

Staged Compilation With Dependent Types

András Kovács

Eötvös Loránd University

26 May 2022

Application Domain Specific Highly Reliable IT Solutions - Thematic Excellence
Project - Closing Conference

Metaprogramming & code generation

Metaprograms are programs which generate program code.

Metaprogramming & code generation

Metaprograms are programs which generate program code.

In any usual language, we can write programs which output code (as strings).

Metaprogramming & code generation

Metaprograms are programs which generate program code.

In any usual language, we can write programs which output code (as strings).

However, this has serious **safety** and **ergonomics** drawbacks.

- The well-typing and well-formedness of the output is **not guaranteed**.
- We have to work directly with syntax trees and/or strings.

Metaprogramming & code generation

Metaprograms are programs which generate program code.

In any usual language, we can write programs which output code (as strings).

However, this has serious **safety** and **ergonomics** drawbacks.

- The well-typing and well-formedness of the output is **not guaranteed**.
- We have to work directly with syntax trees and/or strings.

Staged compilation (two-stage):

- Users work in a language with structured metaprogramming features.
- **Staging** means running metaprograms and extracting code output.
- The compiler further processes the staging output.

Metaprogramming & code generation

Metaprograms are programs which generate program code.

In any usual language, we can write programs which output code (as strings).

However, this has serious **safety** and **ergonomics** drawbacks.

- The well-typing and well-formedness of the output is **not guaranteed**.
- We have to work directly with syntax trees and/or strings.

Staged compilation (two-stage):

- Users work in a language with structured metaprogramming features.
- **Staging** means running metaprograms and extracting code output.
- The compiler further processes the staging output.

Examples: *templates*, *generics*, *macros*.

Contribution

A highly general & expressive framework for staged compilation.

¹Annekov, Capriotti, Kraus, Sattler: *Two-Level Type Theory and Applications*.

Contribution

A highly general & expressive framework for staged compilation.

Based on **two-level type theory** (2LTT), which was originally intended as a mathematical language of synthetic homotopy theory.¹

¹Annekov, Capriotti, Kraus, Sattler: *Two-Level Type Theory and Applications*.

Contribution

A highly general & expressive framework for staged compilation.

Based on **two-level type theory** (2LTT), which was originally intended as a mathematical language of synthetic homotopy theory.¹

- The first staged system to support *dependent types*.
- Generalizes a wide range of existing typed metaprogramming systems.
- Has an efficient staging implementation + proof of soundness.

¹Annekov, Capriotti, Kraus, Sattler: *Two-Level Type Theory and Applications*.

Contribution

A highly general & expressive framework for staged compilation.

Based on **two-level type theory** (2LTT), which was originally intended as a mathematical language of synthetic homotopy theory.¹

- The first staged system to support *dependent types*.
- Generalizes a wide range of existing typed metaprogramming systems.
- Has an efficient staging implementation + proof of soundness.

Draft paper “*Staged Compilation With Two-Level Type Theory*” by AK, conditionally accepted at ICFP 2022.

¹Annekov, Capriotti, Kraus, Sattler: *Two-Level Type Theory and Applications*.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type_0 is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type₀ is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.
- 2 Type₁ is the type of **compile time** (meta-level) types. Meta-level types & their values only appear during compilation.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type_0 is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.
- 2 Type_1 is the type of **compile time** (meta-level) types. Meta-level types & their values only appear during compilation.
- 3 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ we have $\uparrow A : \text{Type}_1$. This is the **type of metaprograms which generate code with type A** .

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type_0 is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.
- 2 Type_1 is the type of **compile time** (meta-level) types. Meta-level types & their values only appear during compilation.
- 3 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ we have $\uparrow A : \text{Type}_1$. This is the **type of metaprograms which generate code with type A** .
- 4 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ and $t : A$, we have $\langle t \rangle : \uparrow A$. This is the **metaprogram which returns t as an expression (“quote”)**.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type₀ is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.
- 2 Type₁ is the type of **compile time** (meta-level) types. Meta-level types & their values only appear during compilation.
- 3 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ we have $\uparrow A : \text{Type}_1$. This is the **type of metaprograms which generate code with type A** .
- 4 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ and $t : A$, we have $\langle t \rangle : \uparrow A$. This is the **metaprogram which returns t as an expression (“quote”)**.
- 5 For $t : \uparrow A$, we have $\sim t : A$. This **inserts the result of a metaprogram into an expression (“splice”)**.

2LTT language overview

A dependent type theory + extra staging features.

