

# The Notion of Type Safety

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- **Static semantics:** types
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Two kinds of semantics of programs:

- **Static semantics:** types
- **Dynamic semantics:** execution of the program

Type safety:      "Well typed programs never go wrong"

– Robin Milner

Standard methodology: **Safety = Progress + Preservation**

**Progress:** a well typed program that is not a value can be evaluated further

**Preservation:** well typed programs remain so during evaluation.

## A simple functional language (the simply typed lambda calculus)

$t ::=$  terms:

- $x$  variable
- | 0
- |  $\text{succ } t \mid \text{pred } t$
- |  $\text{iszero } t$  zero test
- |  $\text{true} \mid \text{false}$
- |  $\text{if } t \text{ then } t \text{ else } t$
- |  $\text{fun } x : T \cdot t$  functions
- |  $\text{apply } (t, t)$  application

## The types

$T ::=$

**Bool** type of Booleans

**Int** type of ints

$T \rightarrow T$  type of functions

## The types

$$\begin{array}{ll} T ::= & \\ \text{Bool} & \text{type of Booleans} \\ \text{Int} & \text{type of ints} \\ T \rightarrow T & \text{type of functions} \end{array}$$

## The results of computations

$$\begin{array}{ll} v ::= & \text{values:} \\ \text{true} \mid \text{false} & \text{Boolean values} \\ | & \text{numerical value} \\ | & \text{fun } x : T \cdot t \quad \text{functional value} \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} nv ::= \\ 0 \\ | \text{ succ } nv \end{array}$$

## The Dynamic Semantics: Evaluation

$$\frac{t \longrightarrow t'}{\text{succ } t \longrightarrow \text{succ } t'} \text{ (E-Succ)}$$

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$$\text{iszero } 0 \longrightarrow \text{true} \text{ (E-IsZeroZero)}$$

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$$\frac{t \longrightarrow t'}{\text{if } t \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow \text{if } t' \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2} \text{ (E-If)}$$

`if true then  $t_1$  else  $t_2$`   $\longrightarrow$   $t_1$  (E-IfTrue)

`if true then  $t_1$  else  $t_2$`   $\longrightarrow$   $t_1$  (E-IfTrue)   `if false then  $t_1$  else  $t_2$`   $\longrightarrow$   $t_2$  (E-IfFalse)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{if true then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_1 \text{ (E-IfTrue)} \quad \text{if false then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_2 \text{ (E-IfFalse)} \\
 \dfrac{}{\text{apply } (t_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (t'_1, t_2)} \text{ (E-App1)}
 \end{array}$$

$\text{if true then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_1 \text{ (E-IfTrue)} \quad \text{if false then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_2 \text{ (E-IfFalse)}$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t'_1}{\text{apply } (t_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (t'_1, t_2)} \text{ (E-App1)}$$

$$\frac{t_2 \longrightarrow t'_2}{\text{apply } (v_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (v_1, t'_2)} \text{ (E-App2)}$$

$\text{if true then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_1 \text{ (E-IfTrue)} \quad \text{if false then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_2 \text{ (E-IfFalse)}$

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$\text{apply } (\text{fun } x : T \cdot t, v) \longrightarrow t [x \mapsto v] \text{ (E-App)}$

$\text{if true then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_1 \text{ (E-IfTrue)} \quad \text{if false then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_2 \text{ (E-IfFalse)}$

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Substitutions are defined as usual.

$$(\text{if true then } (\text{pred } x) \text{ else } 0) [x \mapsto \text{succ } 0] = (\text{if true then } (\text{pred } (\text{succ } 0)) \text{ else } 0)$$

$\text{if true then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_1 \text{ (E-IfTrue)} \quad \text{if false then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \longrightarrow t_2 \text{ (E-IfFalse)}$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t'_1}{\text{apply } (t_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (t'_1, t_2)} \text{ (E-App1)}$$

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$$(\text{fun } x : \text{Int} \cdot \text{if true then } x \text{ else succ } (y))[y \mapsto \text{succ } (x)]$$

$$= (\text{fun } z : \text{Int} \cdot \text{if true then } z \text{ else succ } (\text{succ } (x)))$$

