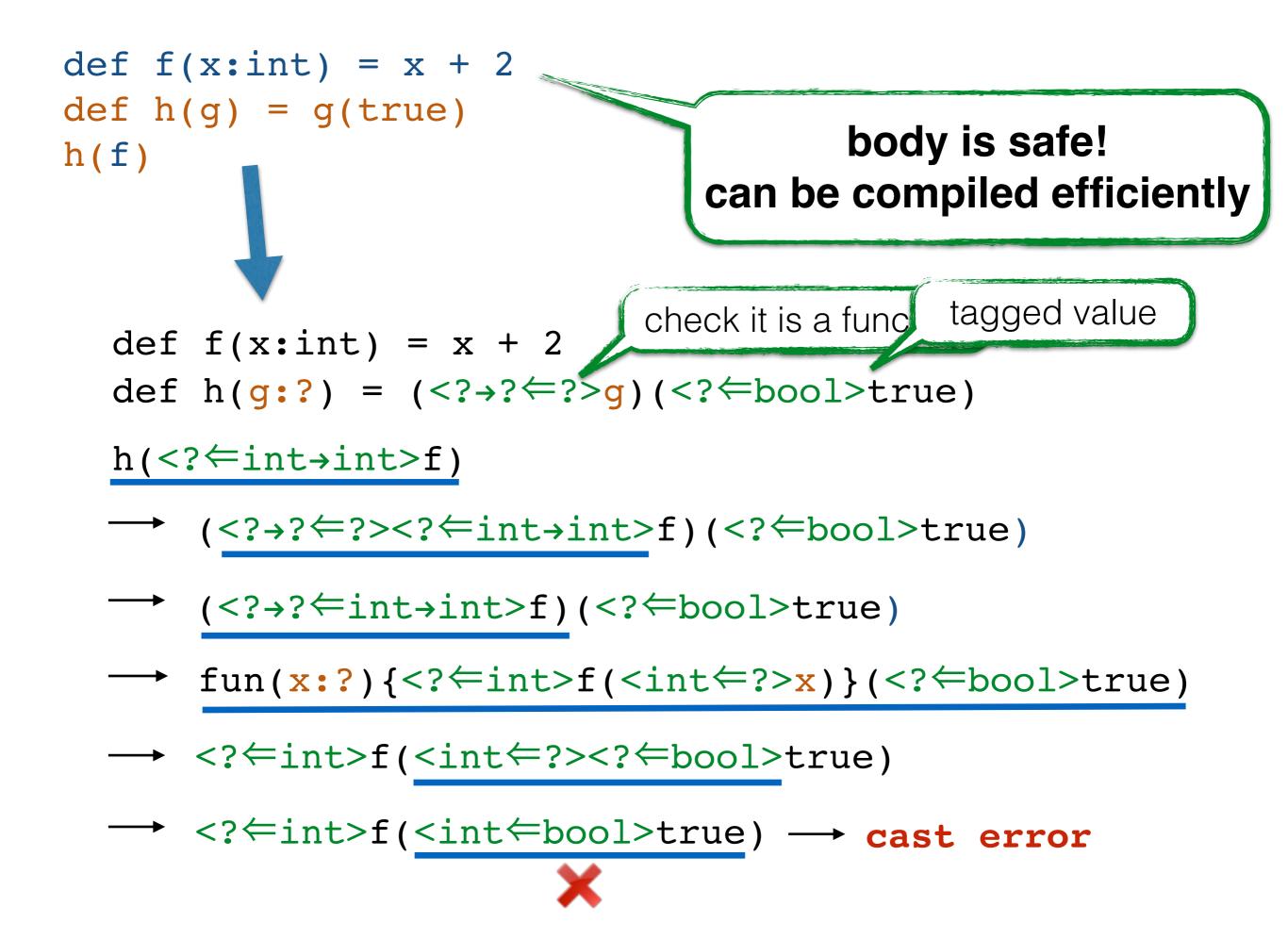


#### Inside Gradual Typing

static semantics: consistency



# Inside Gradual Typing dynamic semantics: casts def f(x:?) = x + 2 $\longrightarrow$ def f(x:?) = $\langle int \leftarrow ? \rangle x + 2$ check it is an int $f(5) \rightarrow \langle int \leftarrow ? \rangle 5 + 2 \rightarrow 5 + 2 \rightarrow 7$ $f(true) \rightarrow <int <?>true + 2 \rightarrow cast error$



# The End ?

### Beyond Simple Gradual Typing

- **Subtyping** (structural, nominal, objects)
- Parametric polymorphism ("blame for all")
- Type inference and gradual types
- Union and recursive types

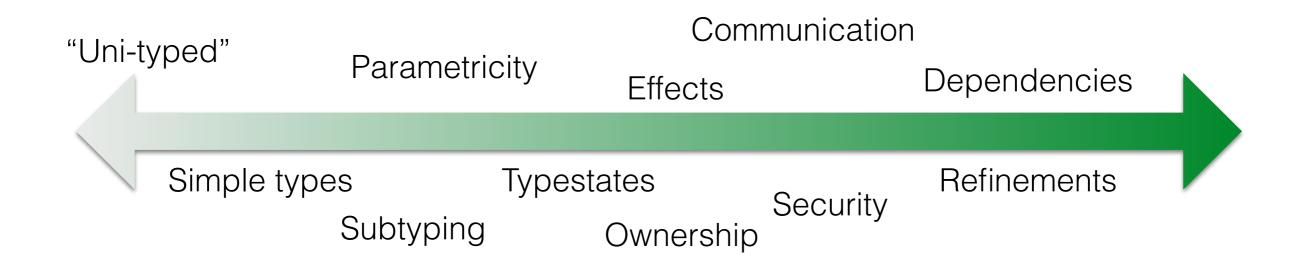
[Siek&Taha'07, Ina&Igarashi'11]

[Ahmed et al '08 '11]

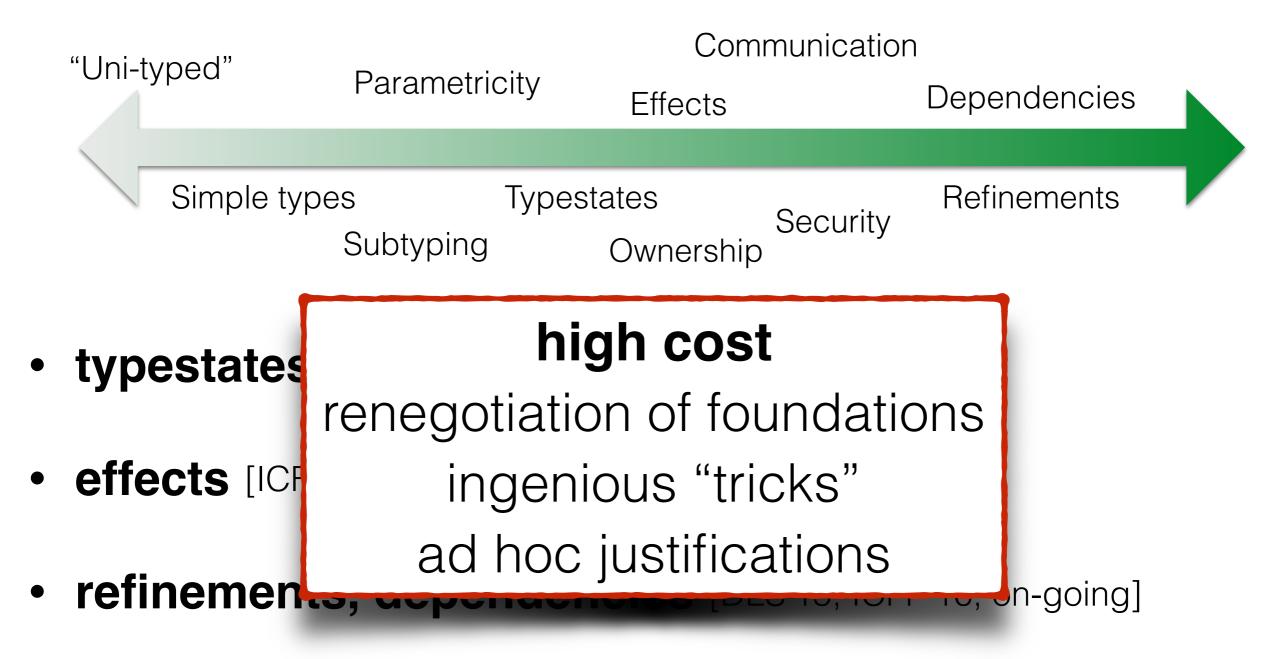
[Siek&Vachharajani'08, Garcia&Cimini'15]

[Siek&Tobin-Hochstadt'16]

#### Gradual Typing = reconciling static and dynamic typing reconciling type disciplines of different strength



### Gradualized Type Disciplines



• **security typing** [arXiv'15, on-going]

### What do you mean "Gradual"?

#### **Refined Criteria for Gradual Typ**

Jeremy G. Siek<sup>1</sup>, Michael M. Vitousek<sup>1</sup>, M John Tang Boyland<sup>2</sup>

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— Abstract –

Siek and Taha [2006]

and dynamic typing within a single language that () puts the regions of code are statically or dynamically typed and 2) enbetween the two typing disciplines. Since 2006, the term grad but its meaning has become diluted to encompass anythin reand dynamic typing. This dilution is partly the fault of the oincomplete formal characterization of what it means to be grad draw a crisp line in the sand that includes a new formal proper that relates the behavior of programs that differ only with respoargue that the gradual guarantee provides important guidance languages. We survey the gradual typing literature, can guarantee. We also report on a mechanized proof that the gradually Typed Lambda Calculus.

