

Contextual Modal Type Theory with Polymorphic Contexts

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Staged Computation

Staged computation allows programmers to generate code in a **structured** and **type/scope-safe** manner [Calcango et al. 2003, Taha et al. 2023]

Applications to

- Compile-time optimization
- Metaprogramming (e.g., procedural macros)

Quasi-quotation to generate code

compile-time stage

run-time stage

```
let x: int code = '(1 + y)
  in '(2 * $x)
```

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Quote generates
code fragment

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⇒ '(2 * $'(1 + y))
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compile-time stage
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let x: int code = '(1 + y)
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Unquote embeds
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```
⇒ '(2 * $(1 + y))
```

```
⇒ '(2 * (1 + y))
```


Type check against quasi-quote

to reject programs that generate ill-typed code



```
let x: int code = '(1 + y)
  in '(2 * $x)
```

```
let x: str code = '("hello")
  in '(2 * $x)
```

```
let x: int code = '(1 + y)
  in '(y(2) * $x)
```

Type check against quasi-quote

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expected int code,
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expected int code,
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```
let x: int code = '(1 + y)
  in '(y(2) * $x)
```

No appropriate type for y

Two ways to manage typing contexts of code

Implicit-context style [Davies 1996]

`y:int` \vdash `(1 + y): int` code

maintained in typing judgment

- Applications to real staged programming languages
[MetaOCaml][Typed Template Haskell][Scala 3
Macros]

Two ways to manage typing contexts of code

Implicit-context style [Davies 1996]

$y:\text{int} \vdash '(1 + y): \text{int} \text{ code}$

maintained in typing judgment

- Applications to real staged programming languages
[MetaOCaml][Typed Template Haskell][Scala 3 Macros]

Explicit-context style [Nanevski et al. 2008]

$\vdash '\langle y:\text{int} \rangle (1 + y): [\text{int}] \text{int} \text{ code}$

maintained in code types

- Type safety for mutable reference cells & run-time evaluation
[Rhiger 2012][Kiselyov 2017]
- Applications to proof assistants
[Pientka et al. 2010]

Explicit-context style is inflexible

Implicit-context style

```
int code
```

Explicit-context style

```
[ ]int code
```

```
[int]int code
```

```
[int, str→int]int code
```

...

Issue: Inflexible code types

Implicit-context style

`int code`

Explicit-context style

`[]int code`

`[int]int code`

`[int, str→int]int code`

...

Solution Idea:

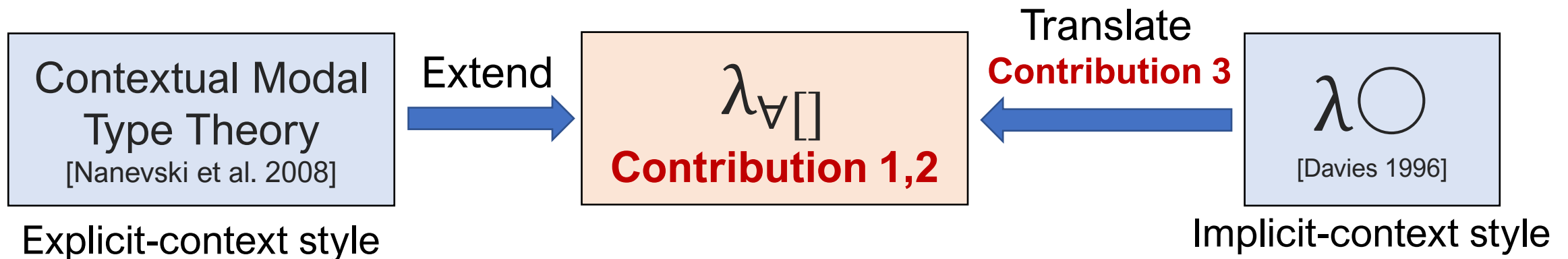
Abstraction over contexts



$\forall \gamma. ([\gamma]int \text{ code})$

Our Contributions

1. Typed lambda calculus $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$ with polymorphic contexts
 - Extension of contextual modal type theory
2. Proofs of basic properties of $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$
 - Subject Reduction, Strong Normalization and Confluence
3. Type-preserving translation from $\lambda\bigcirc$ to $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$



Outline

Fitch-style variant of
contextual modal type theory
[Nanevski et al. 2008]

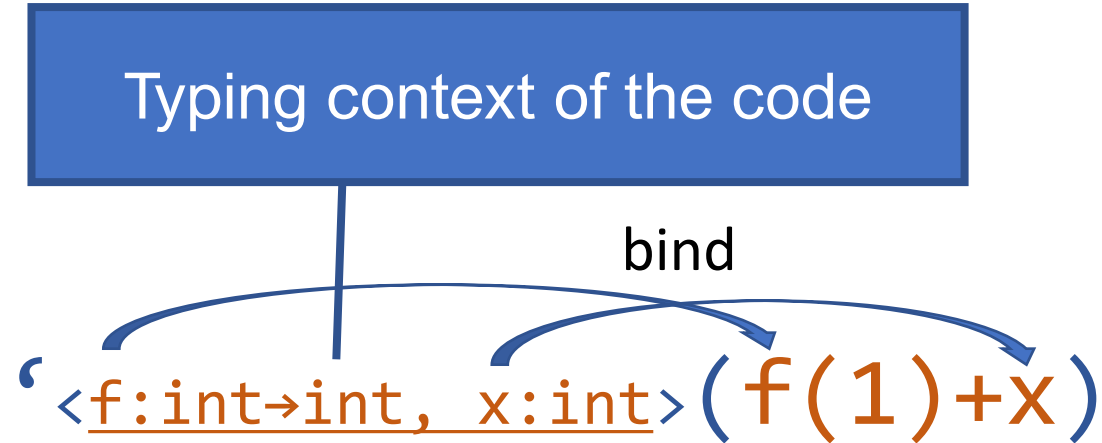
- Introduction
- λ_{\square} : **Simple Fitch-style contextual modal type theory**
- $\lambda_{\forall \square}$: Polymorphic contexts extension
- Translation from λ° to $\lambda_{\forall \square}$
- Related work & Conclusion