## Example

```
apply (fun x : Int · if x then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0), iszero 0)
→ apply (fun x : Int · if x then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0), true )
→ if true then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0)
→ (pred (succ 0))
→ 0
```

## Example

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apply (fun x : Int · if x then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0), iszero 0)
→ apply (fun x : Int · if x then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0), true )
→ if true then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0)
→ (pred (succ 0))
→ 0
```

The justification for the first evaluation step is as follows

$$\frac{\text{iszero } 0 \longrightarrow \text{true}}{\text{apply (fun } x : \text{Int} \cdot \text{if } \dots, \text{iszero } 0) \longrightarrow \text{apply (fun } x : \text{Int} \cdot \text{if } \dots, \text{true })} \text{ (E-App2)}$$

(E-IsZeroZero)

## A program which gets stuck during evaluation

```
apply (fun x : Int · if x then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0), 0)
→ if 0 then (pred (succ 0)) else (succ 0),
```

There are no rules for evaluating this program further.

This program is not yet a value.

The **type system** of a type-safe language should **reject** such programs.

## The Static Semantics: Typing

A type environment  $\Gamma$  is of the form

$$x_1 : T_1, \dots, x_n : T_n$$

$$\frac{x : T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : T} \text{ (T-Var)}$$

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$$\Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{Bool} \text{ (T-True)}$$

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$$\Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{Bool} \text{ (T-True)}$$

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{Int}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{iszzero } t : \text{Bool}} \text{ (T-IsZero)}$$

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$$\Gamma \vdash \text{true} : \text{Bool} \text{ (T-True)}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{false} : \text{Bool} \text{ (T-False)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{Int}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{iszzero } t : \text{Bool}} \text{ (T-IsZero)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{Bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_1 : T \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } t \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 : T} \text{ (T-If)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : T \vdash t' : T'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x : T \cdot t' : T \rightarrow T'} \text{ (T-Fun)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : T \vdash t' : T'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fun } x : T \cdot t' : T \rightarrow T'} \text{ (T-Fun)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : T \rightarrow T' \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{apply } (t_1, t_2) : T'} \text{ (T-App)}$$

## Example

$$\frac{\vdash \text{fun } x : \text{Bool} \cdot \text{if } x \text{ then (pred 0) else (succ 0)} : \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Int} \quad \frac{\vdash 0 : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{iszzero } 0 : \text{Bool}} \text{(T-Zero)}}{\vdash \text{apply } (\text{fun } x : \text{Bool} \cdot \text{if } x \text{ then (pred 0) else (succ 0)}, \text{iszzero } 0) : \text{Int}} \text{(T-App)}$$

⋮  
⋮

## Example

$$\frac{}{x : \text{Bool} \vdash x : \text{Bool}} \text{(T-Var)} \quad \frac{x : \text{Bool} \vdash 0 : \text{Int}}{x : \text{Bool} \vdash (\text{pred } 0) : \text{Int}} \text{(T-Pred)} \quad \frac{x : \text{Bool} \vdash 0 : \text{Int}}{x : \text{Bool} \vdash \text{succ } 0 : \text{Int}} \text{(T-Succ)}$$

$$\frac{x : \text{Bool} \vdash \text{if } x \text{ then } (\text{pred } 0) \text{ else } (\text{succ } 0) : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{fun } x : \text{Bool} \cdot \text{if } x \text{ then } (\text{pred } 0) \text{ else } (\text{succ } 0) : \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Int}} \text{(T-If)}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \text{fun } x : \text{Bool} \cdot \text{if } x \text{ then } (\text{pred } 0) \text{ else } (\text{succ } 0) : \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Int} \quad \frac{}{\vdash 0 : \text{Int}} \text{(T-Zero)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash \text{iszzero } 0 : \text{Bool}} \text{(T-IsZero)}}{\vdash \text{apply } (\text{fun } x : \text{Bool} \cdot \text{if } x \text{ then } (\text{pred } 0) \text{ else } (\text{succ } 0), \text{iszzero } 0) : \text{Int}} \text{(T-App)}$$

The following program

