**Type Checking** 

# Outline

 $1 \ {\sf Introduction}$ 

2 The *j*-- Types

3 j-- Symbol Tables

4 Pre-analysis of *j*-- Programs

**5** Analysis of *j*-- Programs

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Semantic analysis of *j*-- programs involves all of the above

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j-- code may interact with classes from the Java library but it must be able to do so using only these types

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- Java types are represented by objects of (Java) type java.lang.Class; since j-- is a subset of Java, why not use class objects to represent its types?
- Define an abstract class (or interface) Type, and concrete sub-classes (or implementations) PrimitiveType, ReferenceType, and ArrayType

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- A Type resolves to itself

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For example, reconsider the simple  $_{\text{Factorial}}$  program. In this version we mark two locations in the program using comments:  $_{\text{position 1}}$  and  $_{\text{position 2}}$ 

```
package pass;
import java.lang.System;
public class Factorial {
    public static int factorial(int n) {
       // position 1:
       if (n <= 0) {
            return 1:
       } else {
            return n * factorial(n - 1);
    public static void main(String[] args) {
       // position 2:
       int x = n:
       System.out.println(n + "! = " + factorial(x)):
    static int n = 5:
```

The symbol table for the Factorial program, and its relationship to the AST, is illustrated in figure below



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Each  ${\tt surroundingContext}$  link back towards the  ${\tt compilationUnitContext}$  points to the context representing the surrounding lexical scope

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Type names are looked up in the compilationUnitContext; to facilitate this, each context maintains three pointers to surrounding contexts, as illustrated in the following figure



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A  $_{\text{LocalContext}}$  represents the scope within a block, which includes the block defining the body to a method; local variables are declared here

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- 0 A  $_{LocalVariableDefn}$  defines a local variable and encapsulates the name, its  $_{Type}$  and an offset in the current run-time stack frame

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For example, Type supports a method fieldFor() which, when given a name returns a Field with the given name that is defined for that type

```
public Field fieldFor(String name) {
    Class<7> cls = classRep;
    while (cls != null) {
        java.lang.reflect.Field[] fields = cls.getDeclaredFields();
        for (java.lang.reflect.Field field:fields) {
            if (field.getName().equals(name)) {
                return new Field(field);
            }
            cls = cls.getSuperclass();
        }
        return null;
    }
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Therefore, preAnalyze() need be defined only in the following types of AST nodes:

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- It declares the types defined by class declaration, ie, creates a Type for each declared class, whose classRep refers to a class object for an empty class; for example, in the pre-analysis phase of our Factorial program above, the Type for Factorial would have a classRep, the class object for the class

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**5** Finally, preAnalyze() invokes itself for each of the type declarations in the compilation unit

```
public void preAnalyze() {
    context = new CompilationUnitContext():
   // Declare the two implicit types java.lang.Object and
   // java.lang.String
    context.addType(0, Type.OBJECT):
    context.addType(0, Type.STRING);
   // Declare any imported types
    for (TypeName imported: imports) {
       try {
            Class <?> classRep =
                Class.forName(imported.toString());
            context.addType(imported.line(),
                Type.typeFor(classRep));
       catch (Exception e) {
            JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(
                imported line().
                "Unable to find %s", imported.toString());
    // Declare the locally declared type(s)
    CLEmitter.initializeBvteClassLoader():
    for (JAST typeDeclaration: typeDeclarations) {
        ((JTvpeDecl)
              typeDeclaration).declareThisType(context);
   // Pre-analyze the locally declared type(s). Generate
   // (partial) Class instances, reflecting only the member
   // interface type information
    CLEmitter.initializeBvteClassLoader():
    for (JAST typeDeclaration: typeDeclarations) {
       ((JTypeDecl)
          typeDeclaration).preAnalyze(context);
```

In a class declaration, preAnalyze() does the following:

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- If there is no explicit constructor (having no arguments) in the set of members, it adds the implicit constructor to the CLEMITTER instance; for example, for the Factorial program above, the following implicit constructor is added

```
public Factorial() {
    super();
}
```

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```
public Factorial() {
    super();
}
```

Finally, the CLEMITTER instance produces a Class object, and that replaces the ClassRep for the Type of the declared class name in the (parent) ClassContext