#### gradual guarantee

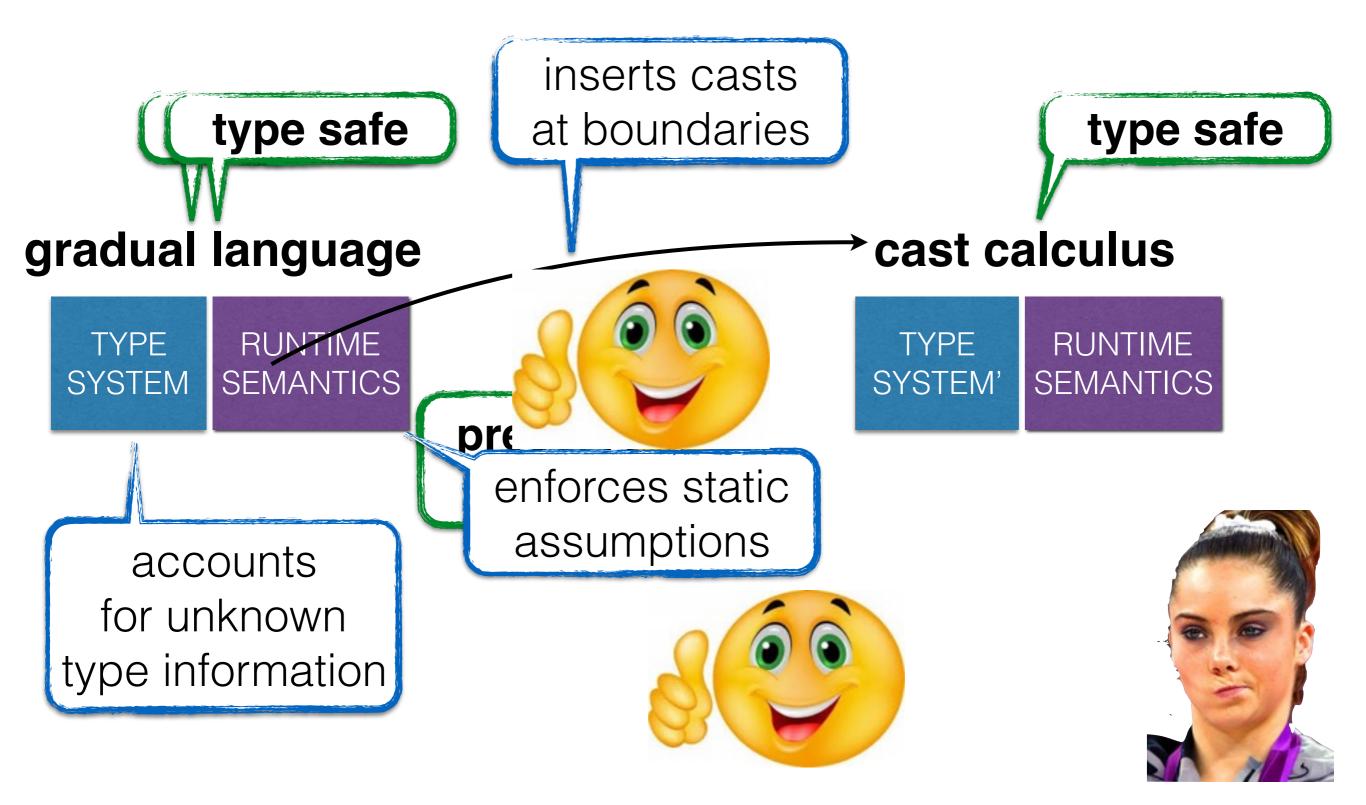
I property, losing *precision* preserves both **uarantee**" typeability and reducibility

> "relates the behavior of programs that differ only wrt their type annotations"

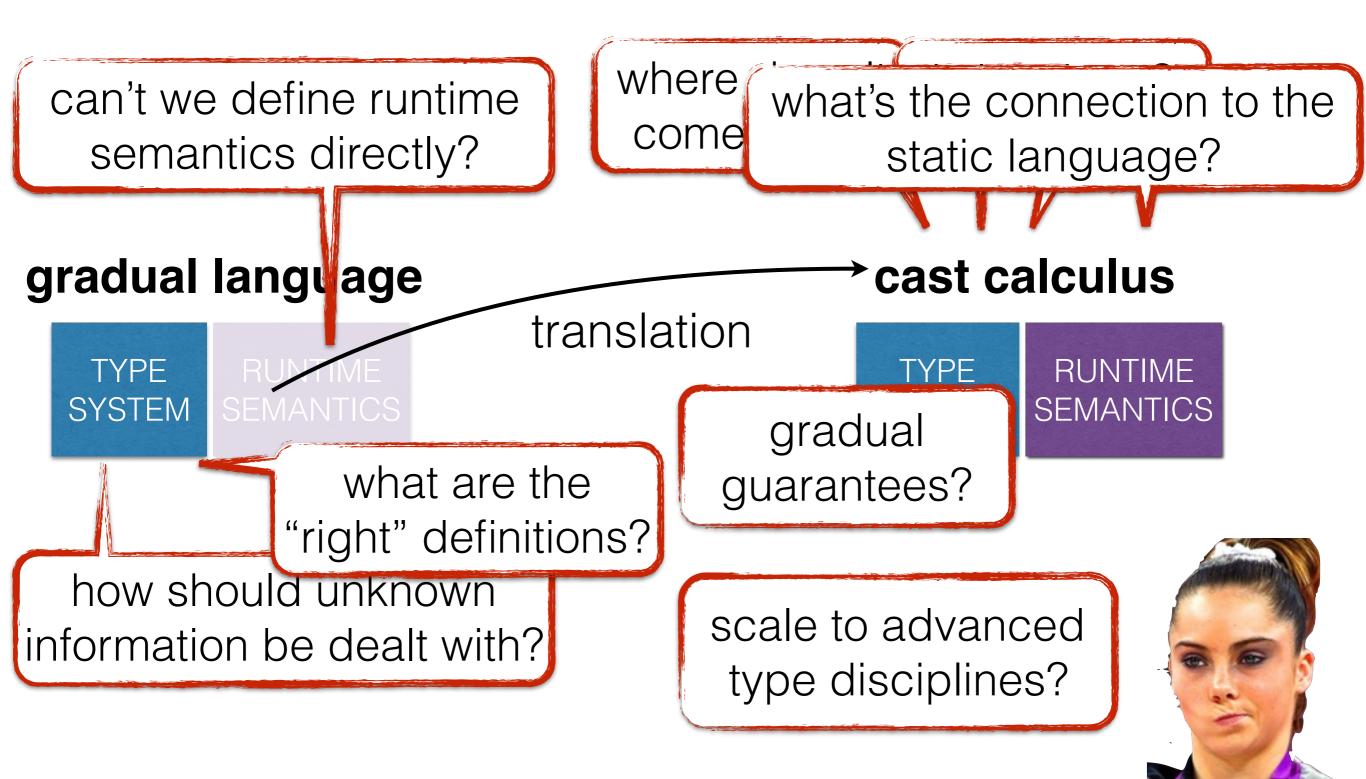
"its meaning has become **diluted** to encompass anything related to the integration [...]"

# Stepping back...

#### Traditional Approach to Gradual Typing



#### Challenges of Traditional Approach





general foundations

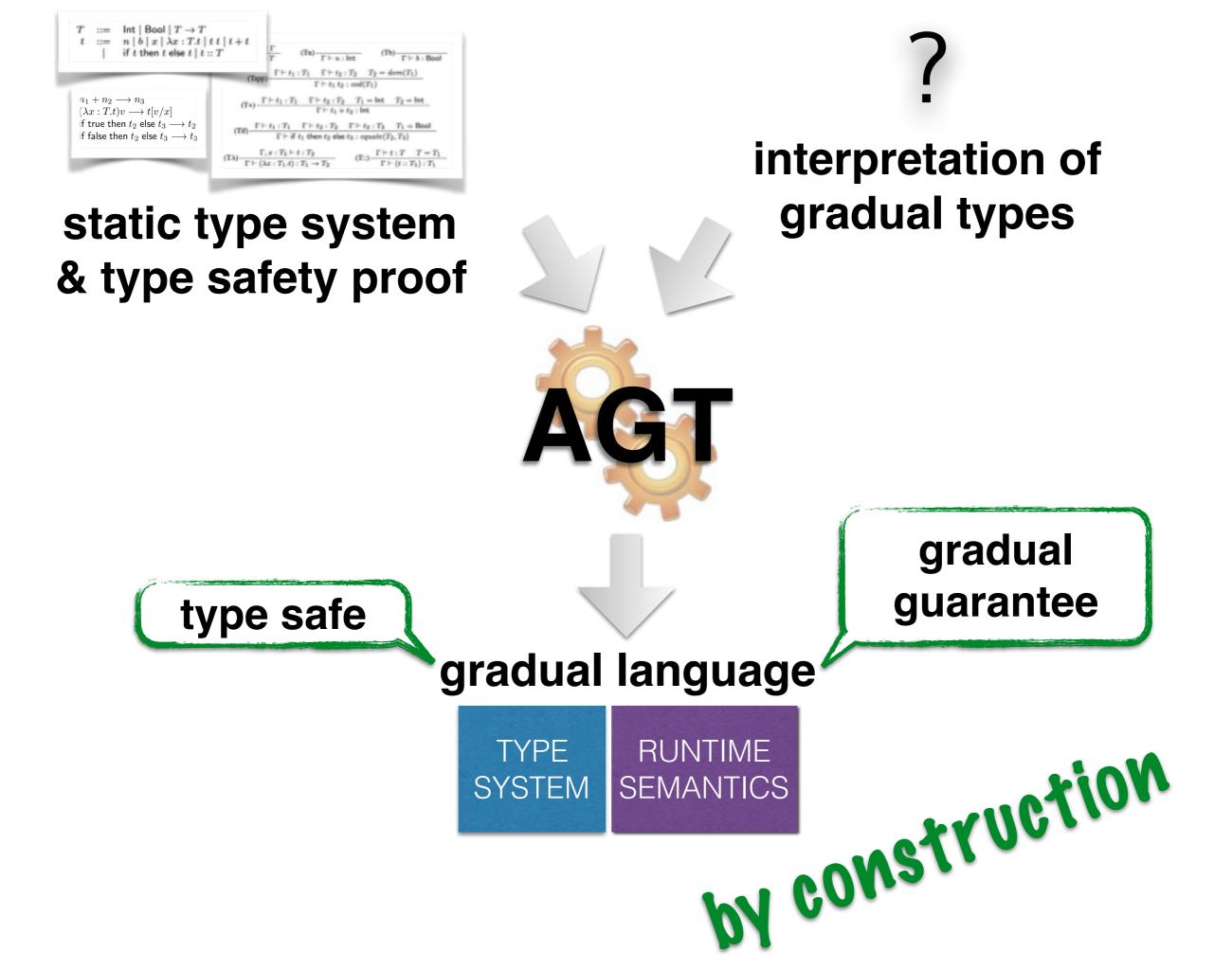
systematic design principles

crisp connection to static language

formal justification

# Abstracting A data Typing

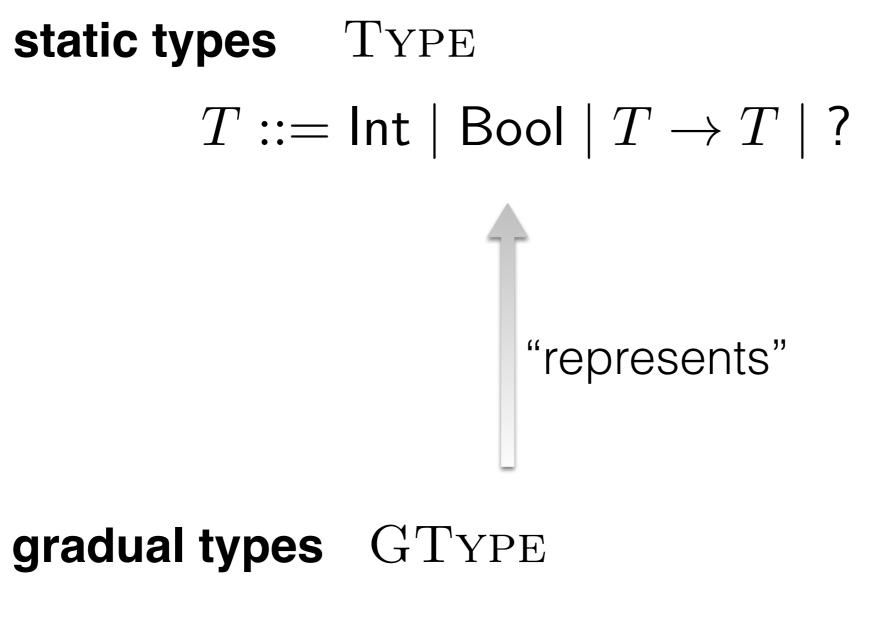
[POPL 2016]