Quotes and Contextual Modal Types in λ_{\square}

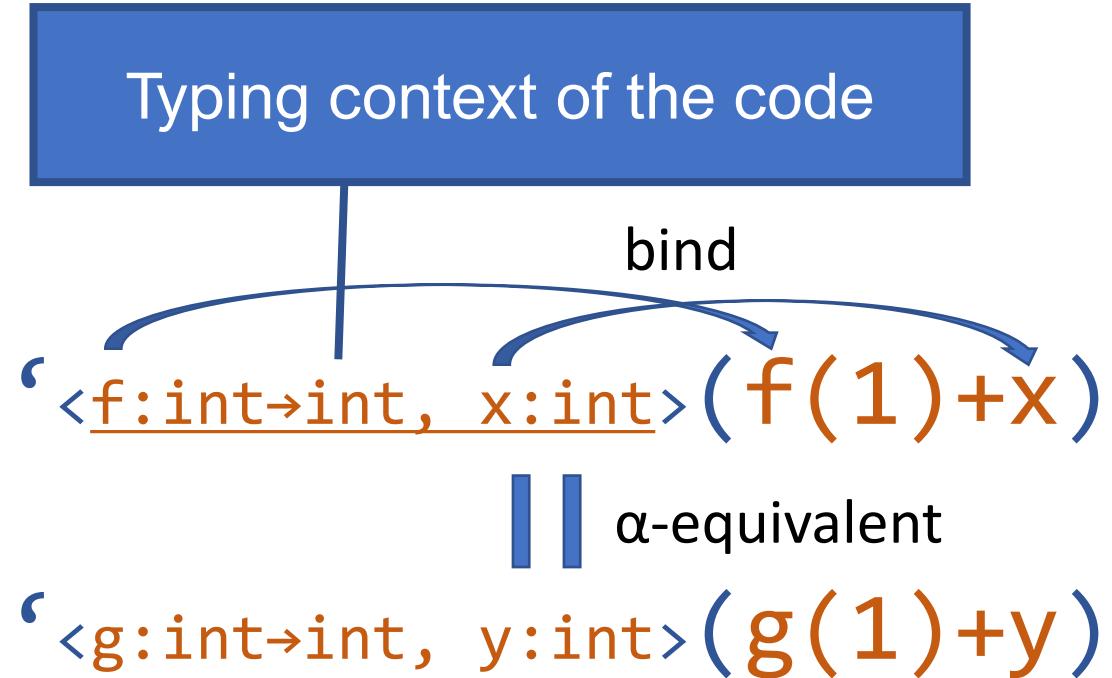
Typing context of the code

`'<f:int→int, x:int>(f(1)+x)`

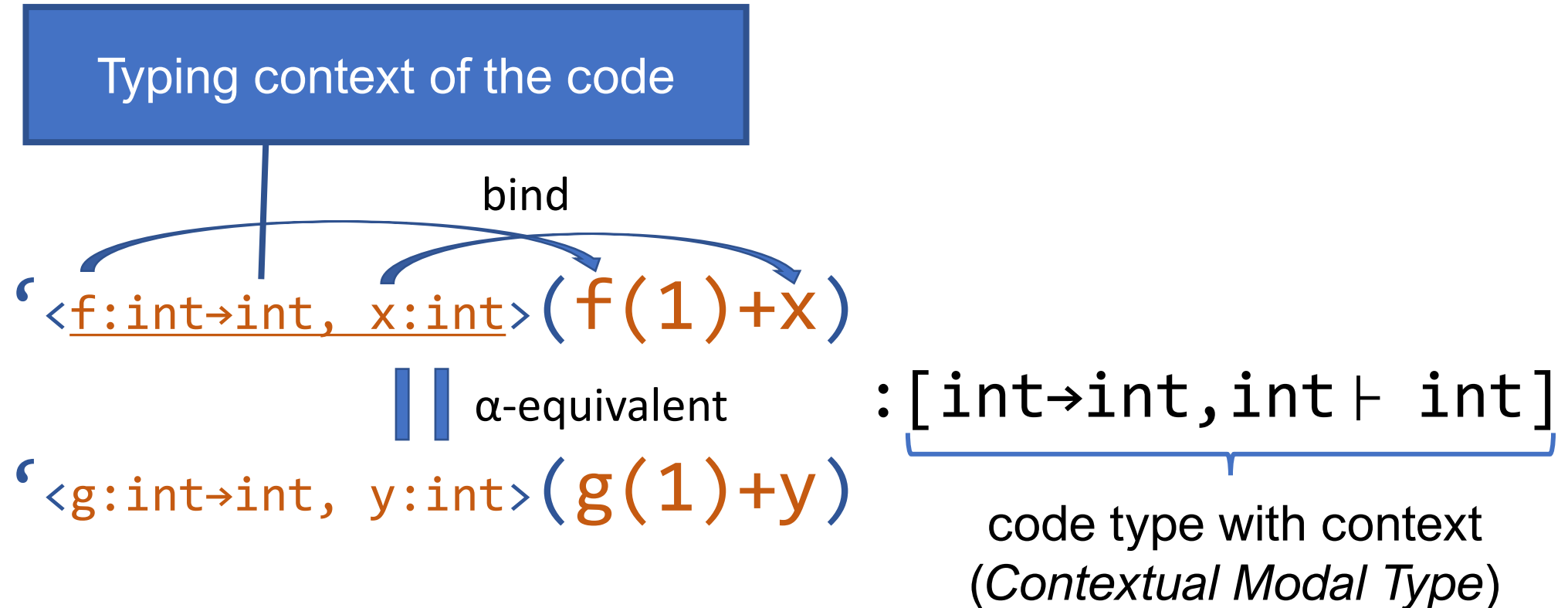
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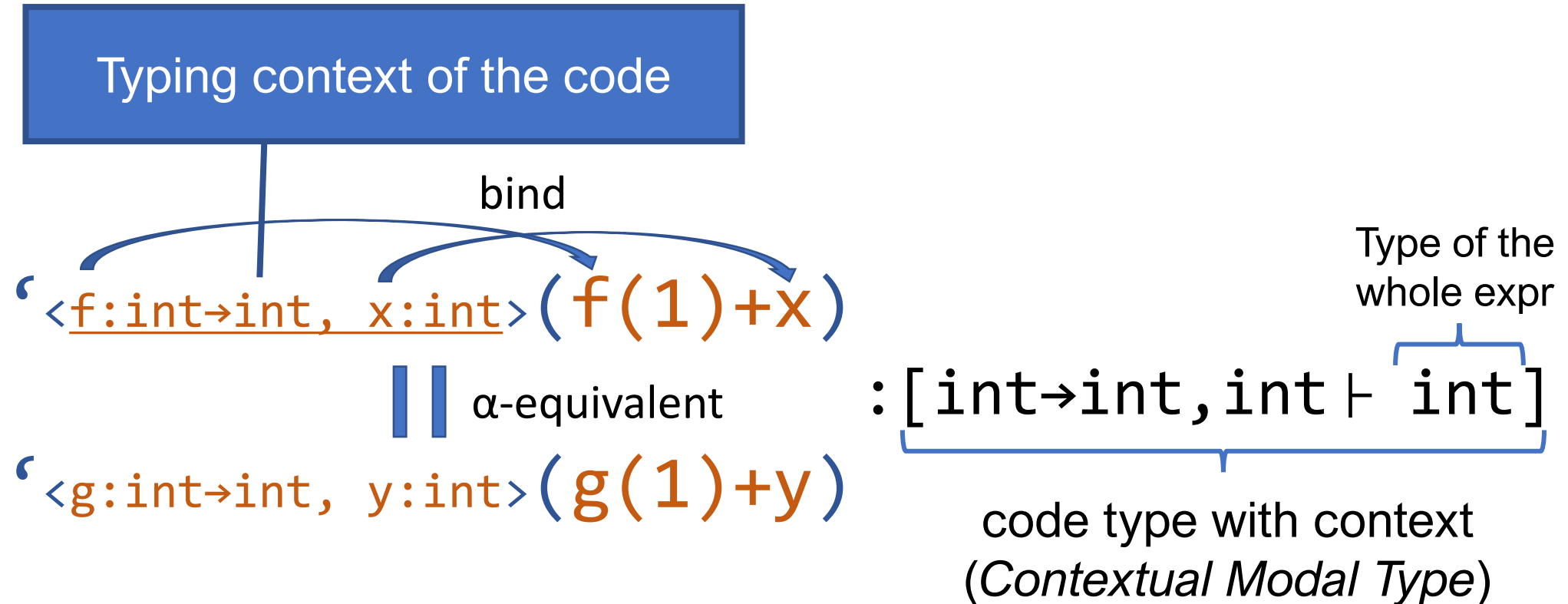
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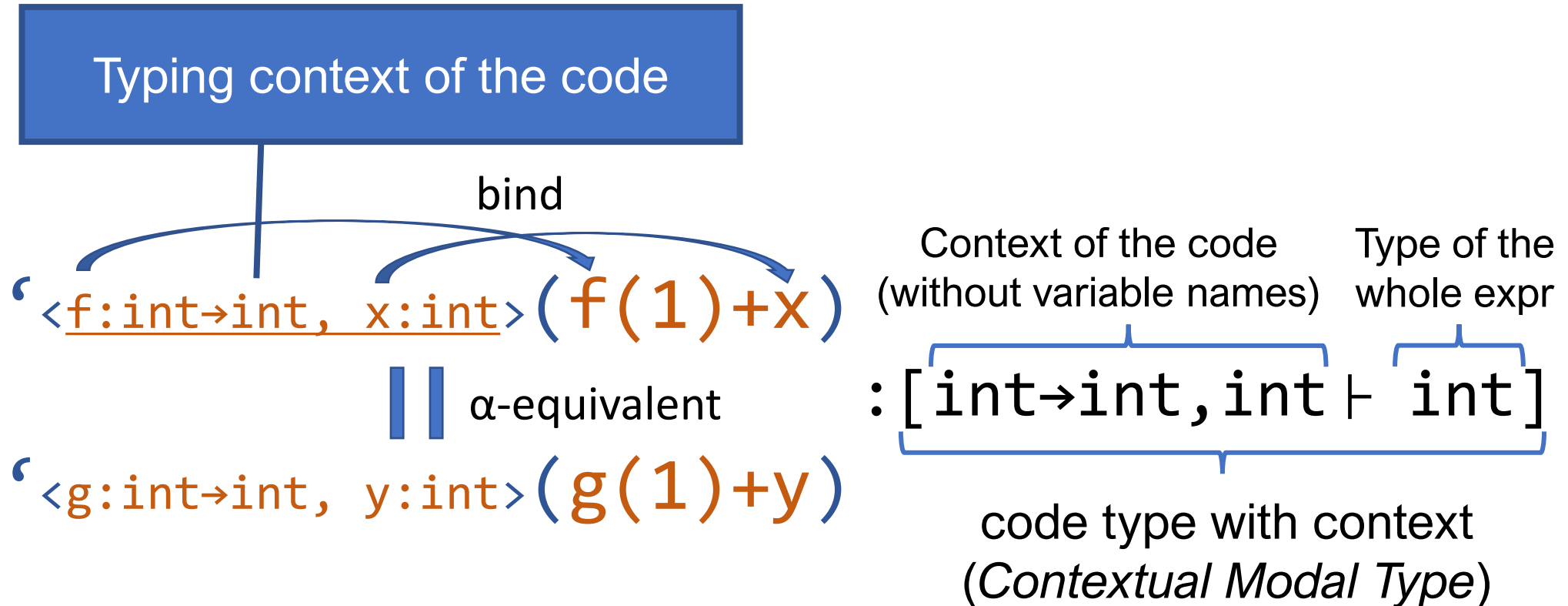
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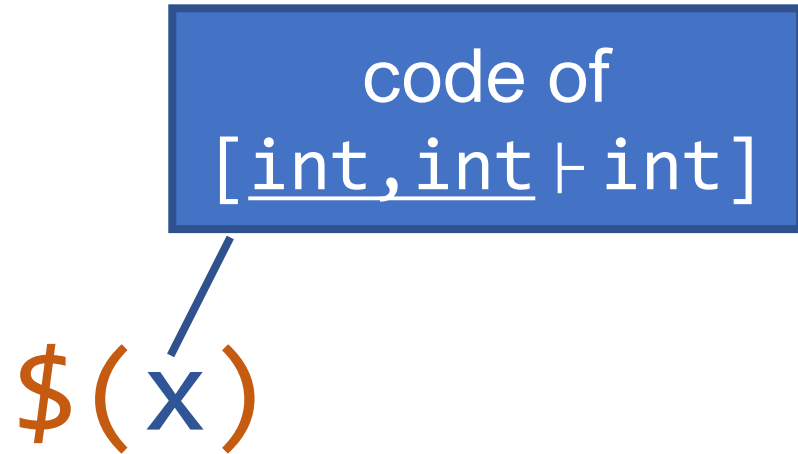
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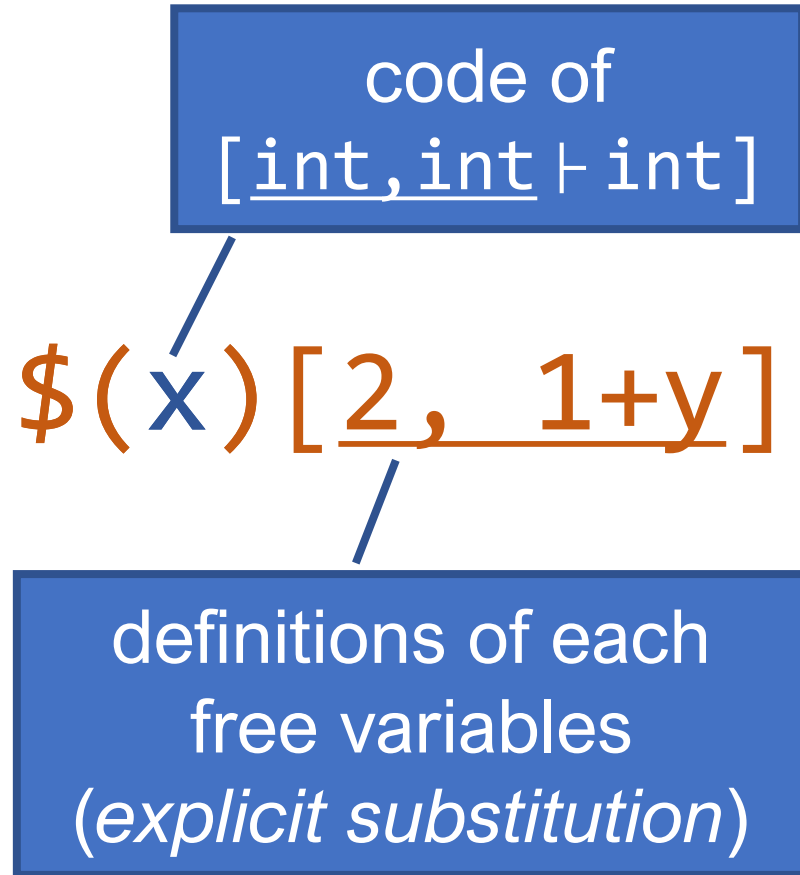
Quotes and Contextual Modal Types in λ_{\square}