Here is the code for preAnalyze() in JClassDeclaration

```
public void preAnalyze(Context context) {
   // Construct a class context
    this.context = new ClassContext(this. context):
   // Resolve superclass
    superType = superType.resolve(this.context);
   // Creating a partial class in memory can result in a
   // java.lang.VerifyError if the semantics below are
   // violated, so we can't defer these checks to analyze()
    thisType.checkAccess(line. superType):
    if (superType.isFinal()) {
       JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line.
            "Cannot extend a final type: %s"
            superType.toString()):
   // Create the (partial) class
    CLEmitter partial = new CLEmitter():
    // Add the class header to the partial class
    String qualifiedName =
       JAST.compilationUnit.packageName() == "" ? name :
            JAST.compilationUnit.packageName() + "/" + name:
    partial.addClass(mods. gualifiedName. superType.ivmName().
       null, false):
```
```
// Pre-analyze the members and add them to the partial class
for (JMember member: classBlock) {
    member.preAnalyze(this.context. partial):
    if (member instanceof JConstructorDeclaration &&
         (( IConstructorDeclaration) member).
             params.size() == 0) {
        hasExplicitConstructor = true:
// Add the implicit empty constructor?
if (!hasExplicitConstructor) {
    codegenPartialImplicitConstructor(partial):
// Get the Class rep for the (partial) class and make it the
// representation for this type
Type id = this.context.lookupType(name);
if (id != null &&
    !JAST.compilationUnit.errorHasOccurred()) {
    id.setClassRep(partial.toClass()):
```

In a method declaration, preAnalyze() does the following:
 It resolves the types of the formal parameters

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- 2 It resolves the return type

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- It resolves the return type
- It checks proper use of the abstract modifier
- It computes the method descriptor
- s It generates (partial) code for the method

Here is the code for preAnalyze() in JMethodDeclaration

```
public void preAnalyze(Context context, CLEmitter partial) {
   // Resolve types of the formal parameters
    for (JFormalParameter param: params) {
        param.setType(param.type().resolve(context));
    3
   // Resolve return type
    returnType = returnType.resolve(context):
    // Check proper local use of abstract
    if (isAbstract && body != null) {
        JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line().
            "abstract method cannot have a body"):
    else if (body == null && ! isAbstract) {
       JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
           "Method with null body must be abstract");
    else if (isAbstract && isPrivate ) {
        JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line().
            "private method cannot be declared abstract"):
    else if (isAbstract && isStatic ) {
       JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line().
            "static method cannot be declared abstract"):
   // Compute descriptor
    descriptor = "(";
    for (JFormalParameter param: params) {
       descriptor += param.tvpe().toDescriptor();
    descriptor += ")" + returnType.toDescriptor():
   // Generate the method with an empty body (for now)
    partialCodegen(context, partial);
```

The code for partialCodegen() is as follows:

```
public void partialCodegen(Context context, CLEmitter partial) {
   // Generate a method with an empty body; need a return to
   // make the class verifier happy.
   partial.addMethod(mods, name, descriptor, null, false);
   // Add implicit RETURN
    if (returnType == Type, VOID) {
       partial.addNoArgInstruction(RETURN):
    else if (returnType == Type, INT ||
              returnType == Type.BOOLEAN ||
              returnType == Type.CHAR) {
        partial.addNoArgInstruction(ICONST 0):
       partial.addNoArgInstruction(IRETURN):
    3
   else {
       // A reference type.
       partial.addNoArgInstruction(ACONST_NULL);
       partial.addNoArgInstruction(ARETURN):
```

Pre-analysis for a JFieldDeclaration is similar to that for a JMethodDeclaration, and does the following:

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- 3 Generates the JVM code for the field declaration, via the CLEmitter created for the enclosing class declaration

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- 1 Enforces the rule that fields may not be declared abstract
- Resolves the field's declared type
- 3 Generates the JVM code for the field declaration, via the CLEmitter created for the enclosing class declaration

The code itself is rather simple

```
public void preAnalyze(Context context, CLEmitter partial) {
    // Fields may not be declared abstract.
    if (mods.contains("abstract")) {
        JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
            "Field cannot be declared abstract");
    }
    for (JVariableDeclarator decl: decls) {
        // Add field to (partial) class
        decl.setType(decl.type().resolve( context));
        partial.addField(mods, decl.name(),
            decl.type().toDescriptor(), false);
    }
}
```

The following figure illustrates how much of the symbol table is constructed for our Factorial program once pre-analysis is complete



The analysis phase, ie, the analyze() method, recursively descends throughout the AST all the way to its leaves:

• Re-writing field and local variable initializations as assignments

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- · Allocating locations in the stack frame for the formal parameters and local variables
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- Doing a limited amount of tree surgery

