

Oat Language Specification

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1 Grammar

The following grammar defines the Oat syntax. All binary operations are *left associative* with precedence levels indicated numerically. Higher precedence operators bind tighter than lower precedence ones. Here *id* ranges over lower-case identifiers and *S* indicates an upper-case “struct name.” The parts of the grammar marked with *M* are not part of the abstract syntax, but are included for parsing purposes (e.g. parentheses) or for use in explaining the typing judgments. Note that left-hand-sides (*lhs*) and global expressions (*gexp*) are just a subsets of expressions.

<i>t</i>	::=	types
		<code>bool</code>
		<code>int</code>
		<code>ref?</code> nullable references
		<code>ref</code> non-null references
<i>ref</i>	::=	reference types
		<code>string</code>
		<code>S</code> named (mutable) record type
		<code>t []</code> arrays
		<code>(<i>t</i>₀, .., <i>t</i>_{<i>n</i>}) -> <i>rt</i></code> function pointer
		<code>(<i>ref</i>)</code> <i>M</i>
<i>rt</i>	::=	return types
		<code>void</code>
		<code>t</code>
<i>prog</i>	::=	prog
		<code>ε</code>
		<code>decl prog</code>
<i>decl</i>	::=	global declarations
		<code>gdecl</code>
		<code>fdecl</code>
		<code>tdecl</code>

<i>gdecl</i>	::= <code>global id = gexp;</code>	global value declarations
<i>arg</i>	::= <code>t id</code>	arg
<i>args</i>	::= <code>arg₁, ..., arg_n</code>	args
<i>fdecl</i>	::= <code>rt id(args) block</code>	function declaration
<i>field</i>	::= <code>t x</code>	field declarations
<i>fields</i>	::= <code>field₁; .. ;field_n</code> <code>fields; t_{n+1} x_{n+1}; .. ; t_m x_m</code> M	fields
<i>tdecl</i>	::= <code>struct S{ fields }</code>	struct declaration
<i>exp</i>	::= <code>ref null</code> <code>boolean</code> <code>integer</code> <code>string</code> <code>id</code> <code>new t[] {exp₁, .., exp_n}</code> <code>new t [exp₁] {id=>exp₂}</code> <code>exp₁ [exp₂]</code> <code>length (exp)</code> <code>new S{x₁=exp₁; .. ; x_n=exp_n}</code> <code>exp . id</code> <code>exp (exp₁, .., exp_n)</code> <code>uop exp</code> <code>exp₁ bop exp₂</code> <code>(exp)</code> M	expressions type-annotated null value boolean literals <code>true</code> or <code>false</code> 64-bit integer literals C-style strings global or local variable array literal value array with "initializer" array index built-in polymorphic length operation struct initialization field projection function call unary operation binary operation
<i>lhs</i>	::= <code>id</code> <code>exp₁ [exp₂]</code> <code>exp . id</code>	left-hand-sides for assignment
<i>gexp</i>	::= <code>ref null</code>	global expressions

		<i>boolean</i>	
		<i>integer</i>	
		<i>string</i>	
		<code>new t[] {exp₁, .., exp_n}</code>	
		<code>new S {x₁=gexp₁; .. ; x_n=gexp_n}</code>	
		<i>id</i>	
<i>block</i>	::=		blocks
		<code>{stmt₁ .. stmt_n}</code>	
<i>vdecl</i>	::=		local variable declarations
		<code>var id = exp</code>	
<i>stmt</i>	::=		statements
		<code>lhs = exp;</code>	assignment statement
		<code>vdecl;</code>	variable declaration
		<code>return exp;</code>	return with value
		<code>return;</code>	return (void)
		<code>exp(exp₁, .., exp_n);</code>	call a void-returning function
		<code>if_stmt</code>	conditionals
		<code>for(vdecls; exp_opt; stmt_opt) block</code>	
		<code>while(exp) block</code>	
<i>if_stmt</i>	::=		if statements
		<code>if (exp) block else_stmt</code>	standard boolean if
		<code>if?(var id = exp) block else_stmt</code>	possibly-null checked downcast
<i>else_stmt</i>	::=		else
		ϵ	
		<code>else block</code>	
		<code>else if_stmt</code>	