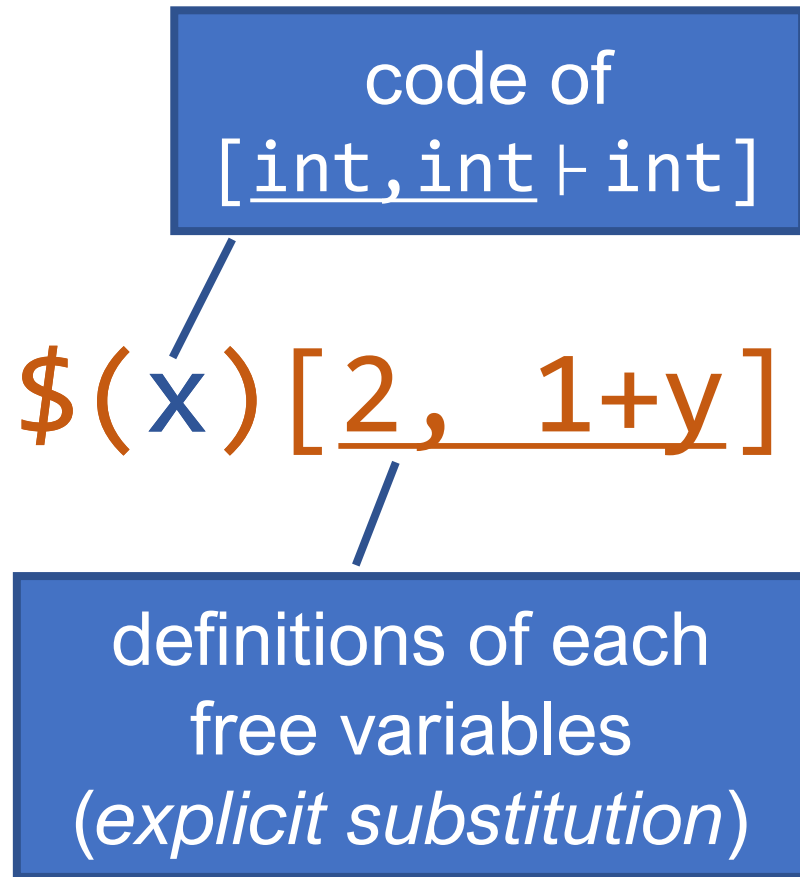
Unquote in λ_{\square} supplies definitions for variables



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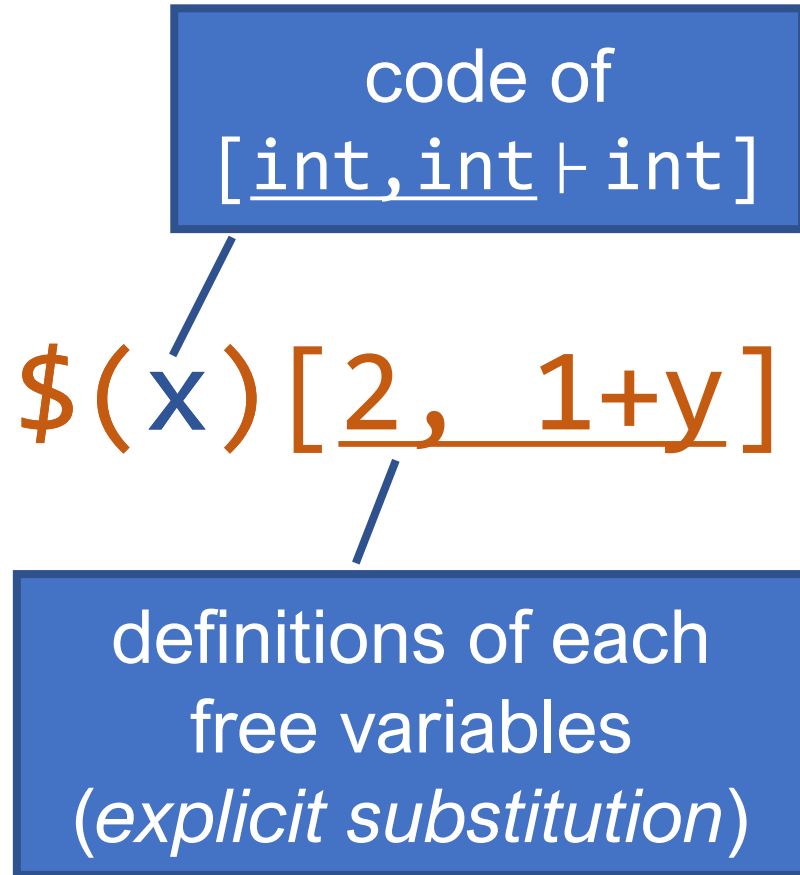
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Example

$\$(\langle x, z:\text{int} \rangle (x+z)) [2, 1+y]$

Unquote in λ_{\square} supplies definitions for variables

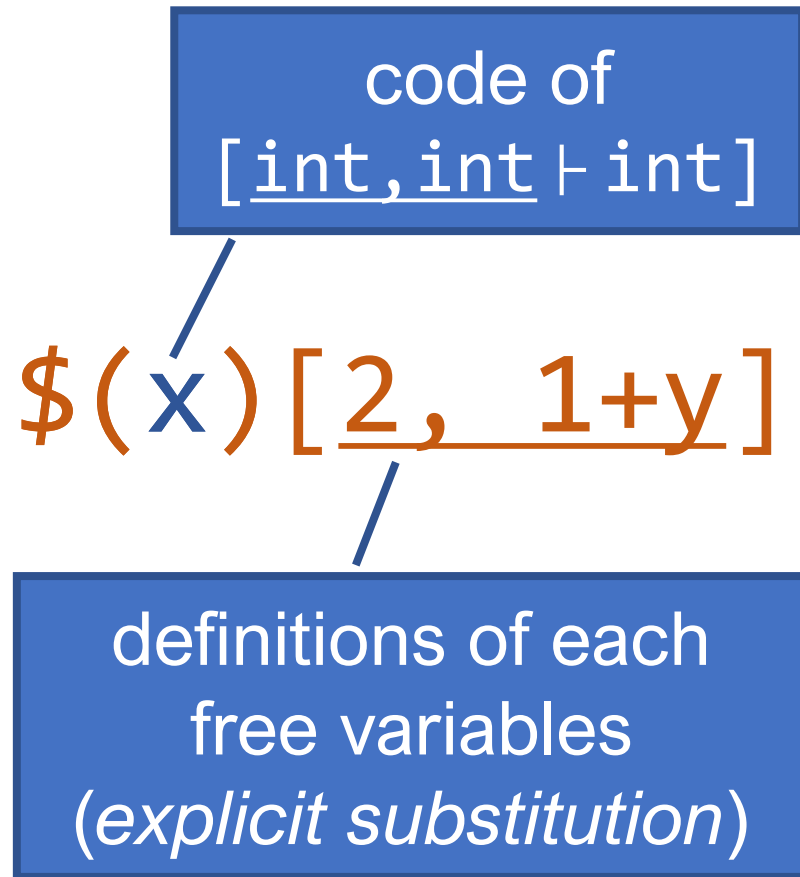


Example

$\$(\langle x, z:\text{int} \rangle (x+z)) [2, 1+y]$

The example expression $\$(\langle x, z:\text{int} \rangle (x+z)) [2, 1+y]$ is shown with blue arrows indicating substitution. One arrow points from the x in the lambda abstraction to the x in the body $(x+z)$. Another arrow points from the z in the lambda abstraction to the z in the body $(x+z)$. A third arrow points from the z in the lambda abstraction to the $1+y$ in the argument list $[2, 1+y]$.