At the top of the AST, analyze() simply recursively descends into each of the type (class) declarations, delegating analysis to one class declaration at a time

```
public JAST analyze(Context context) {
   for (JAST typeDeclaration : typeDeclarations) {
      typeDeclaration.analyze(this.context);
      return this;
   }
}
```

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In JClassDeclaration, analyze() separates the assignment statements into two lists: one for the static fields and one for the instance fields

```
// Copy declared fields for purposes of initialization.
for (JMember member : classBlock) {
    if (member instanced JFieldDeclaration) {
        JFieldDeclaration fieldDecl = (JFieldDeclaration) member;
        if (fieldDecl.mods().contains("static")) {
            staticFieldInitializations.add(fieldDecl);
        } else {
            instanceFieldInitializations.add(fieldDecl);
        }
    }
}
```

The following figure shows how the static field declaration (static int n = 5;) in the Factorial program is rewritten


Both formal parameters and local variables are declared in the symbol table and allocated locations within a method invocation's run-time stack frame

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For example, consider the following class declaration

```
public class Locals {
    public int foo(int t, String u) {
        int v = u.length();
        {
            int v = v + 5, x = u + 7;
            v = u + x;
        }
        {
            int y = 3;
            int z = v + y;
            t = t + y + z;
        }
        return t + v;
     }
}
```

The stack frame allocated for an invocation of  $_{\tt foo()}$  at run time by the JVM is shown below



The stack frame allocated for an invocation of  $f_{OOC}$  at run time by the JVM is shown below



The stack frame allocated for an invocation of  $f_{OOO}$  at run time by the JVM is shown below



The code for analyzing a JMethodDeclaration performs four steps:

1 It creates a new MethodContext, whose surroundingContext points back to the previous ClassContext

The stack frame allocated for an invocation of  $f_{00}()$  at run time by the JVM is shown below



- 1 It creates a new MethodContext, whose surroundingContext points back to the previous ClassContext
- 2 The first stack frame offset is 0; but if this is an instance method then offset 0 must be allocated to this, and the nextOffset is incremented to 1

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- 3 The formal parameters are declared as local variables and allocated consecutive offsets in the stack frame

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- 3 The formal parameters are declared as local variables and allocated consecutive offsets in the stack frame
- It analyzes the method's body

The code for analyzing a JBlock performs two steps:

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The stages of the symbol table in analyzing Locals.foo()



A local variable declaration is represented in the AST with a  $_{\rm JVariableDeclaration}$ ; for example, consider the local variable declaration from  $_{\rm Locals}$ 

int w = v + 5, x = w + 7;

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Before the JVariableDeclaration is analyzed, it appears exactly as it was created by the parser, as is illustrated below



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- 2 The code checks to make sure that the declared variables do not shadow existing local variables
- 3 The variables are declared in the local context
- Any initializations are rewritten as explicit assignment statements; those assignments are re-analyzed and stored in an initializations list

```
public JStatement analyze(Context context) {
    for (IVariableDeclarator decl · decls) {
       // Local variables are declared here (fields are
       // declaredin preAnalyze())
       int offset = ((LocalContext) context).nextOffset():
       LocalVariableDefn defn = new LocalVariableDefn(dec]
            .tvpe().resolve(context). offset):
       // First, check for shadowing
        IDefn previousDefn = context.lookup(decl.name());
       if (previousDefn != null
            && previousDefn instanceof LocalVariableDefn) {
            JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(decl.line(),
               "The name " + decl.name()
                    + " overshadows another local variable."):
       // Then declare it in the local context
       context.addEntry(decl.line(), decl.name(), defn);
       // All initializations must be turned into assignment
       // statements and analyzed
       if (decl.initializer() != null) {
            defn.initialize():
            JAssignOp assignOp = new JAssignOp(decl.line().
               new JVariable(decl.line(), decl.name()), decl
                    .initializer()):
            assignOp.isStatementExpression = true:
            initializations.add(new JStatementExpression(decl
                .line(), assignOp).analyze(context));
    return this:
```

The sub-tree for int w = v + 5, x = w + 7; after analysis is shown below



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Analysis of simple variables involves looking their names up in the symbol table to find their types

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If a variable is not found in the symbol table, we examine the  $T_{YPP}$  for the surrounding class (in which the variable appears) to see if it is a field; if it is a field, then the field selection is made explicit by rewriting the tree as a JFieldSelection

Simple variables (local variables or fields) are represented in the AST as JVariable nodes