<i>bop</i>	::=	(left associative) binary operations
		+ precedence 90
		- precedence 90
		* precedence 100
		== precedence 60
		!= precedence 60
		< precedence 70
		<= precedence 70
		> precedence 70
		>= precedence 70
		& precedence 50
		precedence 40
		[&] precedence 30
		[] precedence 20
		<< precedence 80
		>> precedence 80
		>>> precedence 80

<i>uop</i>	::=	unary operations
		-
		!
		~

2 Subtyping Rules

$$\boxed{H \vdash t_1 \leq t_2}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash \text{int} \leq \text{int}} \text{SUB_SUB_INT}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash \text{bool} \leq \text{bool}} \text{SUB_SUB_BOOL}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash_r \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2}{H \vdash \text{ref}_1? \leq \text{ref}_2?} \text{SUB_SUB_NREF}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash_r \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2}{H \vdash \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2} \text{SUB_SUB_REF}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash_r \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2}{H \vdash \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2?} \text{SUB_SUB_NRREF}$$

$$\boxed{H \vdash_r \text{ref}_1 \leq \text{ref}_2}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_r \text{string} \leq \text{string}} \text{SUB_SUBSTRING}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_r t[] \leq t[]} \text{SUB_SUBARRAY}$$

$$\frac{\text{struct } S_1\{t_1 x_1; \dots; t_n x_n; t_{n+1} x_{n+1}; \dots; t_m x_m\} \in H \quad \text{struct } S_2\{t_1 x_1; \dots; t_n x_n\} \in H}{H \vdash_r S_1 \leq S_2} \text{SUB_SUBSTRUCT}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash t'_1 \leq t_1 \quad \dots \quad H \vdash t'_n \leq t_n \quad H \vdash_{rt} rt_1 \leq rt_2}{H \vdash_r (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow rt_1 \leq (t'_1, \dots, t'_n) \rightarrow rt_2} \text{SUB_SUBFUNT}$$

$$\boxed{H \vdash_{rt} rt_1 \leq rt_2}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_{rt} \text{void} \leq \text{void}} \text{SUB_SUBRETSVOID}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash t_1 \leq t_2}{H \vdash_{rt} t_1 \leq t_2} \text{SUB_SUBRETRTYP}$$

3 Well-formed types

$H \vdash t$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash \mathbf{int}} \text{WF_TYPOKOKINT}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash \mathbf{bool}} \text{WF_TYPOKOKBOOL}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash_r \mathit{ref}}{H \vdash \mathit{ref}} \text{WF_TYPOKOKREFT}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash_r \mathit{ref}}{H \vdash \mathit{ref}^?} \text{WF_TYPOKOKREFTQ}$$

$H \vdash_r \mathit{ref}$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_r \mathbf{string}} \text{WF_REFTOKOKSTRING}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash t}{H \vdash_r t[]} \text{WF_REFTOKOKARRAY}$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{struct} \ S\{\mathit{fields}\} \in H}{H \vdash_r S} \text{WF_REFTOKOKSTRUCT}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash t_1 \ \dots \ H \vdash t_n \ H \vdash_{rt} \mathit{rt}}{H \vdash_r (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow \mathit{rt}} \text{WF_REFTOKOKFUNT}$$

$H \vdash_{rt} \mathit{rt}$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_{rt} \mathbf{void}} \text{WF_RTYPOKVOIDOK}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash t}{H \vdash_{rt} t} \text{WF_RTYPOKRTYPOK}$$

4 Typing Rules

$\vdash bop_1, \dots, bop_i : t$

$\frac{}{\vdash +, *, -, <, >, >>, [\&], [[]] : (\text{int}, \text{int}) \rightarrow \text{int}}$ TYP_INTOps

$\frac{}{\vdash <, <=, >, >=: (\text{int}, \text{int}) \rightarrow \text{bool}}$ TYP_CMPOps

$\frac{}{\vdash \&, | : (\text{bool}, \text{bool}) \rightarrow \text{bool}}$ TYP_BOOLOps