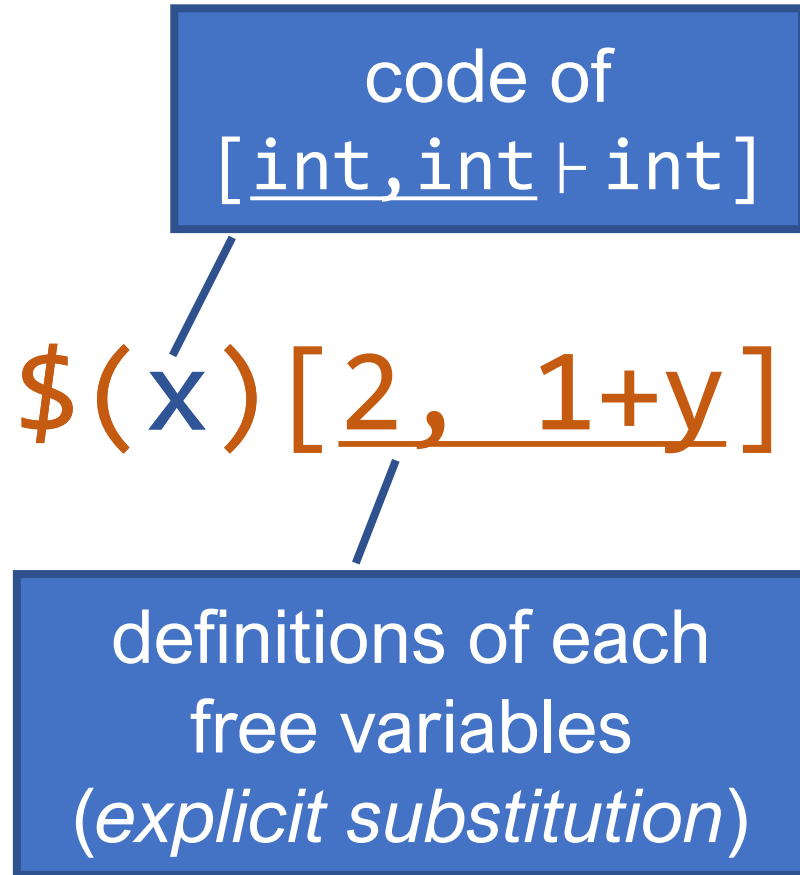
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Example

$$\$(\langle x, z:\text{int} \rangle (x+z)) [2, 1+y]$$
$$\Rightarrow (x+z) [x=2, z=1+y]$$

Unquote in λ_{\square} supplies definitions for variables



Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \$(\langle x, z:\text{int} \rangle (x+z)) [2, 1+y] \\ \Rightarrow & (x+z) [x=2, z=1+y] \\ \Rightarrow & 2+(1+y) \end{aligned}$$

Example: Sum generation

(in implicit-context style)
gen-sum ‘(w) ‘(3 * w)
⇒ ‘(w + 3 * w)

Definition

let gen-sum x y: [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] =
‘<z:int>(\$x[z] + \$y[z])

Evaluation example

gen-sum ‘<w1:int>(w1) ‘<w2:int>(3*w2)
⇒ ‘<z:int>(\$('<w1:int>(w1))[z] + \$('<w2:int>(3*w2))[z])
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```
gen-sum ‘<w1:int>(w1) ‘<w2:int>(3*w2)  
⇒ ‘<z:int>($('<w1:int>(w1))[z] + $('<w2:int>(3*w2))[z])  
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```

Example: Sum generation

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gen-sum ‘(w) ‘(3 * w)
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Definition

let gen-sum x y: [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] =
‘<z:int>(\$x[z] + \$y[z])

Issue: context of argument code needs to be single variable with int type

Evaluation example

gen-sum ‘<w1:int>(w1) ‘<w2:int>(3*w2)
⇒ ‘<z:int>(\$('<w1:int>(w1))[z] + \$('<w2:int>(3*w2))[z])
⇒ ‘<z:int>(z+3*z)

Outline

- Introduction
- λ_{\square} : Simple Fitch-style contextual modal type theory
- $\lambda_{\forall\square}$: **Polymorphic contexts extension**
 - Extension to types
 - Extension to terms
 - Example: polymorphic gen-sum
 - Semantics
- Translation from λ_{\circ} to $\lambda_{\forall\square}$
- Related work & Conclusion

Context variables to abstract context

In λ_{\square}

$[\vdash \text{int}]$

$[\text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$

$[\text{str} \rightarrow \text{int}, \text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$



In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\forall \gamma. [\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

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$[\text{str} \rightarrow \text{int}, \text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$

Context variable
(= sequence of types)



In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\forall \gamma. [\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

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In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

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Polymorphic
context type

Context variables to abstract context

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Context variable
(= sequence of types)



In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\forall \gamma. [\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

Polymorphic
context type

Context abstraction $\Lambda \gamma. M$

M : terms

Context application $M \Leftarrow C$

C : seq of types

Series variables to abstract variables

In λ_{\square}

$\langle _ \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:\text{int}} \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:\text{str} \rightarrow \text{int}, y:\text{int}} \rangle (\dots)$



In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\Lambda \gamma . \langle \underline{\text{😬}:\gamma} \rangle (\dots)$

Series variables to abstract variables

In λ_{\square}

$\langle _ \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:\text{int}} \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:\text{str} \rightarrow \text{int}, y:\text{int}} \rangle (\dots)$



In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\Lambda \gamma . \langle \underline{z:\gamma} \rangle (\dots)$

z : Series variable
(= sequence of variables)

Series variables to abstract variables

In λ_{\square}

$\langle _ \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:int} \rangle (\dots)$

$\langle \underline{x:str \rightarrow int, y:int} \rangle (\dots)$

In $\lambda_{\forall \square}$

$\Lambda \gamma . \langle \underline{z:\gamma} \rangle (\dots)$

Abstract a part of contexts in quote

z : Series variable
(= sequence of variables)

Series variables as explicit substitutions

code of $[\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

$\langle \mathbb{Z} : \gamma \rangle (\$x [\text{🤔}])$

Series variables as explicit substitutions

code of $[\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

$\langle \mathbb{z} : \gamma \rangle (\$x [\mathbb{z}])$

\mathbb{z} as explicit substitution
for free variables of x

Series variables as explicit substitutions

code of $[\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

$\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x[z])$

z as explicit substitution
for free variables of x

Example

$\$(\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x[z])) [y]$

Series variables as explicit substitutions

code of $[\gamma \vdash \text{int}]$

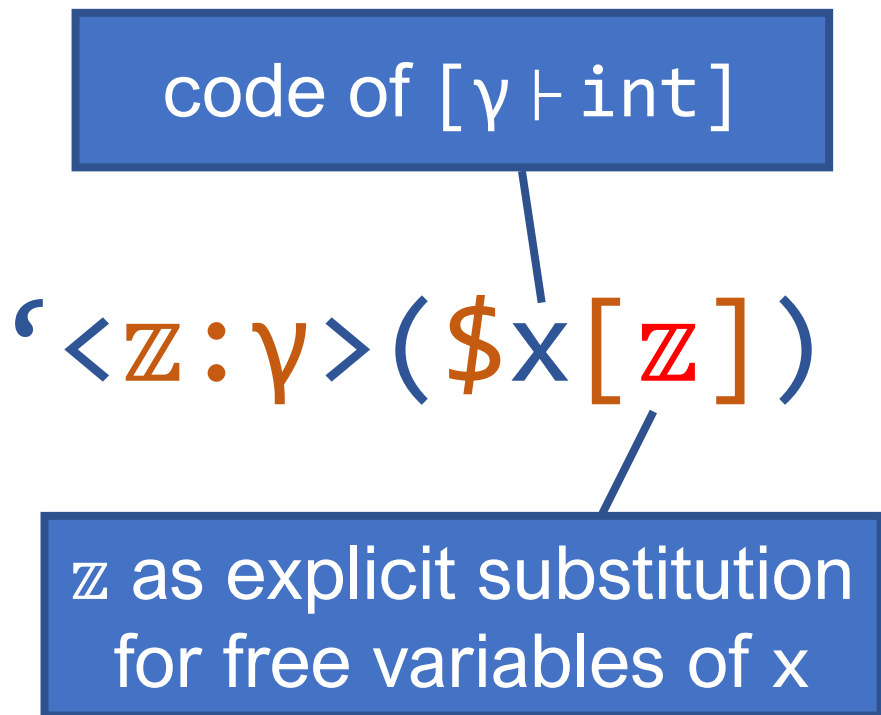
$\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x [z])$