```
if true then (succ 0) else (iszero 0)
```

evaluates to (succ 0) (doesn't get stuck).

However it is **not well-typed** according to our type system, i.e. we cannot show

$$\vdash \text{if true then (succ 0) else (iszero 0)} : T$$

for any type  $T$ .

⇒ we reject some safe programs.

The only required property for type safety is that all unsafe programs should be rejected.

The standard method for showing type safety.

## (1) Progress

If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t$  is not a value then  $t \rightarrow t'$  for some term  $t'$ .

Well typed programs so not get stuck in some undefined state.

## (2) Preservation

If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t \rightarrow t'$  then  $\vdash t' : T$ .

Evaluation preserves well-typedness (and type) of a program.

The proofs are usually easy (but long) once the right definitions have been found out.

Examples of type-safe languages: Java, SML.

Examples of type-unsafe languages: C, C++.

**Progress:** If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t$  is not a value then  $t \rightarrow t'$  for some term  $t'$

**Progress:** If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t$  is not a value then  $t \rightarrow t'$  for some term  $t'$

**Proof:** We do induction on the size of typing derivations.

- If  $t$  is **true**, **false**, **0** or **fun**  $x : T \cdot t'$  then there is nothing to prove because these are values.

**Progress:** If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t$  is not a value then  $t \rightarrow t'$  for some term  $t'$

**Proof:** We do induction on the size of typing derivations.

- If  $t$  is **true**, **false**, **0** or **fun**  $x : T \cdot t'$  then there is nothing to prove because these are values.
- $t$  cannot be a variable because the only rule for typing a variable is

$$\frac{x : T \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : T} \text{ (T-Var)}$$

which requires  $\Gamma$  to be non-empty.

some interesting cases:

- If  $t$  is of the form  $\text{succ } t'$ , the typing derivation must be

$$\frac{\vdash t' : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{succ } t' : \text{Int}} \text{ (T-Succ)}$$

If  $t'$  is a value then  $t$  is also a value. Otherwise by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t' \longrightarrow t''}{\vdash \text{succ } t' \longrightarrow \text{succ } t''} \text{ (E-Succ)}$$

- If  $t$  is of the form  $\text{pred } t'$  then the typing derivation must be

$$\frac{\vdash t' : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{pred } t' : \text{Int}} \text{ (T-Pred)}$$

- (1) If  $t'$  is value  $0$  then by (E-PredZero) we know that  $\text{pred } t' \longrightarrow 0$ .
- (2) If  $t'$  is value  $\text{succ } nv$  then by (E-PredSucc) we know that  $\text{pred } t' \longrightarrow nv$ .
- (3) Otherwise  $t'$  is not a value. Hence by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t' \longrightarrow t''}{\text{pred } t' \longrightarrow \text{pred } t''} \text{ (E-Pred)}$$

- If  $t$  is of the form `iszzero t'` then the typing derivation must be

$$\frac{\vdash t : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{iszzero } t : \text{Bool}} \text{ (T-IsZero)}$$

- (1) If  $t'$  is value `0` then by (E-IsZeroZero) we know that  $\text{iszzero } t' \rightarrow \text{true}$ .