$\vdash uop : t$

$\frac{}{\vdash ! : (\text{bool}) \rightarrow \text{bool}}$ TYP_LOGNOT

$\frac{}{\vdash \sim : (\text{int}) \rightarrow \text{int}}$ TYP_BITNEG

$\frac{}{\vdash - : (\text{int}) \rightarrow \text{int}}$ TYP_NEG

$H; G; L \vdash exp : t$

$\frac{H \vdash ref}{H; G; L \vdash ref \text{ null} : ref?}$ TYP_NULL

$\frac{}{H; G; L \vdash boolean : \text{bool}}$ TYP_BOOL

$\frac{}{H; G; L \vdash integer : \text{int}}$ TYP_INT

$\frac{}{H; G; L \vdash string : \text{string}}$ TYP_STRING

$\frac{id : t \in L}{H; G; L \vdash id : t}$ TYP_LOCAL

$\frac{id \notin L \quad id : t \in G}{H; G; L \vdash id : t}$ TYP_GLOBAL

$\frac{H \vdash t \quad H; G; L \vdash exp_1 : t_1 \dots H; G; L \vdash exp_n : t_n \quad H \vdash t_1 \leq t \dots H \vdash t_n \leq t}{H; G; L \vdash \text{new } t[]\{exp_1, \dots, exp_n\} : t[]}$ TYP_CARR

$\frac{H \vdash t \quad H; G; L \vdash exp_1 : \text{int} \quad x \notin L \quad H; G; L, x : \text{int} \vdash exp_2 : t' \quad H \vdash t' \leq t}{H; G; L \vdash \text{new } t[exp_1]\{x \Rightarrow exp_2\} : t[]}$ TYP_NEWARRAY

$\frac{H; G; L \vdash exp_1 : t[] \quad H; G; L \vdash exp_2 : \text{int}}{H; G; L \vdash exp_1[exp_2] : t}$ TYP_INDEX

$\frac{H; G; L \vdash exp : t[]}{H; G; L \vdash \text{length}(exp) : \text{int}}$ TYP_LENGTH

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{struct } S\{ t_1 x_1; \dots; t_n x_n \} \in H \\
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 : t'_1 \dots H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_n : t'_n \\
H \vdash t'_1 \leq t_1 \dots H \vdash t'_n \leq t_n \\
\text{fields may be permuted under new} \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{new } S\{x_1=\text{exp}_1; \dots; x_n=\text{exp}_n\} : S \quad \text{TYP_STRUCTEX} \\
\\
\begin{array}{c}
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp} : S \\
\text{struct } S\{ \text{fields} \} \in H \quad t x \in \text{fields} \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}.x : t \quad \text{TYP_FIELD}
\end{array} \\
\\
\begin{array}{c}
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp} : (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow t \\
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 : t'_1 \dots H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_n : t'_n \\
H \vdash t'_1 \leq t_1 \dots H \vdash t'_n \leq t_n \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}(\text{exp}_1, \dots, \text{exp}_n) : t \quad \text{TYP_CALL}
\end{array} \\
\\
\begin{array}{c}
\vdash \text{bop} : (t_1, t_2) \rightarrow t \\
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 : t_1 \quad H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_2 : t_2 \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 \text{bop} \text{exp}_2 : t \quad \text{TYP_BOP}
\end{array} \\
\\
\begin{array}{c}
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 : t_1 \quad H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_2 : t_2 \\
H \vdash t_1 \leq t_2 \quad H \vdash t_2 \leq t_1 \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{exp}_1 == \text{exp}_2 : \text{bool} \quad \text{TYP_EQ}
\end{array} \\
\\
\begin{array}{c}
\vdash \text{uop} : (t) \rightarrow t \quad H;G;L \vdash \text{exp} : t \\
\hline
H;G;L \vdash \text{uop} \text{exp} : t \quad \text{TYP_UOP}
\end{array}
\end{array}$$

$$\boxed{H;G;L_1 \vdash vdecl \Rightarrow L_2}$$

$$\frac{H;G;L \vdash exp : t \quad x \notin L}{H;G;L \vdash \text{var } x = exp \Rightarrow L, x:t} \text{ TYP_DECL}$$

$$\boxed{H;G;L_0 \vdash vdecls \Rightarrow L_i}$$

$$\frac{H;G;L_0 \vdash vdecl_1 \Rightarrow L_1 \quad \dots \quad H;G;L_{n-1} \vdash vdecl_i \Rightarrow L_n}{H;G;L_0 \vdash vdecl_1, \dots, vdecl_n \Rightarrow L_n} \text{ TYP_VDECLS}$$

$$\boxed{H;G;L_1;rt \vdash stmt \Rightarrow L_2;returns}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} G \vdash lhs \text{ not a global function id} \\ H;G;L \vdash lhs : t \\ H;G;L \vdash exp : t' \\ H \vdash t' \leq t \end{array}}{H;G;L;rt \vdash lhs = exp; \Rightarrow L; \perp} \text{ TYP_ASSN}$$