z as explicit substitution
for free variables of x

Example

$\$ (\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x [z])) [y]$

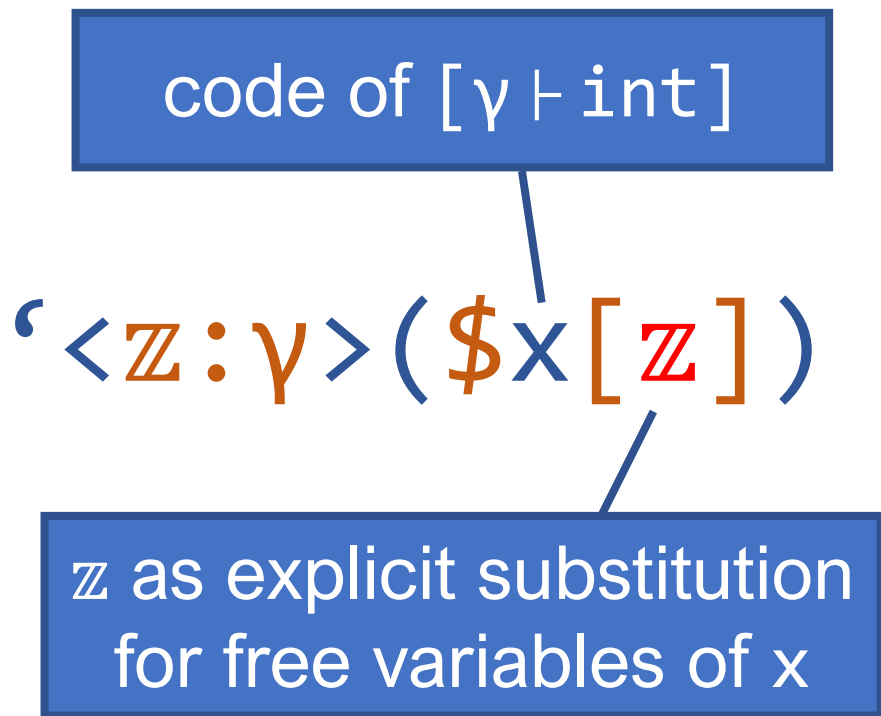
Series variables as explicit substitutions



Example

$$\$(\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x [z])) [y]$$
$$\Rightarrow (\$x [z]) [z=y]$$

Series variables as explicit substitutions



Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \$(\langle z : \gamma \rangle (\$x [z])) [y] \\ \Rightarrow & (\$x [z]) [z=y] \\ \Rightarrow & \$x [y] \end{aligned}$$

Polymorphic gen-sum

(in implicit-context style)
gen-sum '(w) '(3 * w)
⇒ '(w + 3 * w)

Monomorphic

```
let gen-sum x y: [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] → [int ⊢ int] =  
  '(z:int)($x[z] + $y[z])
```



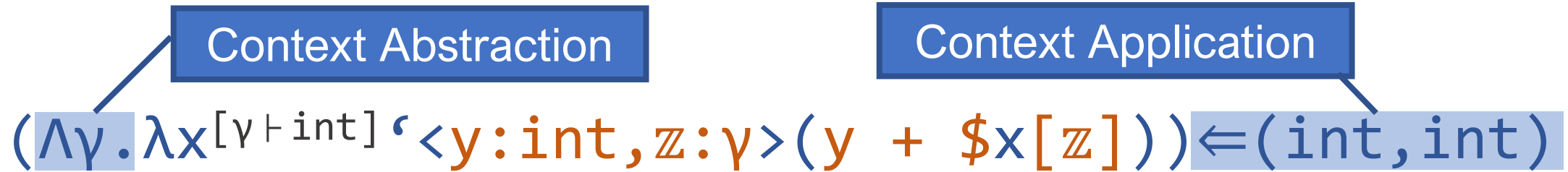
Polymorphic

```
let poly-gen-sum γ x y: ∀γ. [γ ⊢ int] → [γ ⊢ int] → [γ ⊢ int] =  
  '(z:γ)($x[z] + $y[z])
```

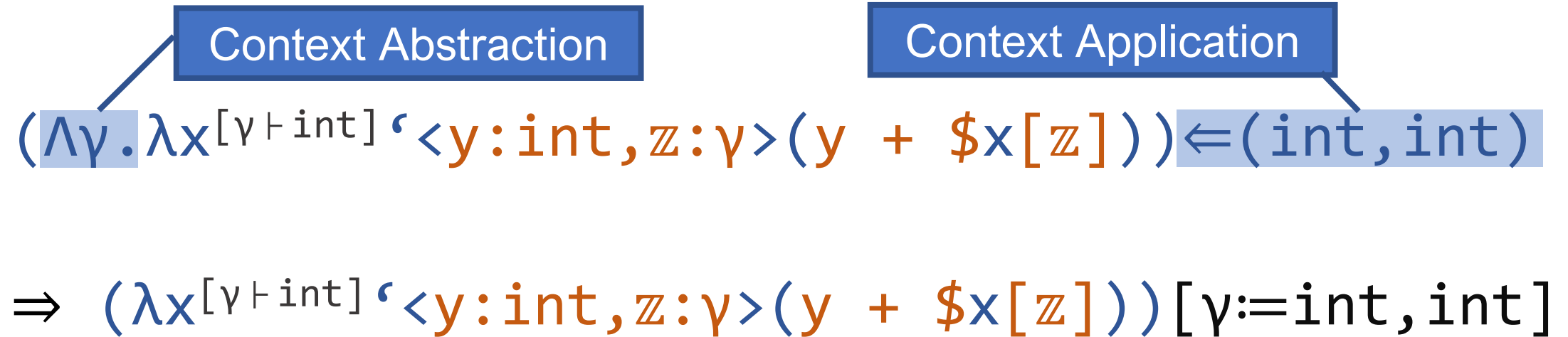
Context substitution destructs series vars

$(\Lambda\gamma. \lambda x^{[\gamma \vdash \text{int}]} \langle y:\text{int}, z:\gamma \rangle (y + \$x[z])) \Leftarrow (\text{int}, \text{int})$

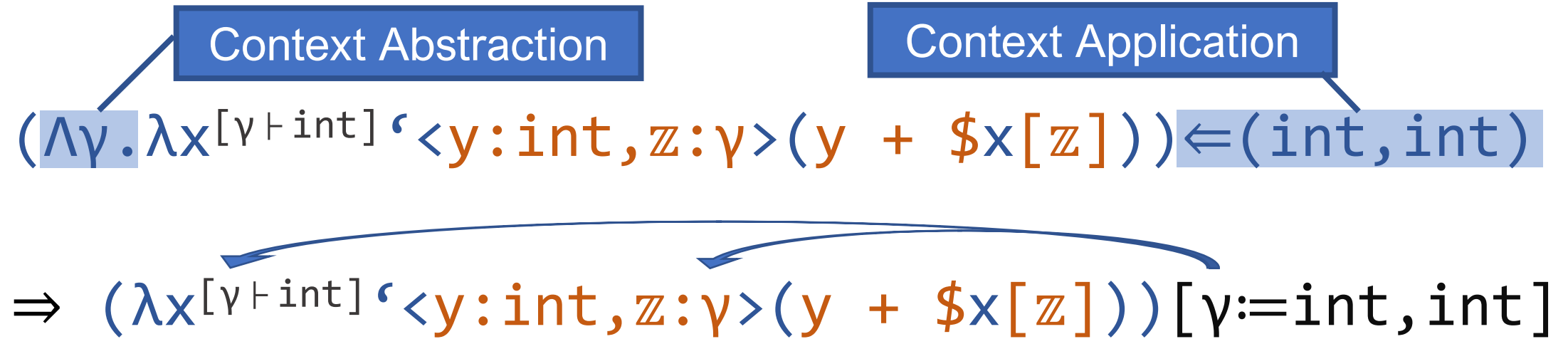
Context substitution destructs series vars



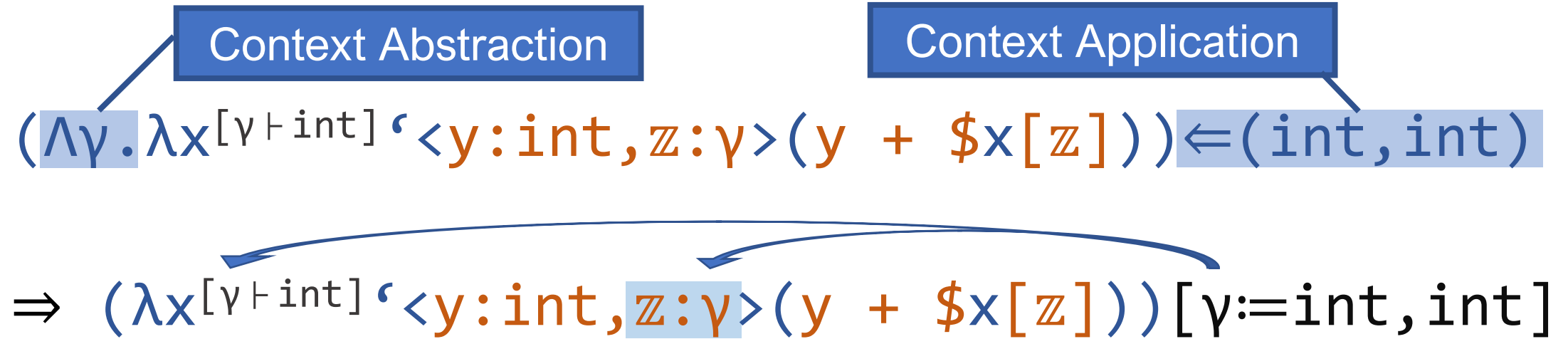
Context substitution destructs series vars