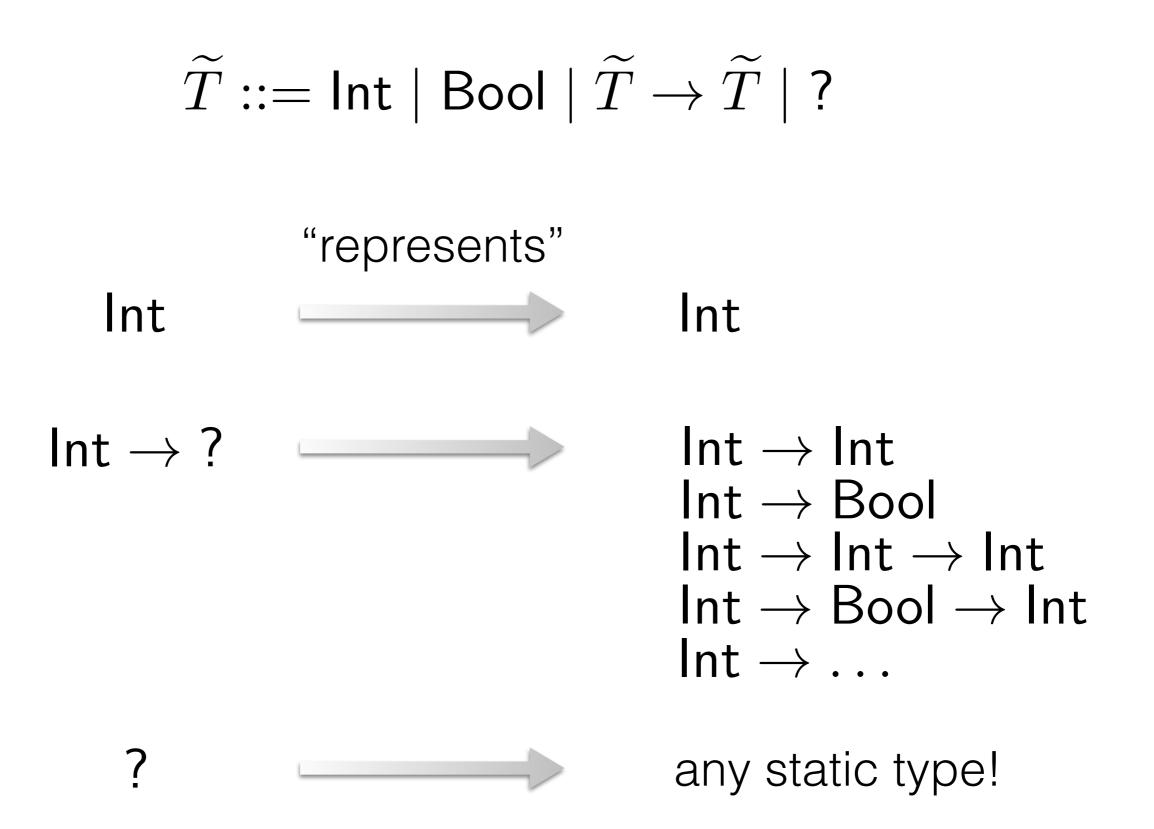
#### ? interpretation of gradual types



#### What is a gradual type?



$$\widetilde{T} ::= \operatorname{Int} | \operatorname{Bool} | \widetilde{T} \to \widetilde{T} | ?$$



#### Concretization

$$\begin{split} \gamma : \operatorname{GTYPE} &\to \mathcal{P}(\operatorname{TYPE}) \\ \gamma(\operatorname{\mathsf{Int}}) &= \{ \operatorname{\mathsf{Int}} \} \\ \gamma(\operatorname{\mathsf{Bool}}) &= \{ \operatorname{\mathsf{Bool}} \} \\ \gamma(\widetilde{T}_1 \to \widetilde{T}_2) &= \{ T_1 \to T_2 \mid T_1 \in \gamma(\widetilde{T}_1), T_2 \in \gamma(\widetilde{T}_2) \} \\ \gamma(\ref{eq:transformula}) &= \operatorname{\mathsf{TYPE}} \end{split}$$

e.g.  $\gamma(\mathsf{Int} \to ?) = \{ \mathsf{Int} \to T \mid T \in \mathsf{TYPE} \}$ 

### Design Space of Gradual Types $\gamma: \mathrm{GTYPE} \to \mathcal{P}(\mathrm{TYPE})$ $\gamma(?) = TYPE$ $\gamma(?) = \{ \mathsf{Int}, \mathsf{Bool} \}$ $\gamma(?^T) = \{ T' \in TYPE \mid T' <: T \}$ $\gamma(T_{?}) = \{ T_{\ell}, \ell \in \text{LABEL} \}$

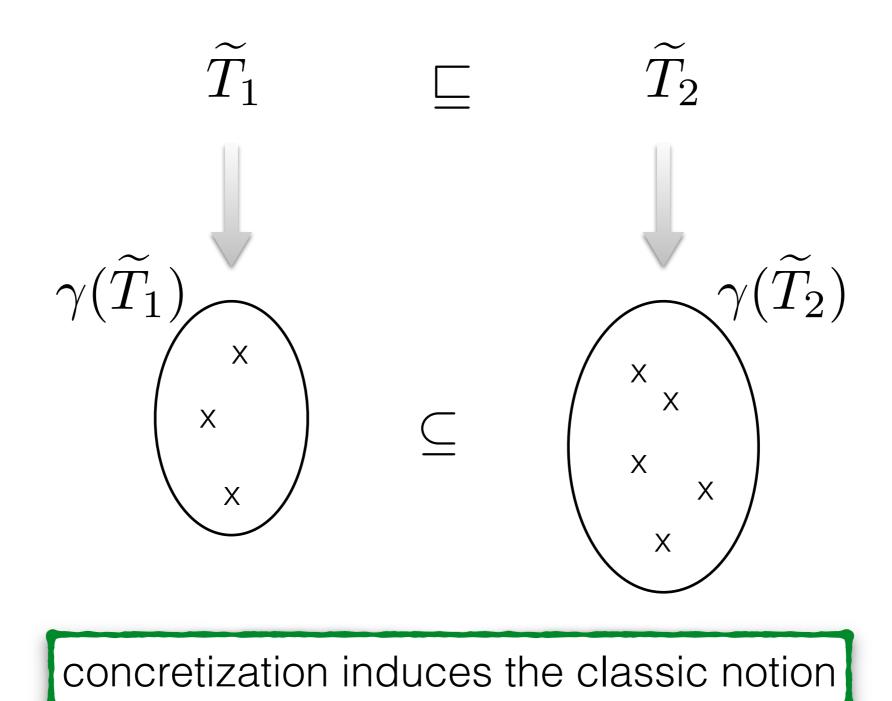
This is the only design decision! all the rest follows by AGT

### Precision of Gradual Types $\widetilde{T}_1 \subseteq \widetilde{T}_2$ less unknown aka. more precise $\mathsf{Int} \to \mathsf{Int} \ \sqsubseteq \ \mathsf{Int} \to ? \ \sqsubseteq \ ? \to ? \ \sqsubseteq \ ?$

a.k.a. "naive subtyping"

[Wadler & Findler, 2009]