$$\frac{H;G;L_1 \vdash vdecl \Rightarrow L_2}{H;G;L_1;rt \vdash vdecl; \Rightarrow L_2; \perp} \text{ TYP_STMTDECL}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L \vdash exp : (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow \text{void} \\ H;G;L \vdash exp_1 : t'_1 \quad \dots \quad H;G;L \vdash exp_n : t'_n \\ H \vdash t'_1 \leq t_1 \quad \dots \quad H \vdash t'_n \leq t_n \end{array}}{H;G;L;rt \vdash exp(exp_1, \dots, exp_n); \Rightarrow L; \perp} \text{ TYP_SCALL}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L \vdash exp : \text{bool} \\ H;G;L;rt \vdash block_1; r_1 \\ H;G;L;rt \vdash block_2; r_2 \end{array}}{H;G;L;rt \vdash \text{if}(exp) block_1 \text{ else } block_2 \Rightarrow L; r_1 \wedge r_2} \text{ TYP_IF}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L \vdash exp : \text{ref}'? \quad x \notin L \\ H \vdash \text{ref}' \leq \text{ref} \\ H;G;L, x:\text{ref};rt \vdash block_1; r_1 \quad H;G;L;rt \vdash block_2; r_2 \end{array}}{H;G;L;rt \vdash \text{if}?(var x = exp) block_1 \text{ else } block_2 \Rightarrow L; r_1 \wedge r_2} \text{ TYP_IFQ}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L \vdash exp : \text{bool} \\ H;G;L;rt \vdash block; r \end{array}}{H;G;L;rt \vdash \text{while}(exp) block \Rightarrow L; \perp} \text{ TYP_WHILE}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L_1 \vdash vdecls \Rightarrow L_2 \\ H;G;L_2 \vdash exp : \text{bool} \\ H;G;L_2;rt \vdash stmt \Rightarrow L_3; \perp \\ H;G;L_2;rt \vdash block; r \end{array}}{H;G;L_1;rt \vdash \text{for}(vdecls; exp_opt; stmt_opt) block \Rightarrow L_1; \perp} \text{ TYP_FOR}$$

$$\frac{H;G;L \vdash exp : t' \quad H \vdash t' \leq t}{H;G;L;rt \vdash \text{return } exp; \Rightarrow L; \top} \text{ TYP_RETT}$$

$$\frac{}{H;G;L;void \vdash \text{return}; \Rightarrow L; \top} \text{ TYP_RETVOID}$$

$H;G;L;rt \vdash \text{block};\text{returns}$

$$\frac{H;G;L_0;rt \vdash_{ss} \text{stmt}_1 .. \text{stmt}_n \Rightarrow L_n;r}{H;G;L_0;rt \vdash \{\text{stmt}_1 .. \text{stmt}_n\};r} \text{ TYP_BLOCK}$$

$H;G;L_0;rt \vdash_{ss} \text{stmt}_1 .. \text{stmt}_n \Rightarrow L_n;\text{returns}$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} H;G;L_0;rt \vdash \text{stmt}_1 \Rightarrow L_1;\perp \\ \dots \\ H;G;L_{n-2};rt \vdash \text{stmt}_{n-1} \Rightarrow L_{n-1};\perp \\ H;G;L_{n-1};rt \vdash \text{stmt}_n \Rightarrow L_n;r \end{array}}{H;G;L_0;rt \vdash_{ss} \text{stmt}_1 .. \text{stmt}_{n-1} \text{stmt}_n \Rightarrow L_n;r} \text{ TYP_STMTS}$$

$H;G \vdash_s \text{tdecl}$

$$\frac{H \vdash t_1 .. H \vdash t_i \quad x_1 .. x_i \text{ distinct}}{H;G \vdash_s \text{struct } S\{t_1 x_1; .. ; t_i x_i\}} \text{ TYP_TDECLOK}$$

$H;G \vdash_f \text{fdecl}$

$$\frac{H;G;x_1:t_1, .., x_i:t_i;rt \vdash \text{block};\top}{H;G \vdash_f rt f(t_1 x_1, .., t_i x_i) \text{ block}} \text{ TYP_FDECLOK}$$