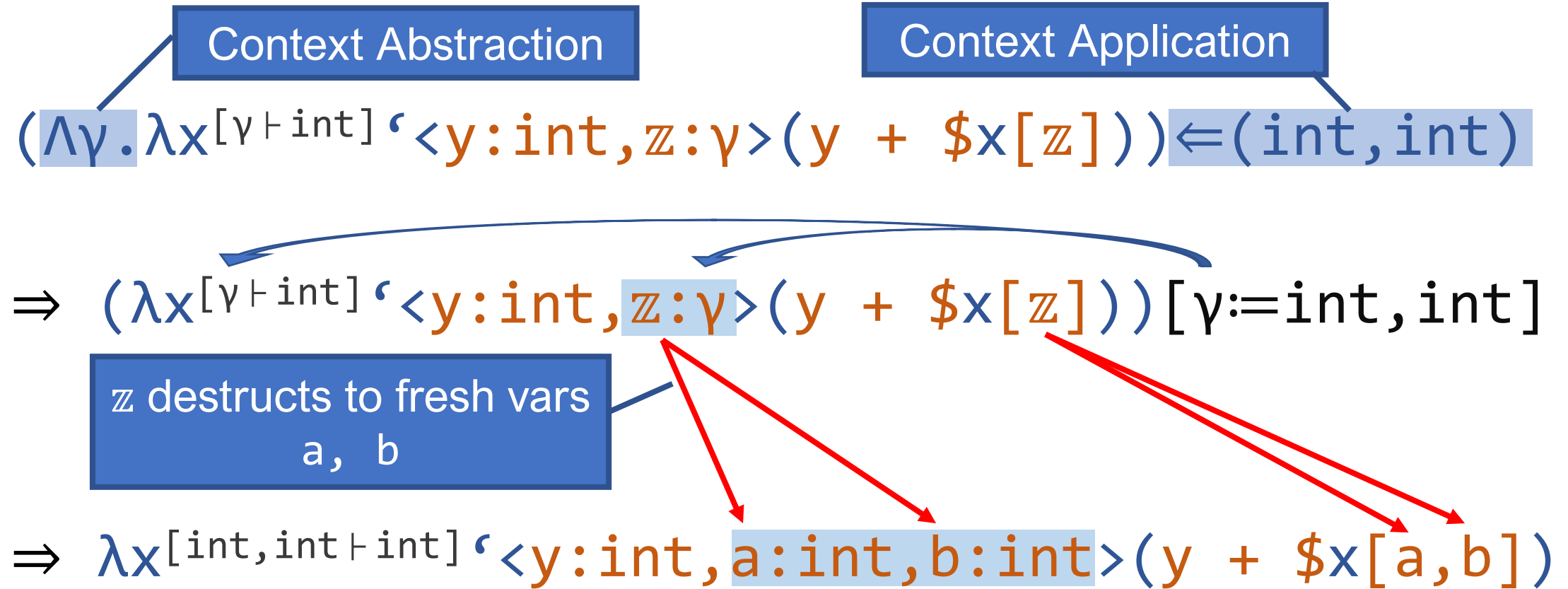
Context substitution destructs series vars



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Context substitution destructs series vars



Typing Judgment and β -reduction

Typing judgment

(Fitch-style [Clouston 2019])

$$\Gamma \vdash M : A$$

$$\parallel$$

$$\dots, \hat{\Gamma}_2, \hat{\Gamma}_1, \hat{\Gamma}_0$$

Level-1 context
(compile-time stage)

Level-0 context
(run-time stage)

β -reduction

$$M \rightarrow_{\beta} N$$

$$(\lambda x^A. M)N \rightarrow_{\beta} M[x := N]_0$$

$$\$(\langle \hat{\Gamma} \rangle (M)) [\theta] \rightarrow_{\beta} M[\hat{\Gamma} := \theta]_0$$

$$(\Lambda \gamma. M) \Leftarrow C \rightarrow_{\beta} M[\gamma := C]$$

Basic Properties

Theorem (Subject Reduction)

If $\Gamma \vdash M : A$ and $M \rightarrow_{\beta} N$, then $\Gamma \vdash N : A$

Theorem (Strong Normalization)

If $\Gamma \vdash M : A$, then M is strongly normalizing

Theorem (Confluence)

If $\Gamma \vdash M : A$, $M \rightarrow_{\beta}^* N_1$ and $M \rightarrow_{\beta}^* N_2$,

then $\exists N_3. N_1 \rightarrow_{\beta}^* N_3$ and $N_2 \rightarrow_{\beta}^* N_3$



Proof by Girard's
reducibility candidate
technique

Outline

- Introduction
- λ_{\square} : Simple Fitch-style contextual modal type theory
- $\lambda_{\forall\square}$: Polymorphic contexts extension
- **Translation from λ_{\circ} to $\lambda_{\forall\square}$**
 - Motivation
 - Basic idea
 - Formal Properties
- Related work & Conclusion

Why translation from $\lambda\bigcirc$ [Davies 1996] matters

$\lambda\bigcirc$ can be translated to $\lambda_{\forall}[]$

Minimal formulation of
implicit-context style
calculi

$\lambda_{\forall}[]$ has (at least) minimum capability for staged computation

Because

$\lambda\bigcirc$ provides basis for practical staged programming languages

- MetaOCaml [Kiselyov 2014]
- Typed Template Haskell [Xie et al. 2022]
- Scala 3 macros [Stucki et al. 2021]

Idea: Recover context

In $\lambda\circ$ (Implicit-context style)

$y:\text{int} \vdash '(1 + y): \text{int}$ code

Idea: Recover context

In $\lambda\circ$ (Implicit-context style)

$y:\text{int} \vdash '(1 + y): \text{int}$ code

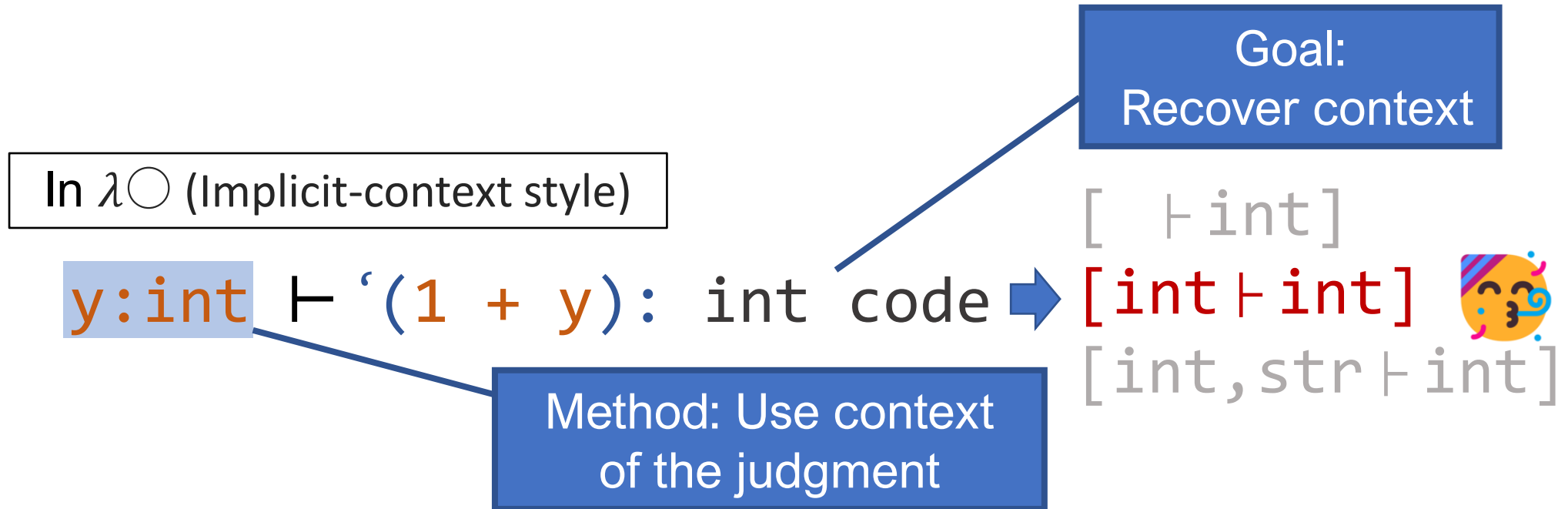
Goal:
Recover context

$[\] \vdash \text{int}$ 🤔

$[\text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$ 🤔

$[\text{int}, \text{str} \vdash \text{int}]$ 🤔

Idea: Recover context



Translation examples

In $\lambda\circ$ (Implicit-context style)

In $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$ (Explicit-context style)

$y:\text{int}$

$\vdash '(1 + y): \text{int}$ code \Rightarrow $\vdash'_{\langle y:\text{int}\rangle} (1 + y): [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$

Translation examples

In $\lambda\bigcirc$ (Implicit-context style)

In $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$ (Explicit-context style)

$y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \text{'}(1 + y): \text{int code}$ \rightarrow $\vdash \text{'}\langle y:\text{int}\rangle(1 + y): [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$

$x:\text{int code}, y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \$x: \text{int}$ \rightarrow $x: [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}], y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \$x[\text{😬}]: \text{int}$

Translation examples

In $\lambda\circ$ (Implicit-context style)