#### Precision of Gradual Types

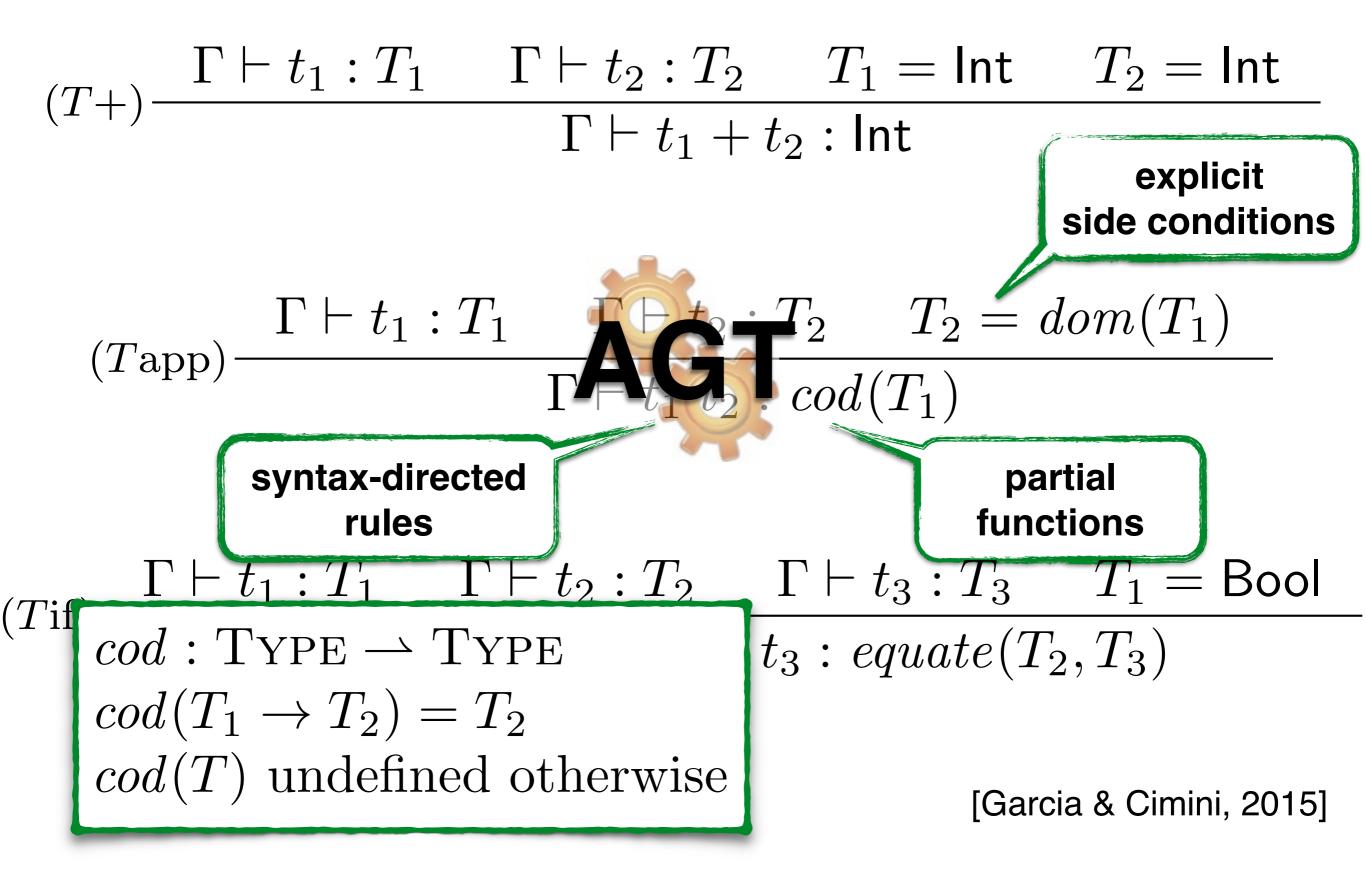




### I - Static Semantics

#### Gradualizing the Type System

0. start from a static typing discipline



$$(\widetilde{T}+) \underbrace{\Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{1} : \widetilde{T}_{1} \quad \Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{2} : \widetilde{T}_{2} \quad \widetilde{T}_{1} \sim \operatorname{Int} \quad \widetilde{T}_{2} \sim \operatorname{Int}}_{\operatorname{Side consistent}}$$

$$(\widetilde{T} \operatorname{app}) \underbrace{\Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{1} : \widetilde{T}_{1} \quad \Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{2} : \widetilde{T}_{2} \quad \widetilde{T}_{2} \sim d\widetilde{om}(\widetilde{T}_{1})}_{\Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{1} : \widetilde{t}_{2} : cod}(\widetilde{T}_{1}) \quad \operatorname{compositional}_{\operatorname{lifting}}}$$

$$(\widetilde{T} \operatorname{if}) \underbrace{\Gamma \vdash \widetilde{t}_{1} : \widetilde{T}_{1} \quad \Gamma \vdash \underbrace{\zeta_{2} : \widetilde{\tau}_{2}}_{T} \quad \widetilde{t}_{3} : \widetilde{T}_{2} \sqcup \widetilde{T}_{3}}_{\Gamma \vdash \operatorname{if} \widetilde{t}_{1} \operatorname{then} \widetilde{t}_{2} \operatorname{else} \widetilde{t}_{3} : \widetilde{T}_{2} \sqcup \widetilde{T}_{3}}$$

$$\operatorname{we now need to define and justify all of this!}$$

### Gradualizing the Type System

- 1. lift type predicates
- 2. lift type functions

### Gradualizing the Type System

#### 1. lift type predicates

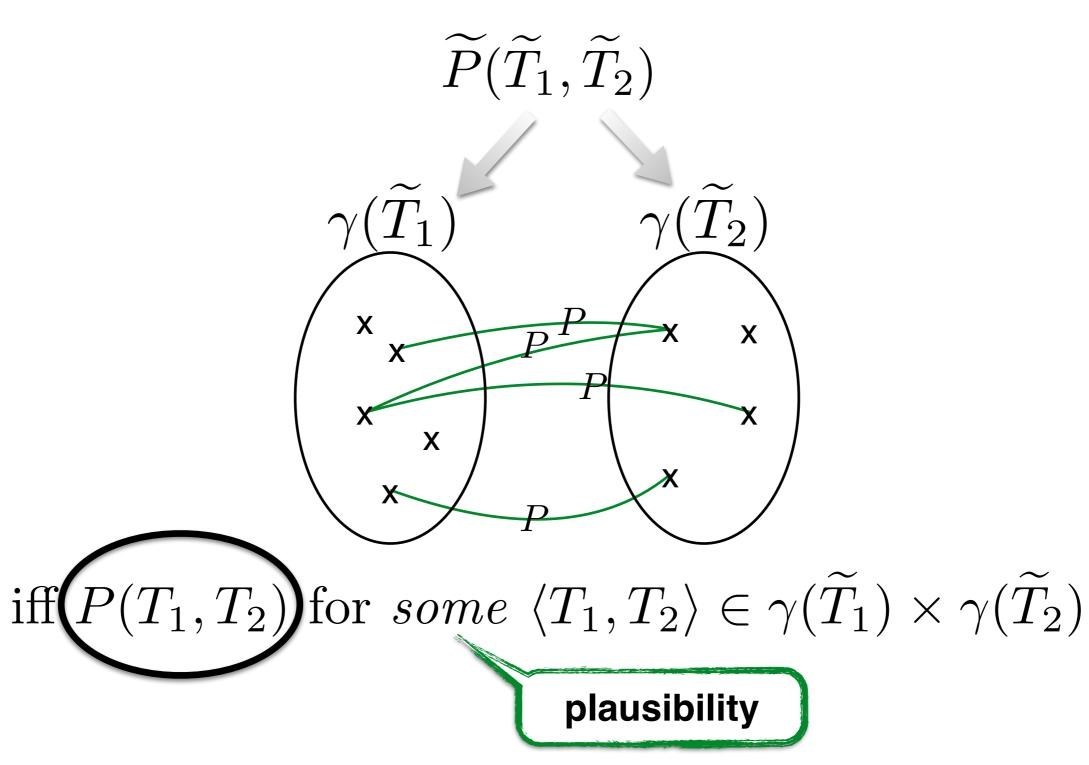
2. lift type functions

### Lifting Type Predicates

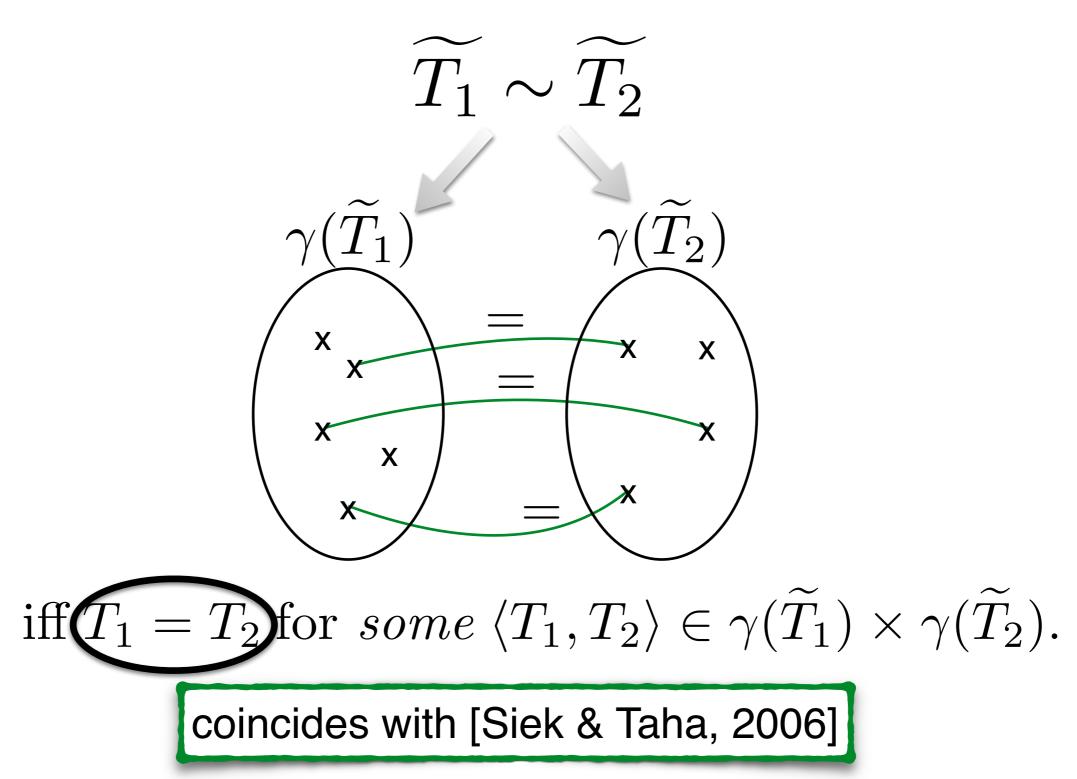
 $P \subseteq \text{Type} \times \text{Type} \longrightarrow \widetilde{P} \subseteq \text{Gtype} \times \text{Gtype}$ 