- (2) If  $t'$  is value `succ nv` then by (E-IsZeroSucc) we know that  $\text{iszzero } t' \rightarrow \text{false}$
- (3) Otherwise  $t'$  is not a value and by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t' \rightarrow t''}{\text{iszzero } t' \rightarrow \text{iszzero } t''} \text{ (E-IsZero)}$$

- If  $t$  is of the form  $\text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3$  then the typing derivation must be

$$\frac{\vdash t_1 : \text{Bool} \quad \vdash t_2 : T \quad \vdash t_3 : T}{\vdash \text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3 : T} \text{ (T-If)}$$

- (1) If  $t_1$  is value **true** then by (E-IfTrue) we know that  $t \rightarrow t_2$ .
- (2) If  $t_1$  is value **false** then by (E-IfFalse) we know that  $t \rightarrow t_3$ .
- (3) Otherwise  $t_1$  is not a value and by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t'_1}{\text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3 \rightarrow \text{if } t'_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3} \text{ (E-If)}$$

- If  $t$  is of the form  $\text{apply } (t_1, t_2)$  then the typing derivation must be

$$\frac{\vdash t_1 : T \rightarrow T' \quad \vdash t_2 : T}{\vdash \text{apply } (t_1, t_2) : T'} \text{ (T-App)}$$

- (1) If  $t_1$  is not a value then by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t'_1}{\text{apply } (t_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (t'_1, t_2)} \text{ (E-App1)}$$

- (2) If  $t_1$  is value  $v_1$  and  $t_2$  is not a value then by induction hypothesis we have

$$\frac{t_2 \longrightarrow t'_2}{\text{apply } (v_1, t_2) \longrightarrow \text{apply } (v_1, t'_2)} \text{ (E-App2)}$$

(3) Suppose  $t_1$  is a value and  $t_2$  is also a value  $v_2$ . Since  $\vdash t_1 : T \rightarrow T'$  the value  $t_1$  must be  $\text{fun } x : T \cdot t'_1$ . Hence by (E-App) we have

apply ( $\text{fun } x : T \cdot t'_1$ ,  $v_2$ )  $\longrightarrow t'_1 [x \mapsto v_2]$

: - )

**Preservation:** If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t \rightarrow t'$  then  $\vdash t' : T$

**Preservation:** If  $\vdash t : T$  and  $t \rightarrow t'$  then  $\vdash t' : T$

**Proof:** induction on typing derivations.

Some interesting cases:

- $t$  is of the form  $\text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3$ . The typing derivation is of the form

$$\frac{\vdash t_1 : \text{Bool} \quad \vdash t_2 : T \quad \vdash t_3 : T}{\vdash \text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3 : T} \text{ (T-If)}$$

- (1) Suppose  $t_1 \rightarrow t'_1$  so that  $t \rightarrow t'$  where  $t'$  is  $\text{if } t'_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3$ .

By induction hypothesis we know that  $\Gamma \vdash t'_1 : \text{Bool}$  so that  $\Gamma \vdash t' : T$ .

- (2) Suppose  $t_1$  is **true** so that  $t \rightarrow t_2$  then we know that  $\Gamma \vdash t_2 : T$ .

- $t$  is apply  $(\text{fun } x : T' \cdot t_1, v_2)$  and the typing derivation is

$$\frac{\frac{x : T' \vdash t_1 : T}{\vdash \text{fun } x : T' \cdot t_1 : T' \rightarrow T} \text{ (T-Fun)} \quad \vdash v_2 : T'}{\vdash \text{apply } (\text{fun } x : T' \cdot t_1, v_2) : T} \text{ (T-App)}$$

We have  $t \longrightarrow t'$  where  $t'$  is  $t_1 [x \mapsto v_2]$ .

To show that  $\vdash t' : T$  we prove

### Preservation of types under substitution

If  $\Gamma, x : T' \vdash t_1 : T$  and  $\Gamma \vdash t_2 : T'$  then  $\Gamma \vdash t_1 [x \mapsto t_2] : T$ .