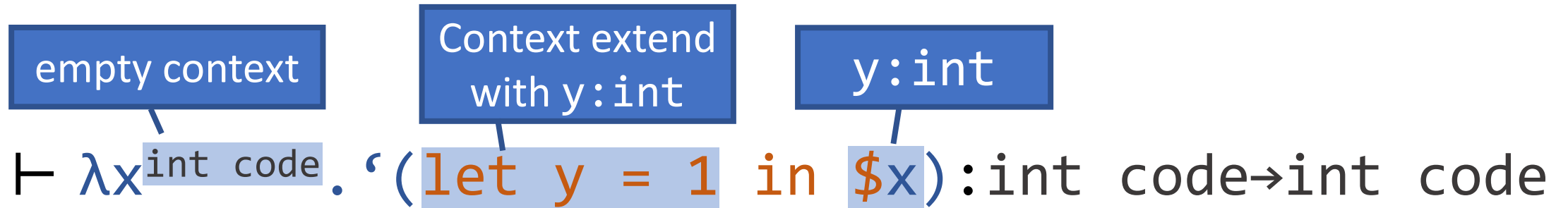
In $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$ (Explicit-context style)

$y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \text{'}(1 + y): \text{int code}$ \rightarrow $\vdash \text{'}\langle y:\text{int}\rangle(1 + y): [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}]$

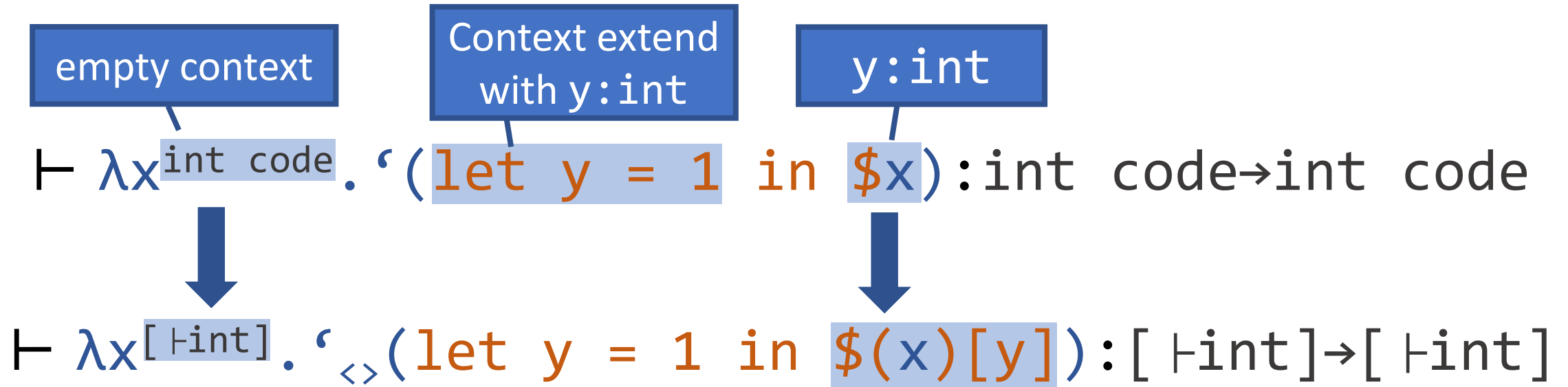
$x:\text{int code}, y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \$x: \text{int}$ \rightarrow $x: [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}], y:\text{int}$
 $\vdash \$x[y]: \text{int}$

recover explicit
substitutions from
typing contexts

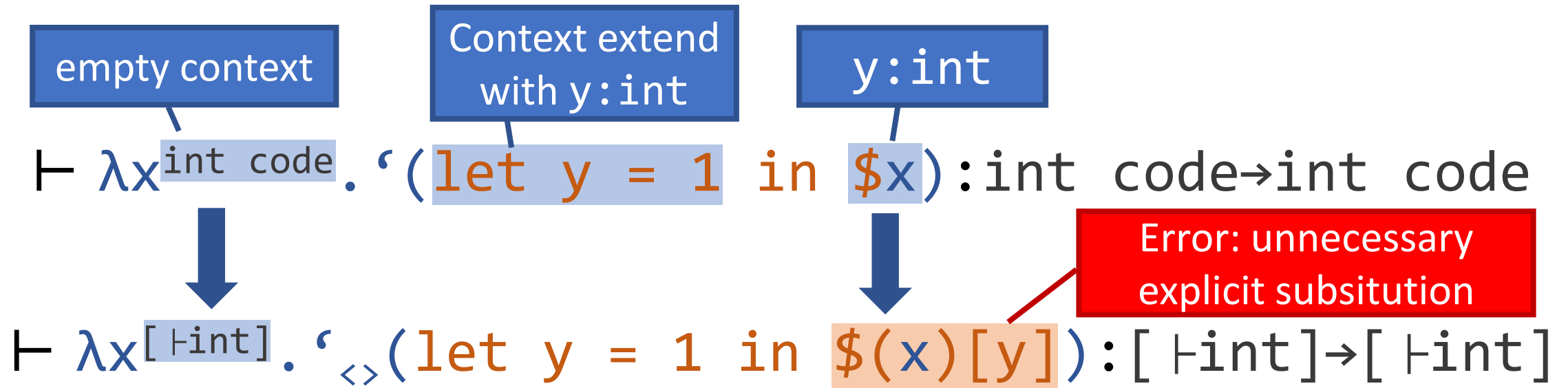
Challenge: Mismatching Context



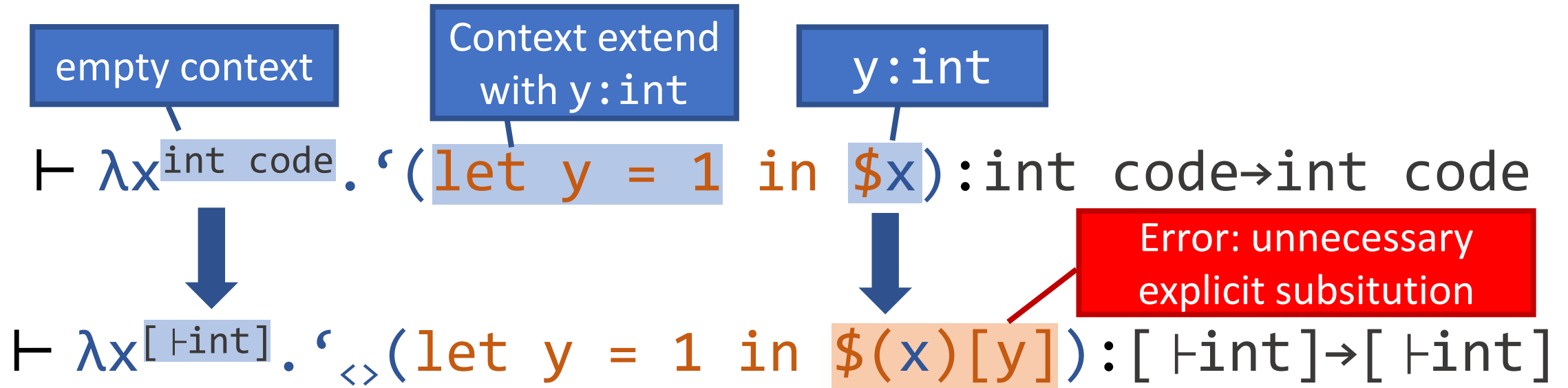
Challenge: Mismatching Context



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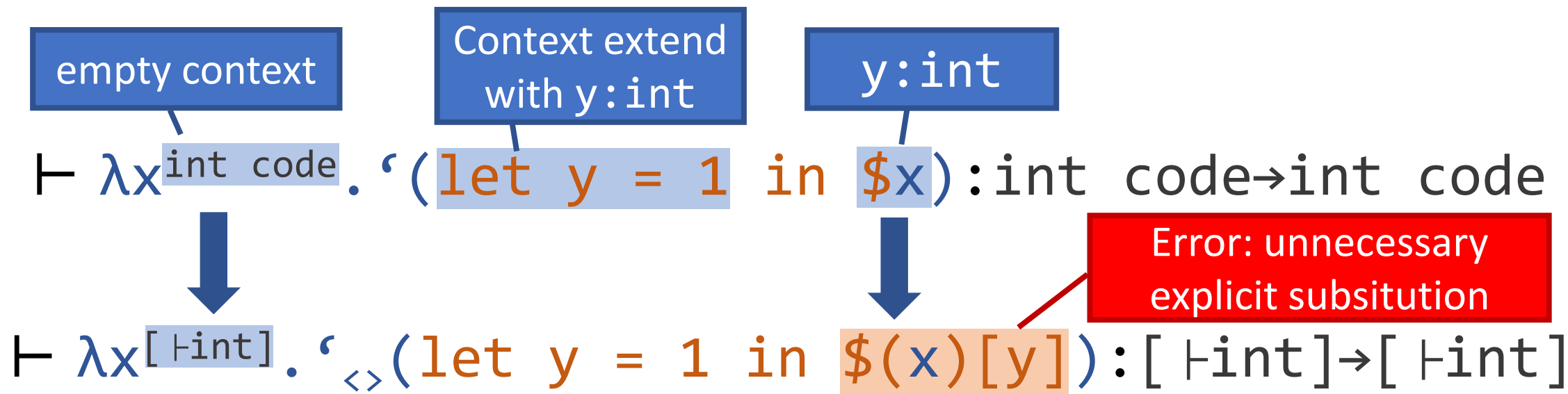
Challenge: Mismatching Context