Staging features

- 1 Type_0 is the type of **runtime** (object-level) types. Object-level types & their values will appear in generated code.
- 2 Type_1 is the type of **compile time** (meta-level) types. Meta-level types & their values only appear during compilation.
- 3 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ we have $\uparrow A : \text{Type}_1$. This is the **type of metaprograms which generate code with type A** .
- 4 For $A : \text{Type}_0$ and $t : A$, we have $\langle t \rangle : \uparrow A$. This is the **metaprogram which returns t as an expression (“quote”)**.
- 5 For $t : \uparrow A$, we have $\sim t : A$. This **inserts the result of a metaprogram into an expression (“splice”)**.
- 6 These are the **only ways** to convert between Type_0 and Type_1 .

Examples (1)

We use Agda-like syntax.

Runtime identity function

$$\text{id}_0 : (A : \text{Type}_0) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$$
$$\text{id}_0 A x = x$$

Examples (1)

We use Agda-like syntax.

Runtime identity function

$$\text{id}_0 : (A : \text{Type}_0) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$$
$$\text{id}_0 A x = x$$

Compile-time identity function

$$\text{id}_1 : (A : \text{Type}_1) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$$
$$\text{id}_1 A x = x$$

Examples (1)

We use Agda-like syntax.

Runtime identity function

$$\text{id}_0 : (A : \text{Type}_0) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$$
$$\text{id}_0 A x = x$$

Compile-time identity function

$$\text{id}_1 : (A : \text{Type}_1) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$$
$$\text{id}_1 A x = x$$

Assume $\text{Bool}_0 : \text{Type}_0$ and $\text{true}_0 : \text{Bool}_0$. Now, id_1 can be used on *expressions* as well:

$$\text{id}_1 (\uparrow \text{Bool}) \langle \text{true} \rangle : \uparrow \text{Bool}$$

This becomes simply $\langle \text{true} \rangle$ after staging.

Examples (2)

Inlined map function

$\text{map} : (A B : \uparrow \text{Type}_0) \rightarrow (\uparrow \sim A \rightarrow \uparrow \sim B) \rightarrow \uparrow(\text{List}_0 \sim A) \rightarrow \uparrow(\text{List}_0 \sim B)$

$\text{map } A B f \text{ as} =$

```
⟨let go [] = []
    go (a : as) = ~(f ⟨a⟩) : go as
in go ~as⟩
```

Examples (2)

Inlined map function

$\text{map} : (A B : \uparrow\text{Type}_0) \rightarrow (\uparrow \sim A \rightarrow \uparrow \sim B) \rightarrow \uparrow(\text{List}_0 \sim A) \rightarrow \uparrow(\text{List}_0 \sim B)$

$\text{map } A B f \text{ as} =$

```
⟨let go [] = []
   go (a : as) = ~⟨f ⟨a⟩⟩ : go as
in go ~as⟩
```

With inferred staging annotations:

$\text{map} : (A B : \uparrow\text{Type}_0) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \text{List}_0 A \rightarrow \text{List}_0 B$

$\text{map } A B f \text{ as} =$

```
let go [] = []
    go (a : as) = f a : go as
in go as
```

Vectors as nested pairs

$\text{Vector} : \text{Nat}_1 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0$

$\text{Vector } 0 \quad A = ()$

$\text{Vector } (n + 1) A = \langle (\sim A, \sim(\text{Vector } n A)) \rangle$

Vectors as nested pairs

$\text{Vector} : \text{Nat}_1 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0$

$\text{Vector } 0 \quad A = ()$

$\text{Vector } (n + 1) A = \langle (\sim A, \sim(\text{Vector } n A)) \rangle$

$\sim(\text{Vector } 3 \langle \text{Bool}_0 \rangle)$ is computed to $(\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, ())))$.

Computing types at compile time

Vectors as nested pairs

$$\text{Vector} : \text{Nat}_1 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0$$
$$\text{Vector } 0 \quad A = ()$$
$$\text{Vector } (n + 1) A = \langle (\sim A, \sim(\text{Vector } n A)) \rangle$$

$\sim(\text{Vector } 3 \langle \text{Bool}_0 \rangle)$ is computed to $(\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, ())))$.

We can also write a map for vectors of given lengths. We can generate types + **well-typed programs depending on generated types**.

Computing types at compile time

Vectors as nested pairs

$$\text{Vector} : \text{Nat}_1 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0 \rightarrow \uparrow\text{Type}_0$$
$$\text{Vector } 0 \quad A = ()$$
$$\text{Vector } (n + 1) A = \langle (\sim A, \sim(\text{Vector } n A)) \rangle$$

$\sim(\text{Vector } 3 \langle \text{Bool}_0 \rangle)$ is computed to $(\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, (\text{Bool}_0, ())))$.

We can also write a map for vectors of given lengths. We can generate types + **well-typed programs depending on generated types**.

This has not been possible in previous systems.