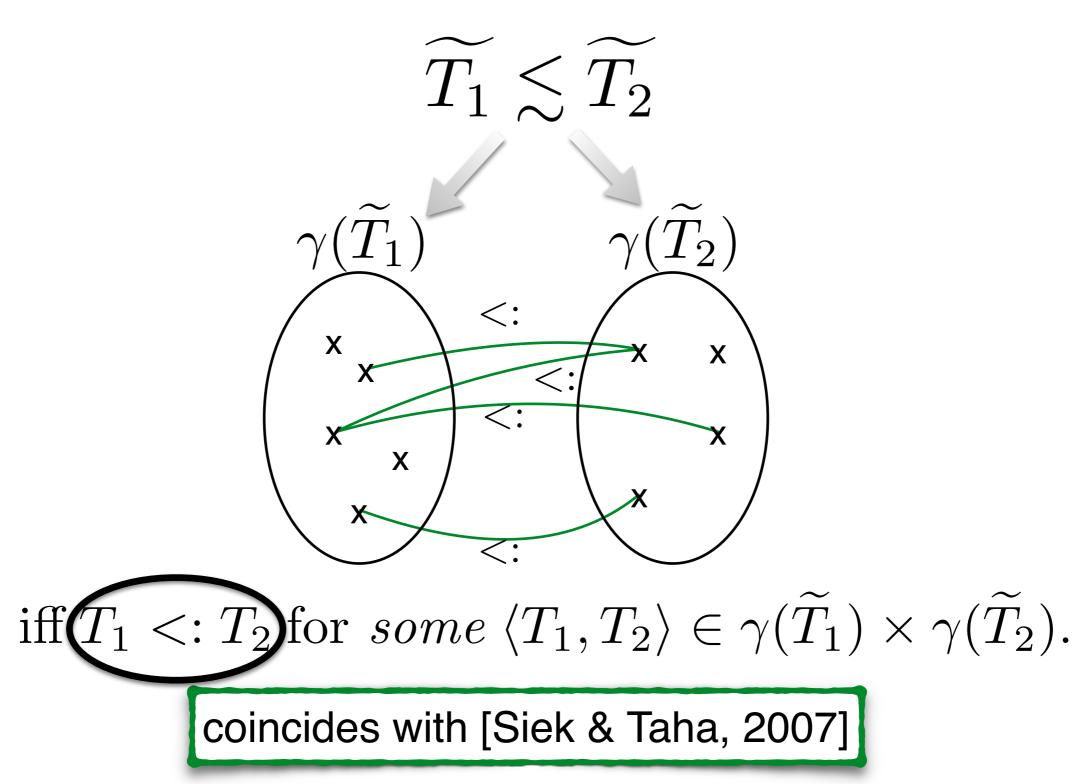
### Lifting Type Predicates



### Lifting Equality

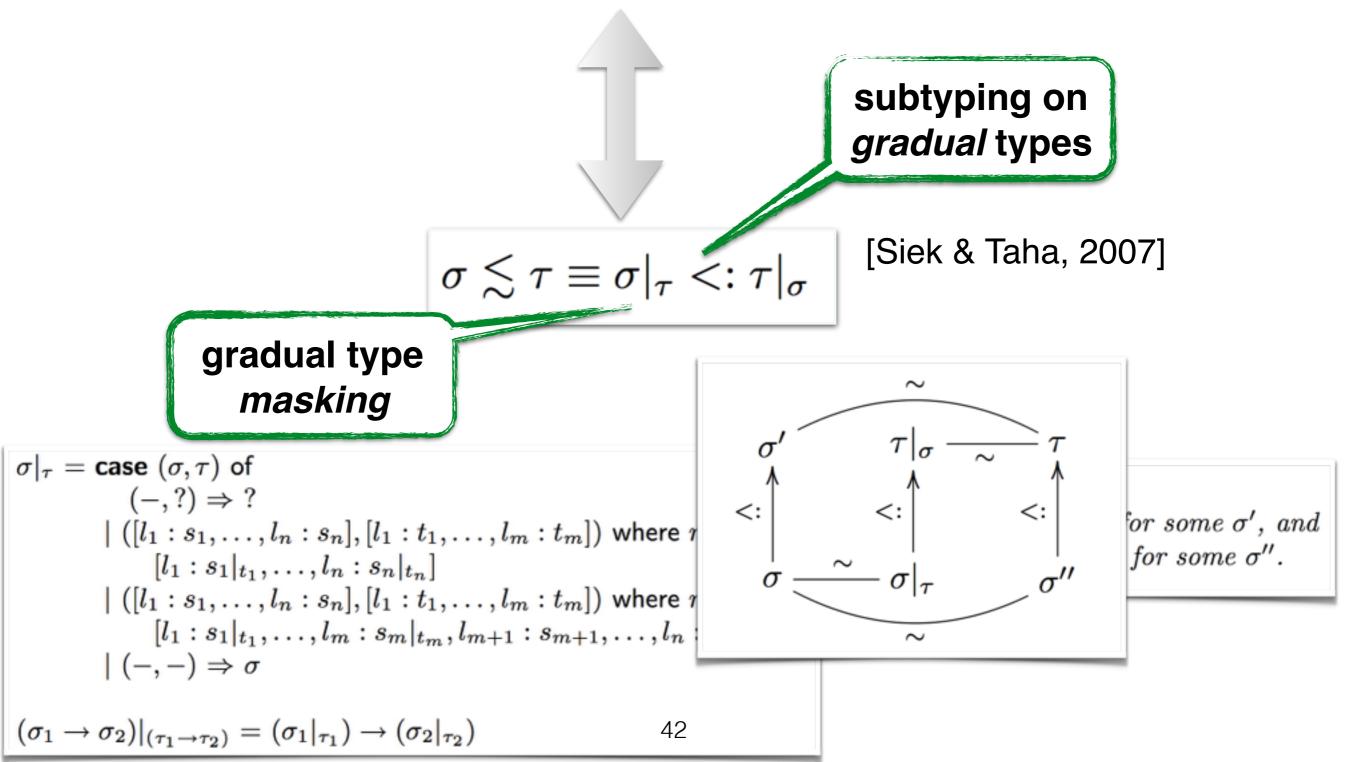


### Lifting Subtyping



### Lifting Subtyping

iff  $T_1 <: T_2$  for some  $\langle T_1, T_2 \rangle \in \gamma(\widetilde{T}_1) \times \gamma(\widetilde{T}_2)$ .



### Gradualizing the Type System

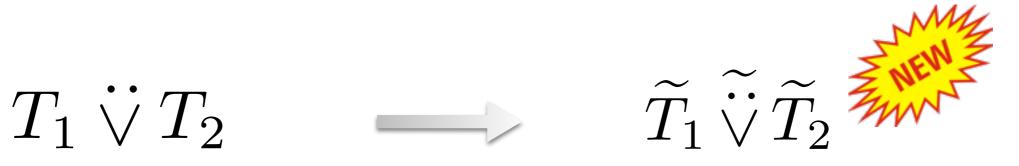
1. lift type predicates

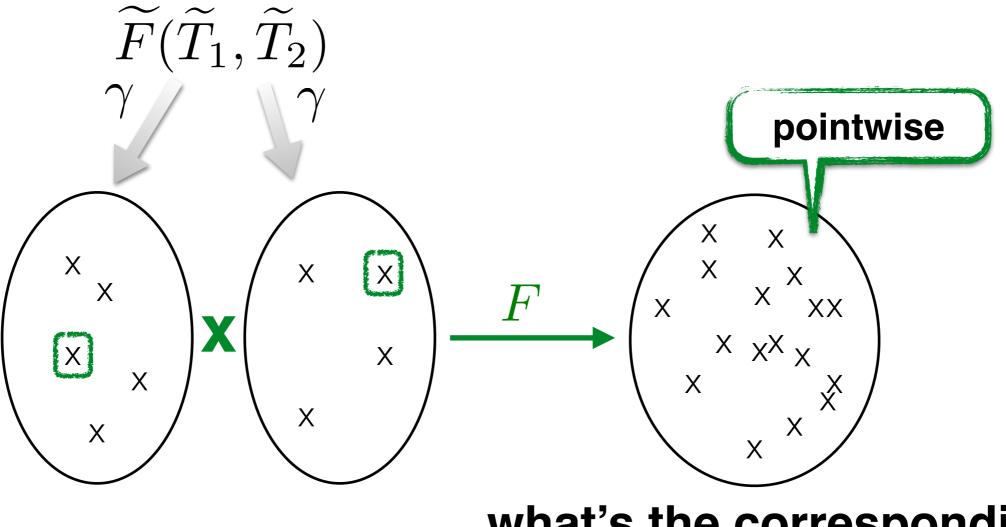
2. lift type functions

# Lifting Type Functions

 $F: \mathrm{TYPE}^n \to \mathrm{TYPE} \longrightarrow \widetilde{F}: \mathrm{GTYPE}^n \to \mathrm{GTYPE}$ 