Suppose now we extend the language by adding **vectors**.

$t ::= x \mid 0$

$\mid \dots$

$\mid [t, \dots, t]$  a vector of terms

$\mid \text{get } t \ t$  accessing some ith element of a vector

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 t ::= & \quad x \mid 0 \\
 & \mid \dots \\
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New evaluation rules

$$\frac{t_i \longrightarrow t'_i}{[v_0, \dots, v_{i-1}, t_i, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_n] \longrightarrow [v_0, \dots, v_{i-1}, t'_i, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_n]} \text{ (E-Vec)}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \longrightarrow t'_1}{\text{get } t_1 \ t_2 \longrightarrow \text{get } t'_1 \ t_2} \text{ (E-Get1)}$$

$$\frac{t_2 \longrightarrow t'_2}{\text{get } v_1 \ t_2 \longrightarrow \text{get } v_1 \ t'_2} \text{ (E-Get2)}$$

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New typing rules

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 : T \dots \Gamma \vdash t_n : T}{\Gamma \vdash [t_0, \dots, t_n] : \text{vector } T} \text{ (T-Vec)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \text{Int} \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \text{vector } T}{\Gamma \vdash \text{get } t_1 \ t_2 : T} \text{ (T-Get)}$$

Is the extended language type safe?

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No.

Preservation still holds, but progress fails.

Let term  $t$  be  $\text{get}(\text{succ}(\text{succ}(\text{succ} 0)))[0,0]$ . It is well-typed.

$$\frac{\vdash (\text{succ}(\text{succ}(\text{succ} 0))) : \text{Int} \quad \begin{array}{c} \vdash 0 : \text{Int} \quad \vdash 0 : \text{Int} \\ \hline \vdash [0,0] : \text{vector Int} \end{array} \quad \text{(T-Zero)} \quad \text{(T-Zero)}}{\vdash \text{get}(\text{succ}(\text{succ}(\text{succ} 0)))[0,0] : \text{Int}} \quad \text{(T-Vec)} \quad \text{(T-Get)}$$

But there is no term  $t'$  such that  $t \rightarrow t'$ .

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We introduce a new term for ill-defined states.

$$t ::= \dots \mid \text{error}$$

and a rule for producing error message

$$\frac{i > n}{\text{get succ } ^i(0) [v_0, \dots, v_n] \longrightarrow \text{error}}$$

and rules for propagating error messages

$\text{apply} (\text{error}, \textcolor{violet}{t}) \longrightarrow \text{error}$        $\text{apply} (\textcolor{violet}{v}, \text{error}) \longrightarrow \text{error} \dots$

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$$\text{apply} (\text{error}, \textcolor{violet}{t}) \longrightarrow \text{error} \quad \text{apply} (\textcolor{violet}{v}, \text{error}) \longrightarrow \text{error} \dots$$

Then we can show

Progress:

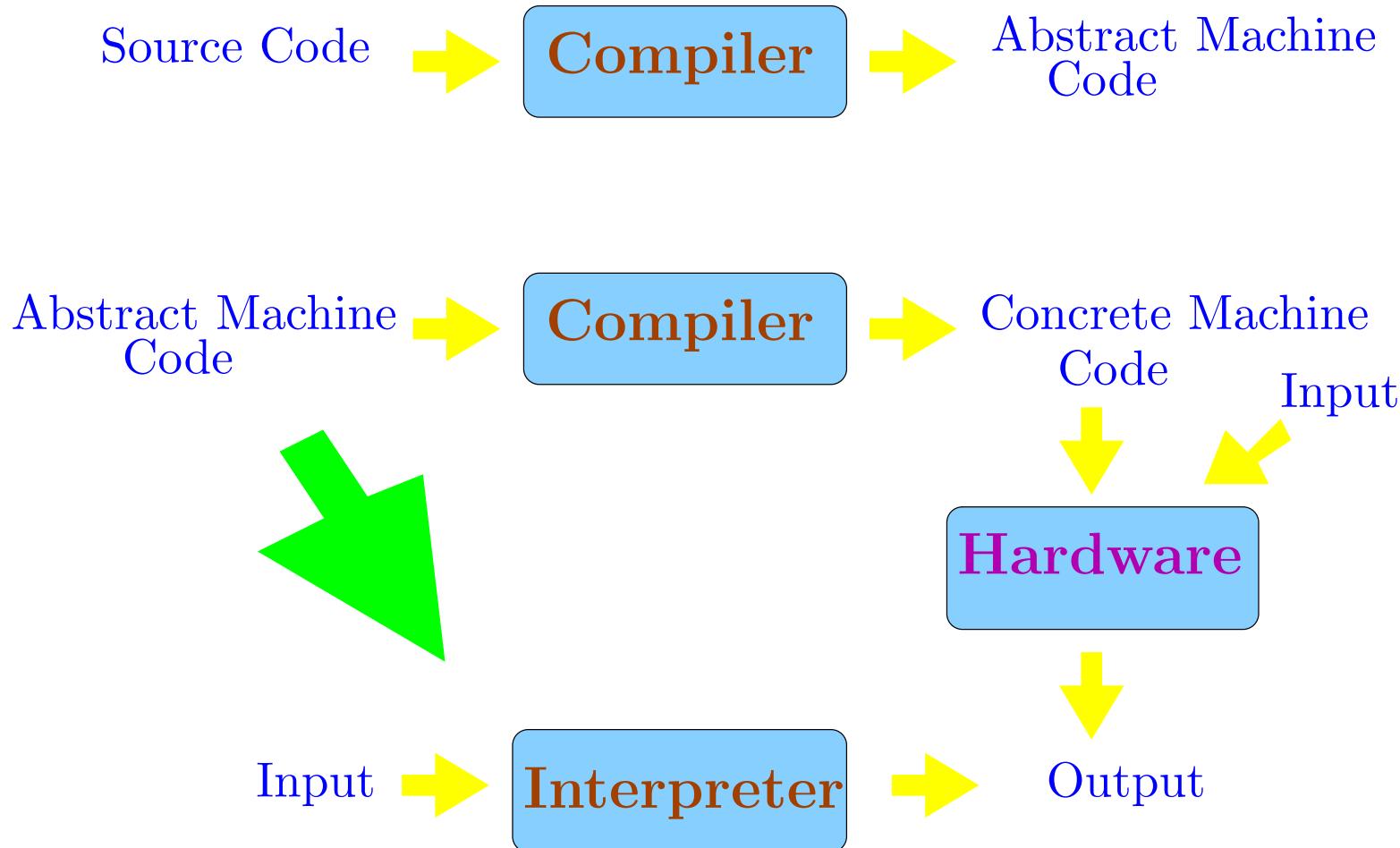
If  $\vdash \textcolor{violet}{t} : T$ ,  $\textcolor{violet}{t}$  is not a value and  $\textcolor{violet}{t} \neq \text{error}$  then  $\textcolor{violet}{t} \longrightarrow \textcolor{violet}{t}'$  for some  $\textcolor{violet}{t}'$ .

Preservation:

If  $\vdash \textcolor{violet}{t} : T$  and  $\textcolor{violet}{t} \longrightarrow \textcolor{violet}{t}'$  then either  $\textcolor{violet}{t}'$  is  $\text{error}$  or  $\vdash \textcolor{violet}{t}' : T$ .

# Java Security

The virtual machine principle:



Java programs: definitions of classes.