$H;G \vdash \text{prog}$

$$\begin{array}{l} \overline{H;G \vdash \epsilon} \text{ TYP_EMPTY} \\ \frac{H;G \vdash \text{prog}}{H;G \vdash \text{gdecl prog}} \text{ TYP_DGDECL} \\ \frac{H;G \vdash_f \text{fdecl} \quad H;G \vdash \text{prog}}{H;G \vdash \text{fdecl prog}} \text{ TYP_DFDECL} \\ \frac{H;G \vdash_s \text{tdecl} \quad H;G \vdash \text{prog}}{H;G \vdash \text{tdecl prog}} \text{ TYP_DTDECL} \end{array}$$

$H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2$

$$\begin{array}{l} \overline{H;G \vdash_g \epsilon \Rightarrow G} \text{ TYP_GEMPTY} \\ \frac{H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{tdecl prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_GTDECL} \\ \frac{H;G_1; \cdot \vdash \text{gexp} : t \quad x \notin G_1 \quad H;G_1, x:t \vdash_g \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{global } x = \text{gexp}; \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_GGDECL} \\ \frac{H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H;G_1 \vdash_g \text{fdecl prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_GFDECL} \end{array}$$

$H \vdash \text{fdecl} \Rightarrow \text{id}:t$

$$\frac{H \vdash_{rt} rt \quad H \vdash t_1 .. H \vdash t_n}{H \vdash_{rt} f(t_1 x_1, .., t_n x_n) \text{ block} \Rightarrow f:(t_1, .., t_n) \rightarrow rt} \text{ TYP_FTYP}$$

$$\boxed{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}$$

$$\frac{}{H; G \vdash_f \epsilon \Rightarrow G} \text{ TYP_FEMPTY}$$

$$\frac{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{tdecl prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_FTDECL}$$

$$\frac{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{gdecl prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_FGDECL}$$

$$\frac{H \vdash \text{fdecl} \Rightarrow f:t \quad f \notin G_1 \quad H; G_1, f:t \vdash_f \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2}{H; G_1 \vdash_f \text{fdecl prog} \Rightarrow G_2} \text{ TYP_FFDECL}$$

$$\boxed{H_1 \vdash_s \text{prog} \Rightarrow H_2}$$

$$\frac{}{H \vdash_s \epsilon \Rightarrow H} \text{ TYP_SEEMPTY}$$

$$\frac{S \notin H_1 \quad H_1, \text{struct } S\{ \text{fields} \} \vdash_s \text{prog} \Rightarrow H_2}{H_1 \vdash_s \text{struct } S\{ \text{fields} \} \text{ prog} \Rightarrow H_2} \text{ TYP_STDECL}$$

$$\frac{H_1 \vdash_s \text{prog} \Rightarrow H_2}{H_1 \vdash_s \text{gdecl prog} \Rightarrow H_2} \text{ TYP_SGDECL}$$

$$\frac{H_1 \vdash_s \text{prog} \Rightarrow H_2}{H_1 \vdash_s \text{fdecl prog} \Rightarrow H_2} \text{ TYP_SFDECL}$$

$$\boxed{\vdash \text{prog}}$$

$$\frac{\cdot \vdash_s \text{prog} \Rightarrow H \quad H; G_0 \vdash_f \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_1 \quad H; G_1 \vdash_g \text{prog} \Rightarrow G_2 \quad H; G_2 \vdash \text{prog}}{\vdash \text{prog}} \text{ TYP_PROG}$$

Notes:

- The context G_0 mentioned in the rule for typechecking a complete, top-level program is the “initial context” which should contain bindings for all of the OAT built-in functions.
- The type system processes the program in several passes: (1) collect up all the structure type definitions and make sure their names don’t clash using the \vdash_s rules, (2) add all the function identifiers and their types to the global context using the \vdash_f rules, again ensuring no name clashes, (3) typecheck the global value declarations and add them to the context using the \vdash_g rules, and (4) process all the declarations one more time to examine all the struct fields to make sure their types are well formed and to typecheck the function bodies.

The rules therefore allow the types of structs to be mutually recursive, and for global values to mention function pointers as constants.

- We use \perp to indicate that a statement might not return, and \top to indicate that a statement definitely returns. When typechecking the list of statements that make up a block, only the last statement is allowed to definitely return (all the others must possibly not return). Note that `TYP_FDECLOK` requires that the block making up a function body definitely return.