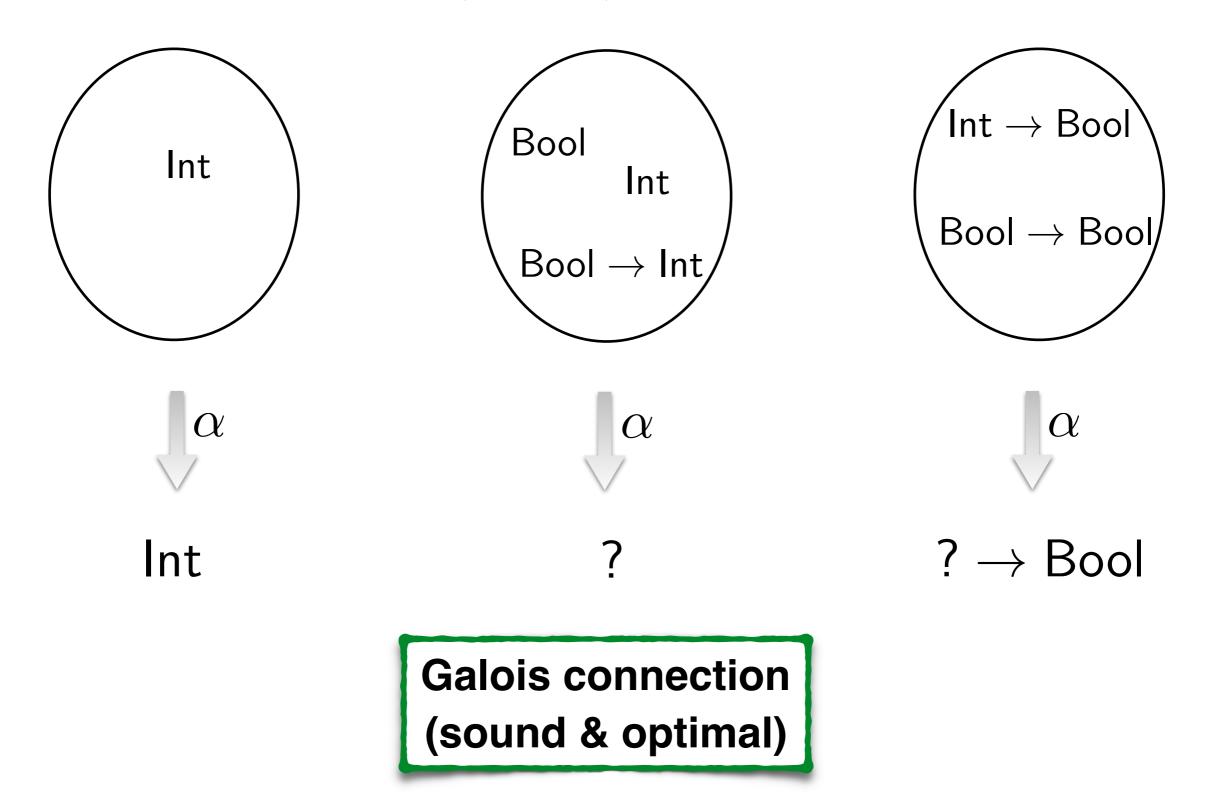


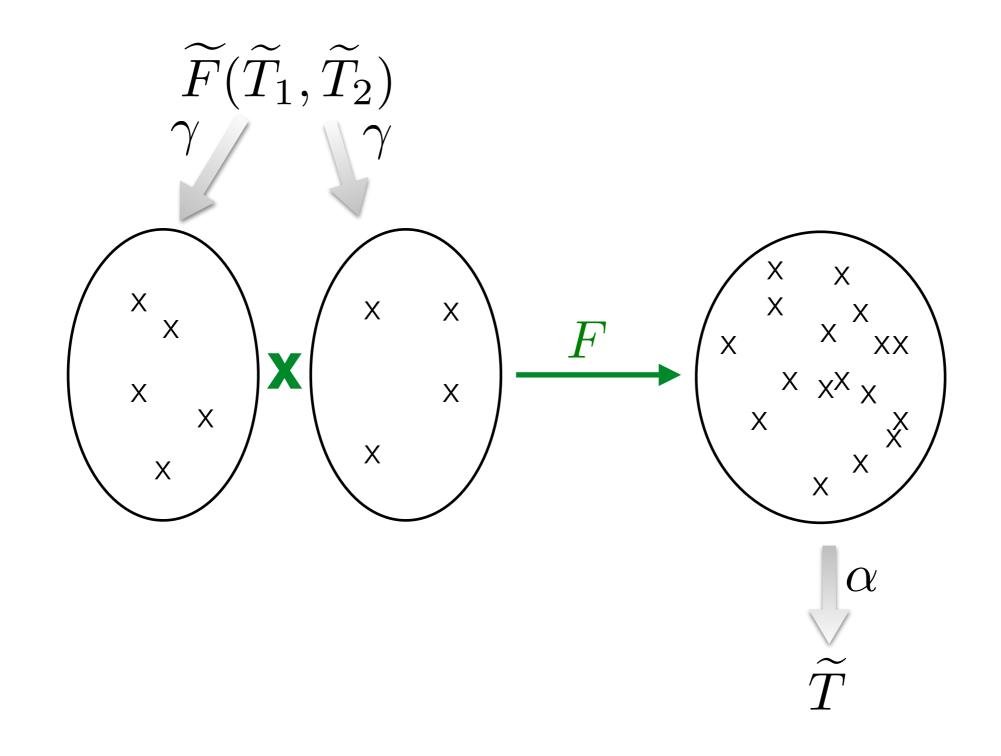


### what's the corresponding gradual type?

we need a notion of *abstraction* 

### Abstraction $\alpha : \mathcal{P}(\text{TYPE}) \rightarrow \text{GTYPE}$

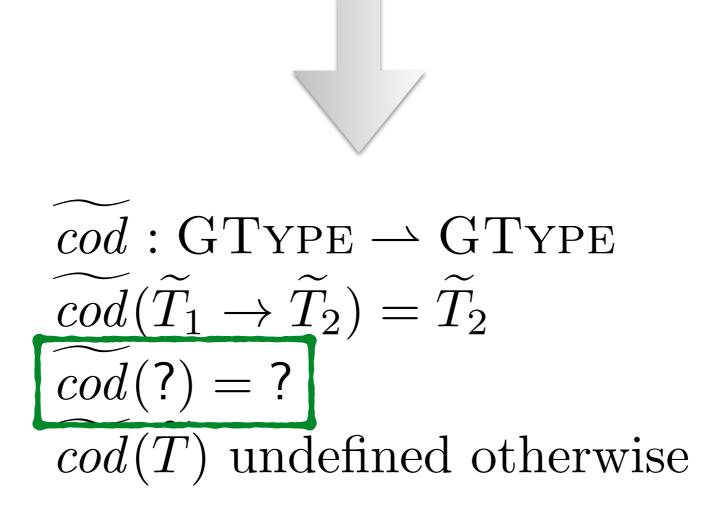




 $\widetilde{F}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2) = \alpha(\{F(T_1, T_2) \mid \langle T_1, T_2 \rangle \in \gamma(\widetilde{T}_1) \times \gamma(\widetilde{T}_2)\})$ 

### Lifting cod

 $cod : TYPE \rightarrow TYPE$  $cod(T_1 \rightarrow T_2) = T_2$ cod(T) undefined otherwise



### Lifting equate

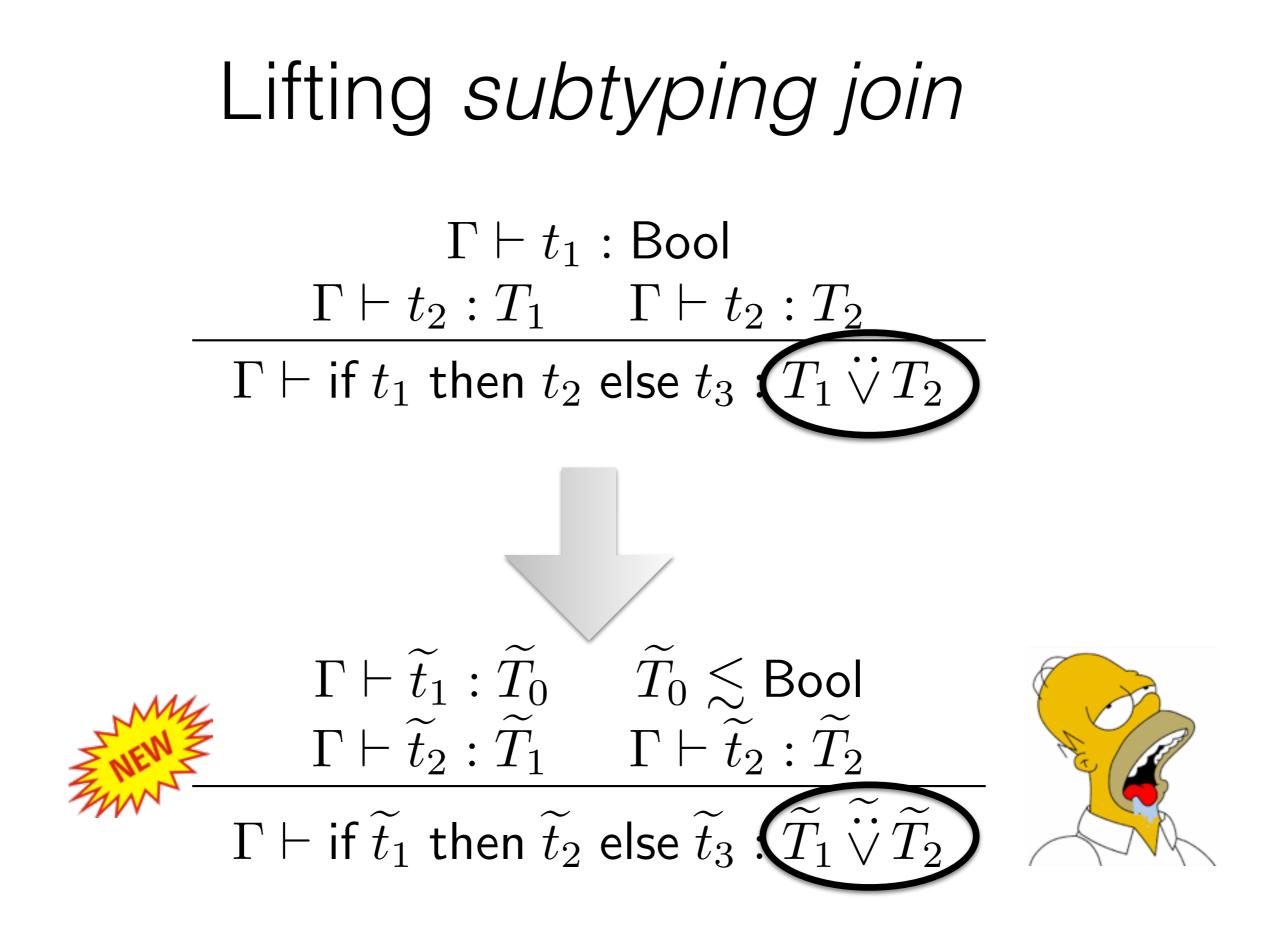
 $(\text{Tif}) \frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : T_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash t_3 : T_3 \quad T_1 = \text{Bool}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3 : equate(T_2, T_3)}$ 

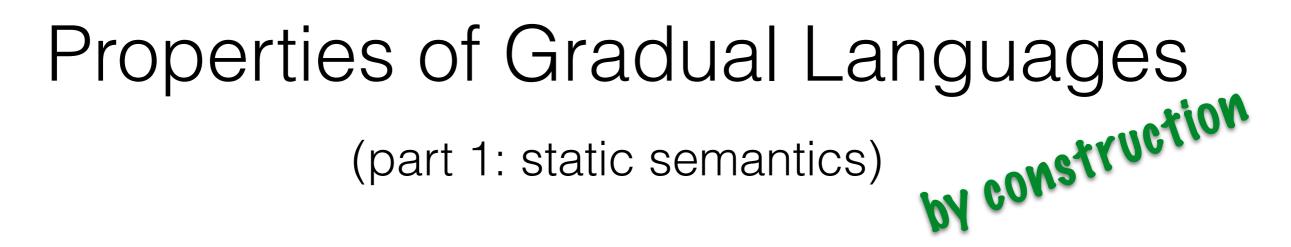
*"It was interesting to see how it justifies using meet for conditional expressions... before that I had always thought that I was making an arbitrary choice to prefer meet over join."* 

 $\widetilde{equate}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2) = \widetilde{T}_1 \sqcap \widetilde{T}_2$ 

- J. Siek

 $\widetilde{T}_1 \sqcap \widetilde{T}_2 = \alpha(\gamma(\widetilde{T}_1) \cap \gamma(\widetilde{T}_2))$ 





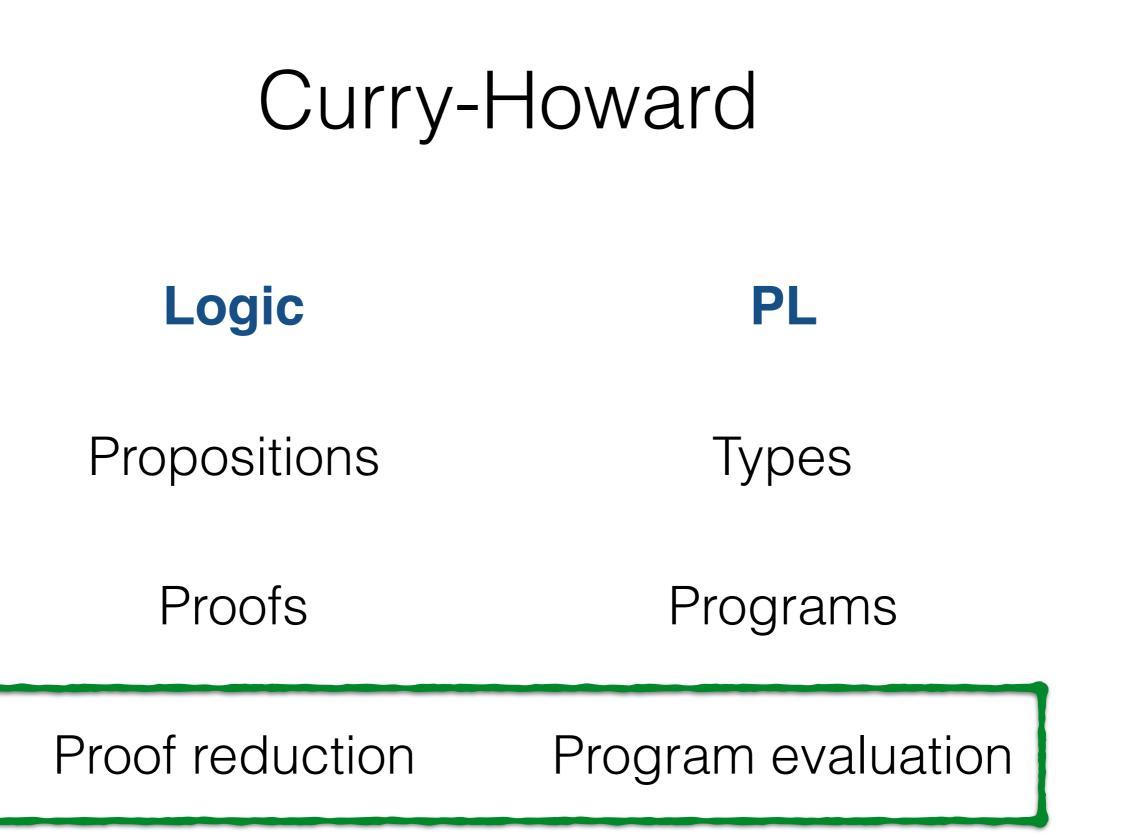
equivalence for static terms [Siek & Taha, 2006]  $\vdash_S t: T$  if and only if  $\vdash t: T$ 