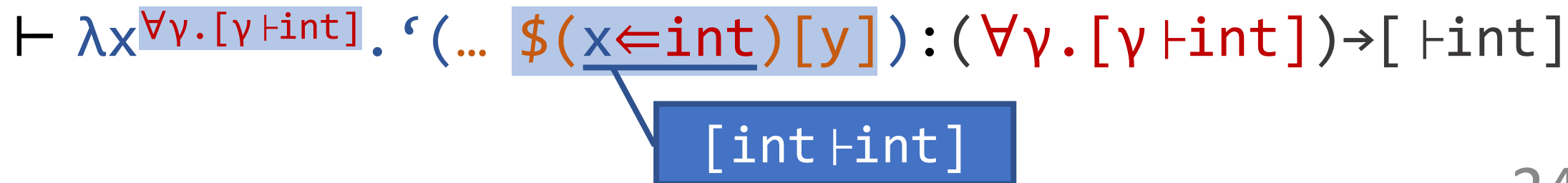
Solution: Use polymorphic contexts for extended contexts

$\vdash \lambda x^{\forall \gamma. [\gamma \vdash \text{int}]}. \text{‘} (\dots \$(x \leftarrow \text{int})[y]) : (\forall \gamma. [\gamma \vdash \text{int}]) \rightarrow [\vdash \text{int}]$

Challenge: Mismatching Context



Solution: Use polymorphic contexts for extended contexts



Translation is sound

Theorem (Soundness of translation)

We consider two-level fragment of $\lambda\circ$
(Types like int code code does not appear)

Auxiliary object for translating
typing contexts of $\lambda\circ$

If $\Gamma^\circ \vdash_0 M^\circ : A^\circ$ holds in $\lambda\circ$ and $\Gamma^\circ \rightsquigarrow \tilde{\Gamma}$,

$\Rightarrow |\tilde{\Gamma}|_0 \vdash \llbracket M^\circ \rrbracket_{\tilde{\Gamma}} : \llbracket A^\circ \rrbracket_{rg(|\tilde{\Gamma}|_1)}$ holds in $\lambda_{\forall}[]$

Translation of terms and types using $\tilde{\Gamma}$

Outline

- Introduction
- λ_{\square} : Simple Fitch-style contextual modal type theory
- $\lambda_{\forall\square}$: Polymorphic contexts extension
- Translation from λ_{\circ} to $\lambda_{\forall\square}$
- **Related work & Conclusion**

Related work

- Original CMTT [Nanevski et al. 2008]
 - Formalization in dual-context style [Pfenning and Davies 2001, Davies and Pfenning 2001, Kavvos 2017]
 - Syntax: Quote + Meta-variable
 - λ_{\square} and $\lambda_{\forall\square}$ are formalized in Fitch-style (or Kripke-style) [Martini and Masini 1996, Davies and Pfenning 2001, Clouston 2019]
 - Both CMTT are extension of S4 modal calculi
- Prior work on polymorphic contexts [Pientka and Dunfield 2008, Puech 2016]
 - $\lambda_{\forall\square}$ allows multiple occurrences of context variables in a context (which prior proposals do not) e.g., $[\gamma, \delta \vdash \mathbf{int}]$
 - Essential for translation from $\lambda\bigcirc$

Conclusion

- We proposed $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$, a contextual modal type theory with polymorphic contexts
- We proved basic properties $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$
- Type-preserving translation from $\lambda\bigcirc$ to $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$
 - $\lambda_{\forall\Box}$ is capable of applications to staged computation
 - and polymorphic context is essential to the translation

Appendix

Future direction

- Algebraic effects and handlers [Zyuzin 2021], analytic metaprogramming [Parreaux et al. 2018]
- Improve verbose syntax
 - Approach 1: Inference algorithm
 - Approach 2: Try other representation of contexts e.g., refined environment classifiers [Kiselyov et al. 2017]
- Extension to labelled context, e.g., `[a: int, b: int]`
 - label should be different from variables
 - Need to manage freshness condition, e.g, `a#γ`

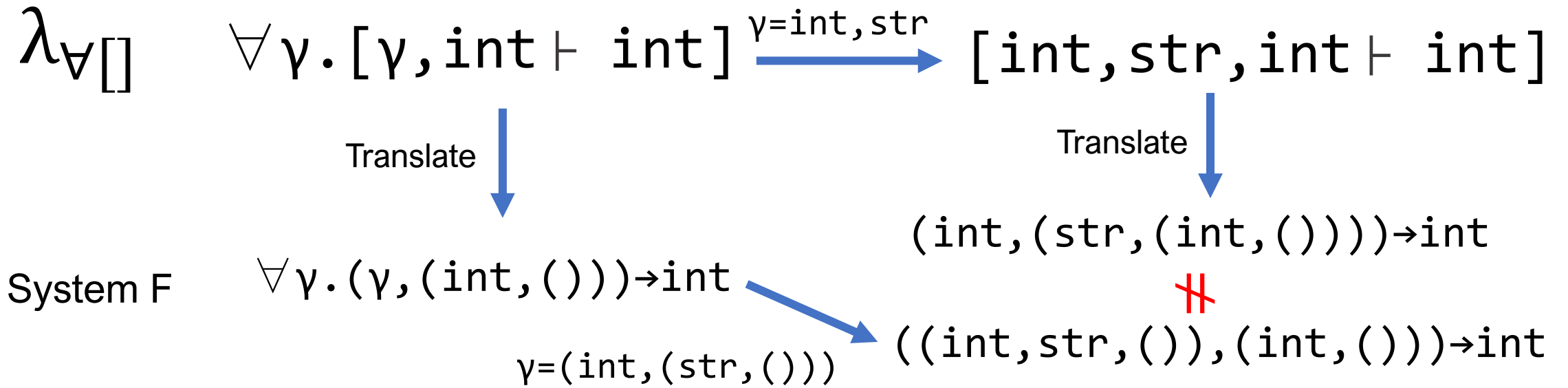
Q: Subtyping for translation?

A: We cannot use subtyping [Rhiger 2012] to extend contexts for function of code

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}] & \rightarrow & [\text{int} \vdash \text{int}] \\ \wedge \text{ fails} & & \ddot{\vee} \\ [\text{int}, \text{str} \vdash \text{int}] & \rightarrow & [\text{int}, \text{str} \vdash \text{int}] \end{array}$$

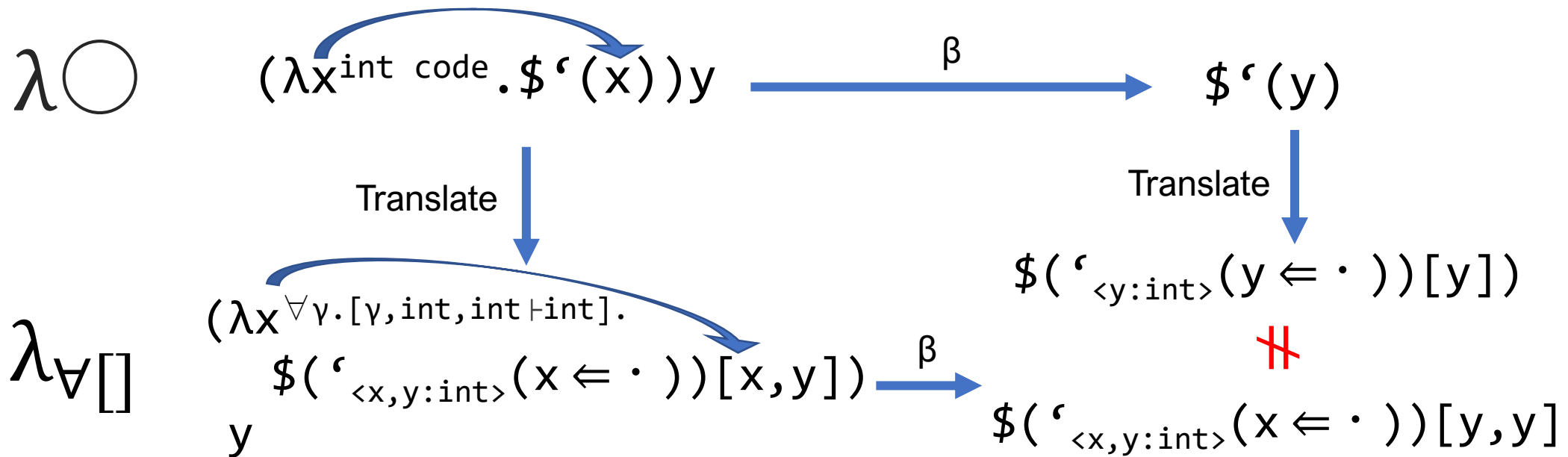
Translation from $\lambda_{\forall[]}[]$ to System F

Contexts in $\lambda_{\forall[]}[]$ implicitly assumes monoid structure, which makes it difficult to translate from $\lambda_{\forall[]}[]$ to System F



Translation from $\lambda\bigcirc$ does not preserve reduction steps

The proposed translation does not preserve semantics naively.



Extension with polymorphic types

We can consider several steps of extensions

Step 1: Polymorphic Type

$$\forall \alpha. [\text{int} \vdash \alpha]$$

Step 2: Type vars in contextual
Modal Types

$$[\alpha:*, \text{int} \vdash \alpha]$$

Step 3: Code of type

$$A \rightarrow \$B[C]$$

See: [Jang et al. 2022]

Scope-extrusion with mutable reference cells

Example: Extension with mutable reference cells

```
let r = ref `(1) in
  `(λy:int. ,(r := `(y); `(1)));
r!
(* evaluates to `(y) *)
```

y is defined in this scope

y is NOT defined in this scope