```
public class hello {  
    public static void main (String args[]) {  
        System.out.println ("Hello!"); } }
```

Compilation produces **class files** containing **Java bytecode**.

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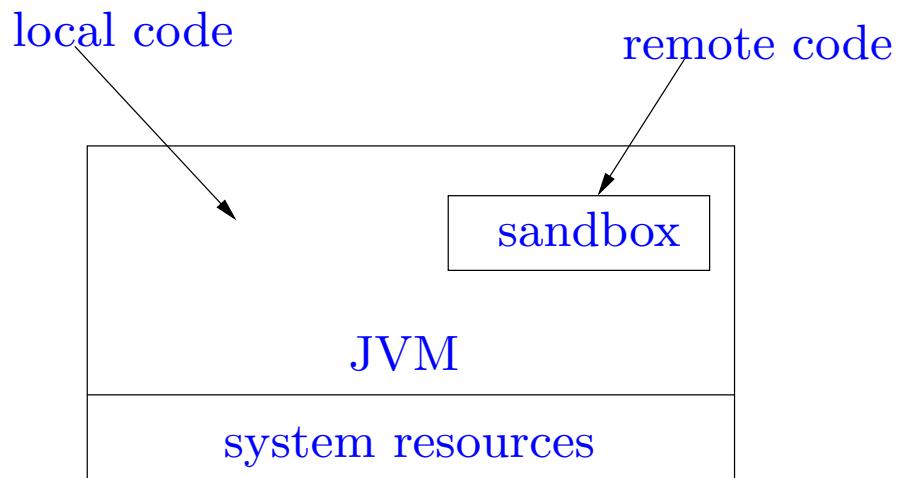
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⇒ Portability

The **sandbox** principle: each application has access to a restricted set of **system resources** like local files, network, etc.

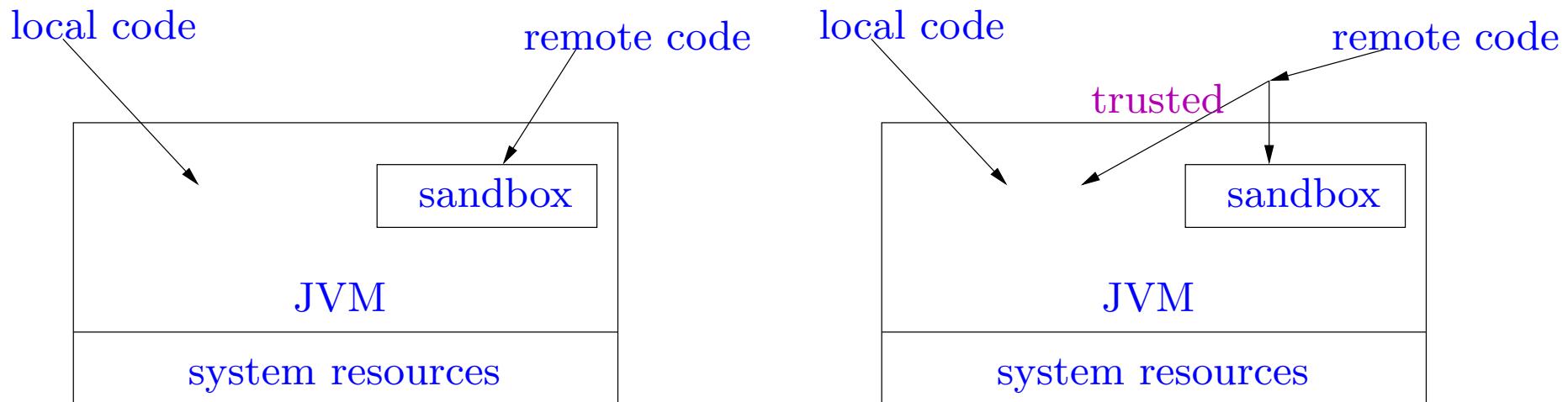
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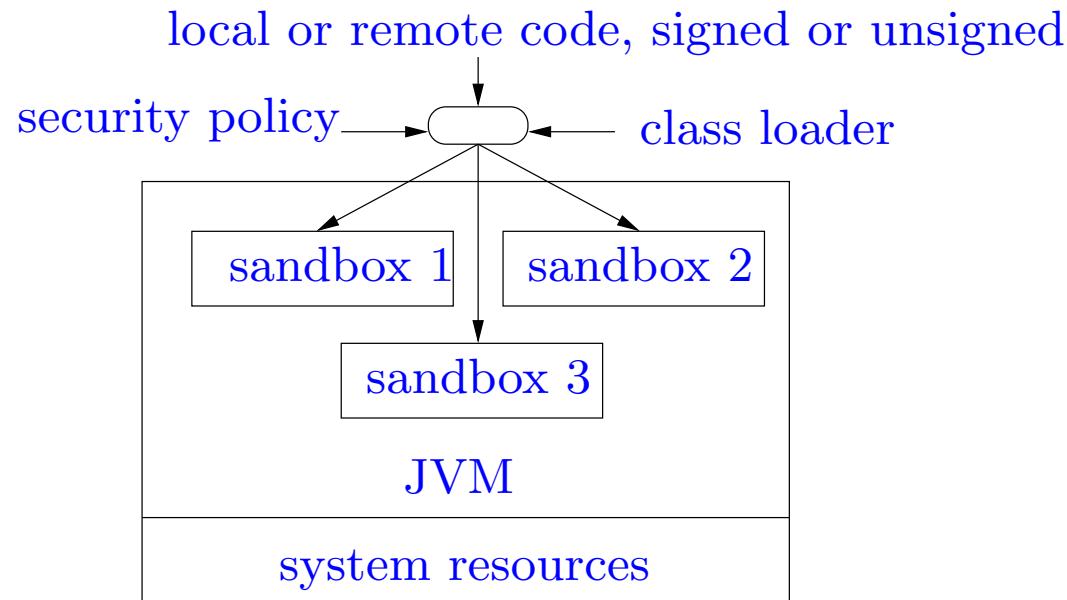


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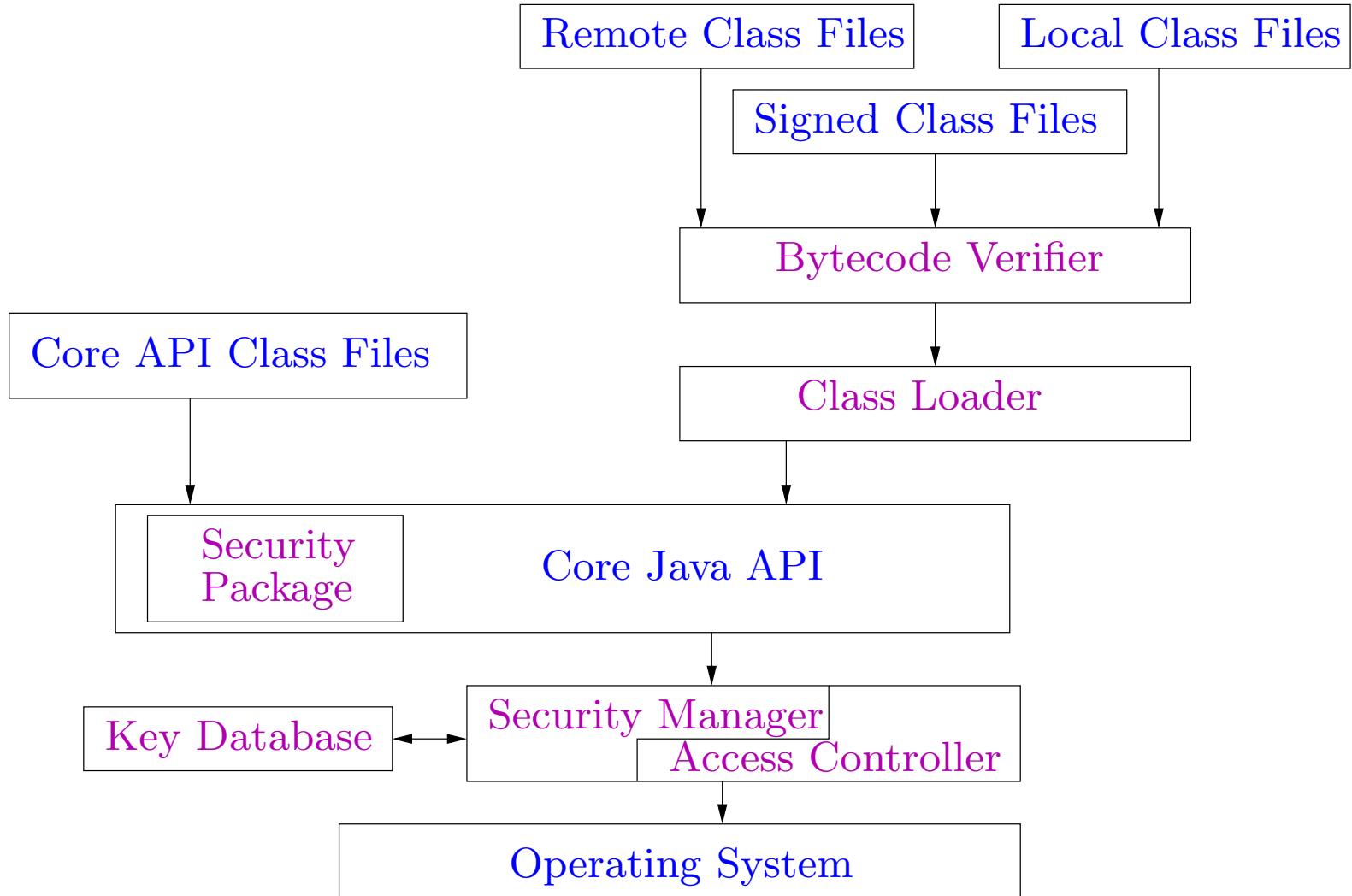
The sandbox model in earlier versions...



## The current sandbox model in Java 2



## Elements of the Java sandbox



# Java language security constructs

Each entity has an **access level**

Specifier	Class	Package	Subclass	World
private	Yes	No	No	No
(Default)	Yes	Yes	No	No
protected	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
public	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Java language security constructs

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Not sufficient for memory integrity ...

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- No use of variables before **initialization**.
- **Array bounds** checks.
- No arbitrary **casts** between different classes.

```
public class A {private int x;}  
public class B {public int x;}  
  
...  
// a is of class A  
B b = (B) a;  
// The above is rejected by the compiler  
Object o = b; B b' = o;  
// The above is allowed by compiler but raises exception at runtime
```

## Enforcement of the Java language rules.

- At compile time:

check typing rules, enforcement of access qualifiers, prevention of most illegal type casts.

- At load time:

verify bytecodes when a class is loaded (prevent malicious bytecodes)

- At runtime:

raise exceptions for illegal type casts, out of bound array accesses, ...