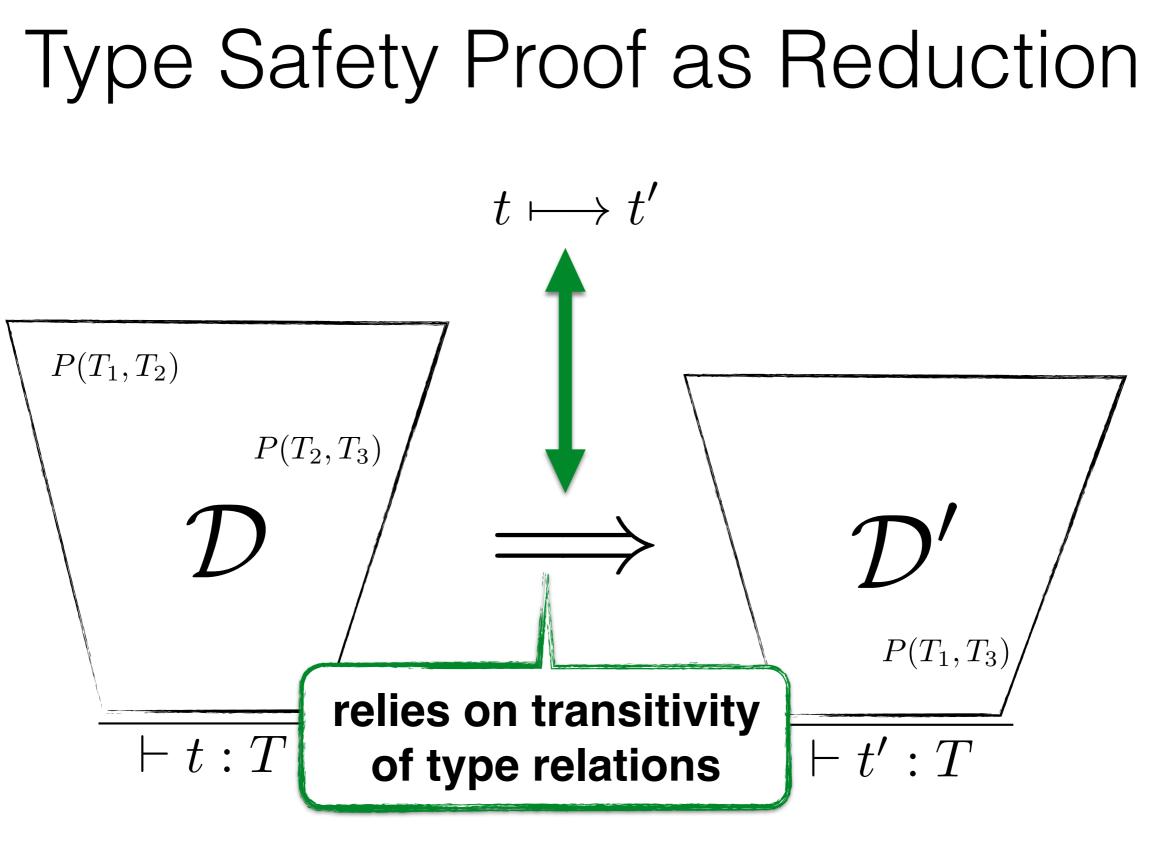
**embedding of dynamic terms** [Siek & Taha, 2006] If  $\check{t}$  is closed then  $\vdash \lceil \check{t} \rceil$  : ?

**losing precision preserves typing** [Siek *et al*, 2015] If  $\vdash \tilde{t}_1 : \tilde{T}_1$  and  $\tilde{t}_1 \sqsubseteq \tilde{t}_2$ , then  $\vdash \tilde{t}_2 : \tilde{T}_2$  and  $\tilde{T}_1 \sqsubseteq \tilde{T}_2$ 



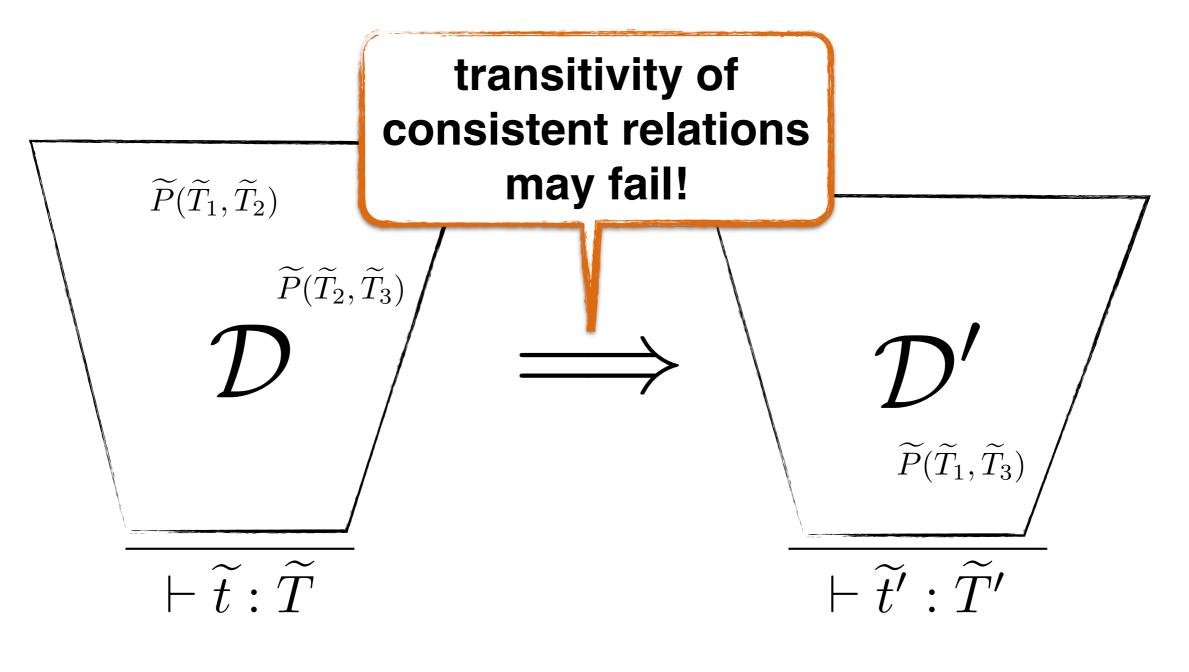
## II - Dynamic Semantics





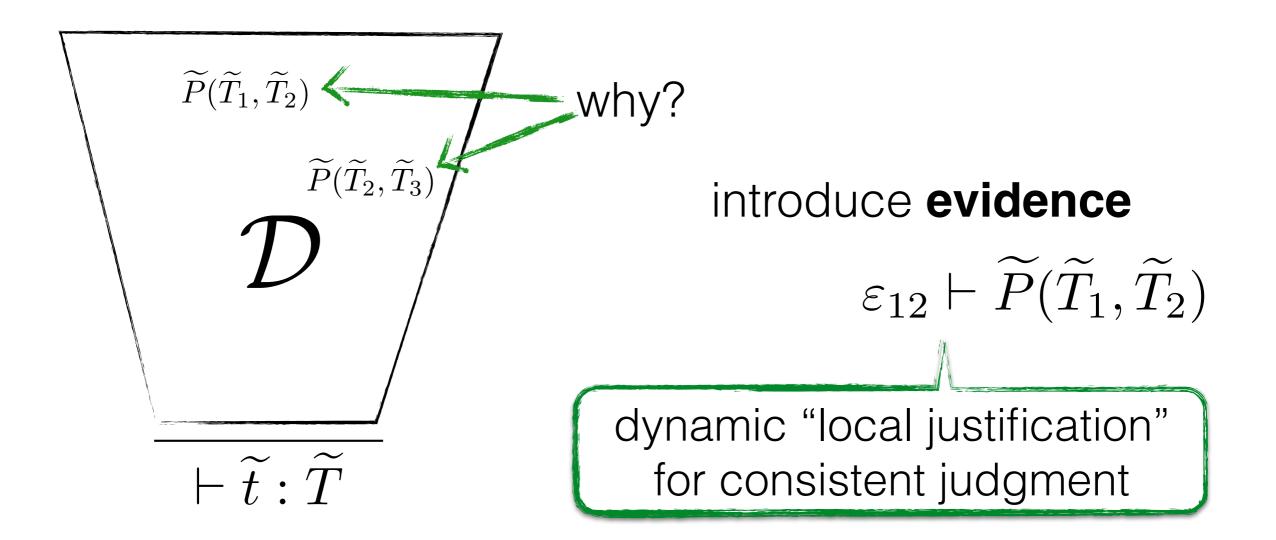
 $P(T_1, T_2) \land P(T_2, T_3) \Rightarrow P(T_1, T_3)$ 

### Reduction of Gradual Derivations

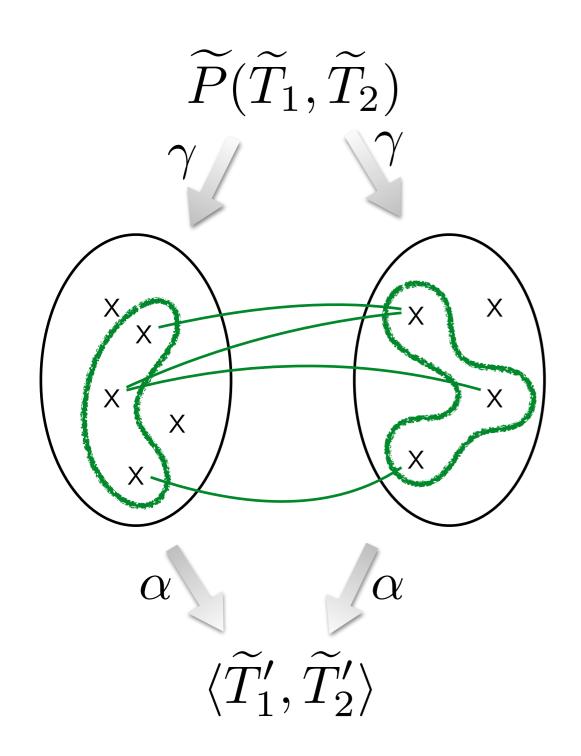


 $\widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2) \wedge \widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_2, \widetilde{T}_3) \Rightarrow^? \widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_3)$ Int ~? ?~ Bool Int  $\checkmark$  Bool

### Evidence of Consistent Judgments



### Initial Evidence $\varepsilon_{12} \vdash \widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2)$



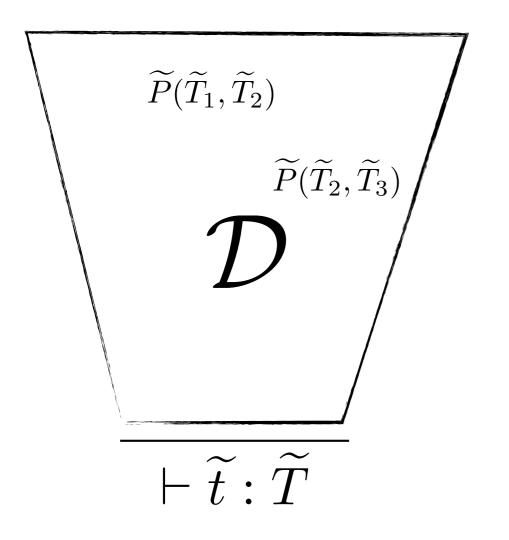
$$[x: \mathsf{Int} \to ?, y: ?] \lesssim [x: ? \to \mathsf{Bool}]$$

$$[x: \mathsf{Int} \to \mathsf{Bool}, y: ?] \qquad [x: \mathsf{Int} \to \mathsf{Bool}]$$

corresponds to Threesome middle type

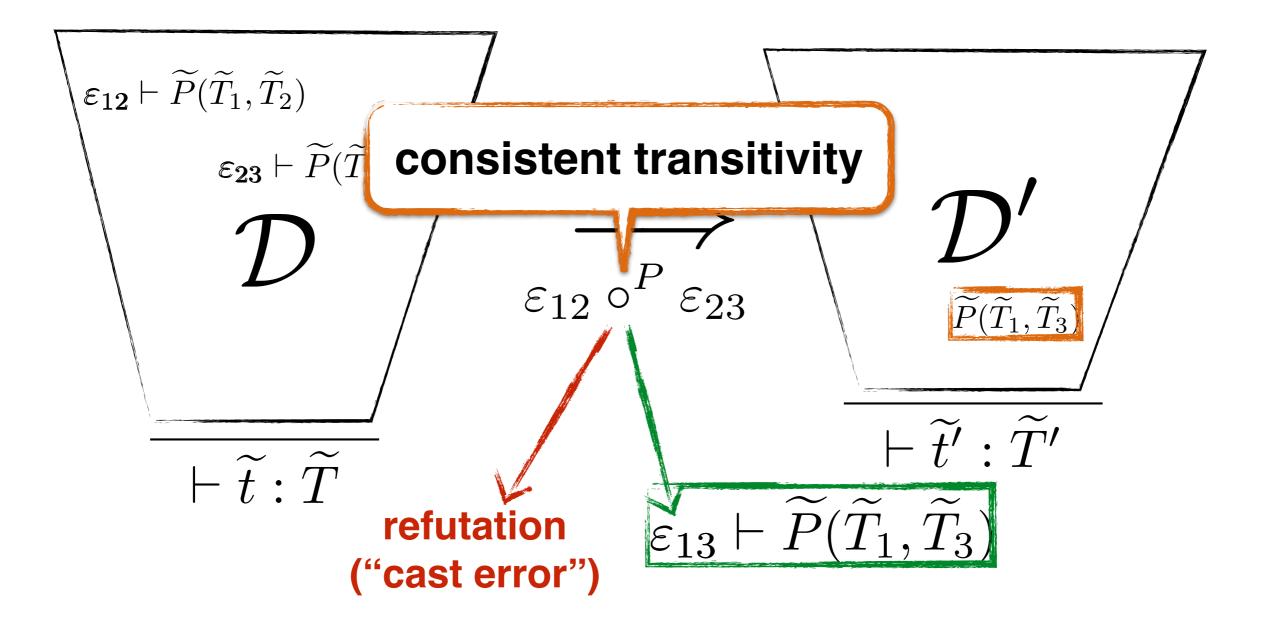
[Siek & Wadler, 2010]

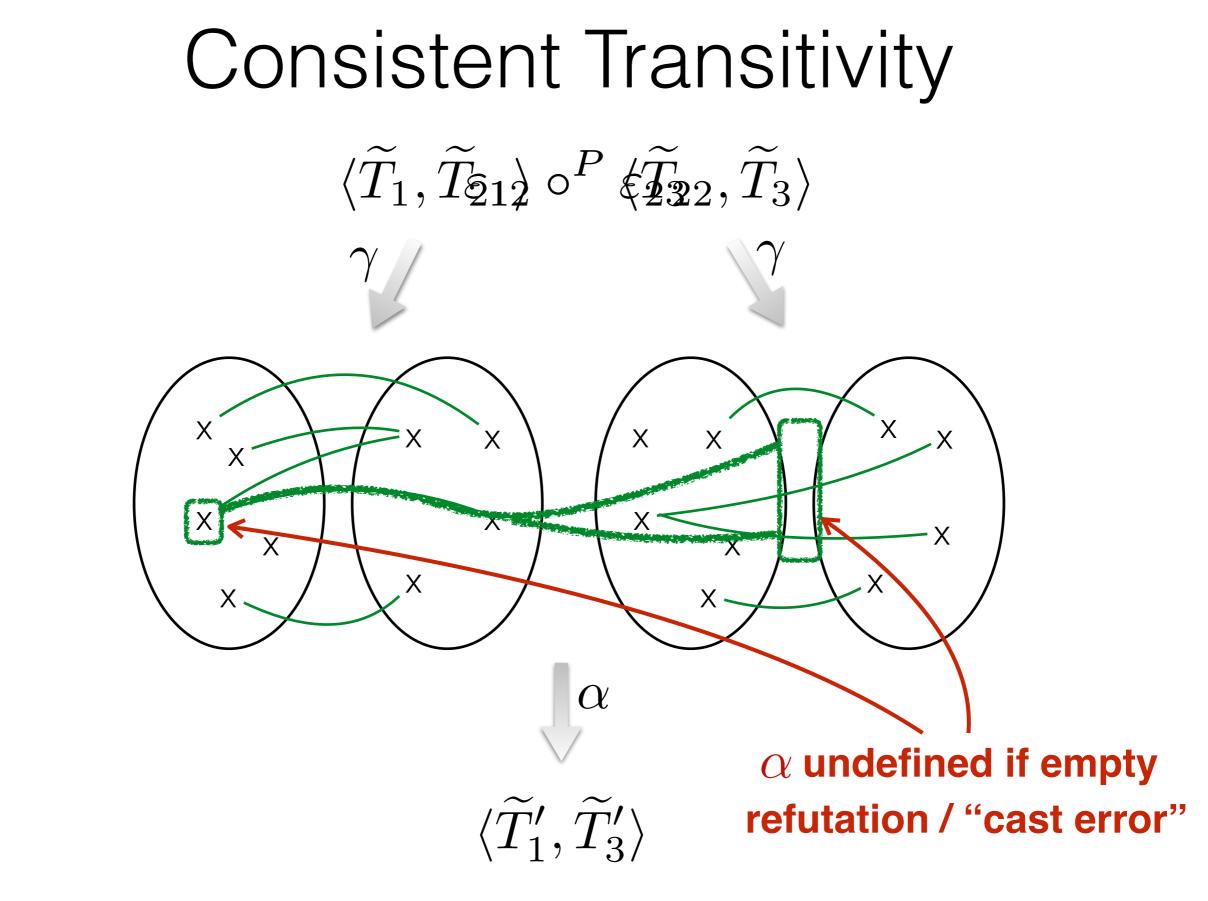
#### Evidence



 $\langle \widetilde{T}_1', \widetilde{T}_2' \rangle \vdash \widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2)$  $\varepsilon_{23} \vdash \widetilde{P}(\widetilde{T}_2, \widetilde{T}_3)$ 

### Consistent Transitivity





 $\alpha^2(\{\langle T_1, T_3 \rangle \in \gamma^2(\widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_3) \mid \exists T_2 \in \gamma(\widetilde{T}_{21}) \cap \gamma(\widetilde{T}_{22}). P(T_1, T_2) \land P(T_2, T_3)\})$ 

### Properties of Gradual Languages (part 2: dynamic semantics) W construction

#### If $\vdash \tilde{t} : \tilde{T}$ then either $\tilde{t}$ is a value v, or $\tilde{t} \mapsto \tilde{t}'$ with $\vdash \tilde{t}' : \tilde{T}$ or $\tilde{t} \mapsto \mathbf{error}$

**losing precision preserves reduction** [Siek *et al*, 2015] Suppose  $\tilde{t}_1 \sqsubseteq \tilde{t}_2$  with  $\vdash \tilde{t}_1 : \tilde{T}_1$  and  $\vdash \tilde{t}_2 : \tilde{T}_2$ If  $\tilde{t}_1 \longmapsto \tilde{t}'_1$  then  $\tilde{t}_2 \longmapsto \tilde{t}'_2$  and  $\tilde{t}'_1 \sqsubseteq \tilde{t}'_2$ 



### Conclusions

**NARCOVERED** 

precision consistency consistent subtyping gradual meet threesomes runtime semantics cast errors gradual guarantees

### Breadth of AGT

- Applications of AGT so far
  - records with subtyping
  - gradual rows (à la row polymorphism)
  - gradual effects
  - gradual references
  - gradual security typing
  - gradual refinements
  - (quite) some more ;-)

POPL'16 ICFP'14 & co (statics based on AGT)

on going!

### Future work on AGT

- Cast calculi
  - representation of computational content of derivation trees
  - validate existing cast calculi wrt "reference semantics"
  - space and time efficiency (eliminate useless evidence)
- Blame tracking
- Relational soundness properties (eg. non-interference)
  - Static vs dynamic abstractions