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```
public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
   iDefn = context.lookup(name);
   if (iDefn == null) {
       // Not a local, but is it a field?
       Type definingType = context.definingType();
       Field field = definingType.fieldFor(name);
       if (field == null) {
           type = Type.ANY;
           JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line,
               "Cannot find name: " + name):
       } else {
           // Rewrite a variable denoting a field as an
           // explicit field selection
           type = field.type():
           JExpression newTree = new JFieldSelection(line().
               field.isStatic() ||
                (context methodContext() l= null &&
                 context.methodContext().isStatic()) ?
                       new JVariable(line().
                            definingType.toString()) :
                            new JThis(line), name):
           return (JExpression) newTree.analyze(context):
```
For example, the AST node for the local variable v in the statement return t + v; in Locals.foo(), before and after analysis, is shown below



As another example, consider the analysis of the static field n, when it appears in the main() method of our Factorial class; the AST node for the field, before and after analysis, is shown below

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Both field selections and message expressions have targets

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In a field selection, the target is either an object or a class from which one wants to select a field, and in a message expression, the target is an object or class to which one is sending a message

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For example, consider the field selection v.x.y.z; the parser knows this is a field selection of some sort and that z is the field, but, without knowing the types of v, x and y, the parser cannot know whether:

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•  $_{w}$  is a class name,  $_{x}$  is a static field in  $_{w}$ , and  $_{y}$  is a field of  $_{x}$ ;

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- $_{\rm w}$  is a class name,  $_{\rm x}$  is a static field in  $_{\rm w},$  and  $_{\rm y}$  is a field of  $_{\rm x};$
- $\bullet$   $_{\rm w}$  is a package containing class  $_{\rm x,}$  and  $_{\rm y}$  is a static field in  $_{\rm x;}$  or

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For example, consider the field selection  $w_{x,x,y,z}$ ; the parser knows this is a field selection of some sort and that z is the field, but, without knowing the types of  $w_{x,x}$  and  $y_{y}$  the parser cannot know whether:

- $_{\rm w}$  is a class name,  $_{\rm x}$  is a static field in  $_{\rm w},$  and  $_{\rm y}$  is a field of  $_{\rm x};$
- w is a package containing class x, and y is a static field in x; or
- w.x.y is a fully qualified class name like java.lang.System

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- $_{w.x.y}$  is a fully qualified class name like  $_{java.lang.System}$

For this reason, the parser packages up the string "w.x.y" in an AmbiguousName object, attached to either the JFieldSelection or JMessageExpression, deferring the decision until analysis

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- $\bullet$   $_{\rm w}$  is a package containing class  $_{\rm x,}$  and  $_{\rm y}$  is a static field in  $_{\rm x;}$  or
- w.x.y is a fully qualified class name like java.lang.System

For this reason, the parser packages up the string "w.x.y" in an AmbiguousName object, attached to either the  $_{JFieldSelection}$  or  $_{JMessageExpression}$ , deferring the decision until analysis

The  ${\tt reclassify}()$  method in  ${\tt AmbiguousName}$  is based on the rules in the Java Language Specification for reclassifying an ambiguous name

```
public JExpression reclassify(Context context) {
   // Easier because we require all types to be imported.
    JExpression result = null:
    StringTokenizer st = new StringTokenizer(name, ".");
   // Firstly, find a variable or Type.
   String newName = st.nextToken();
    IDefn iDefn = null:
    do {
       iDefn = context.lookup(newName);
       if (iDefn != null) {
            result = new JVariable(line, newName);
           break:
       } else if (!st.hasMoreTokens()) {
           // Nothing found. :(
           JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line.
               "Cannot find name " + newName):
           return null:
       } else {
            newName += "." + st.nextToken();
        ι
   } while (true):
   // For now we can assume everything else is fields.
    while (st.hasMoreTokens()) {
       result = new JFieldSelection(line, result, st.nextToken());
   return result:
```

For example, consider the message expression

```
java.lang.System.out.println(...);
```

The parser will have encapsulated the target <code>java.lang.System.out</code> in an <code>AmbiguousName</code> object

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The first thing analyze() does for a JMessageExpression is to reclassify the AmbiguousName to determine the structure of the expression that it denotes, which it does by looking at the ambiguous java.lang.System.out from left to right:

1 Firstly, reclassify() looks up the simple name, java in the symbol table.

For example, consider the message expression

```
java.lang.System.out.println(...);
```

The parser will have encapsulated the target java.lang.System.out in an AmbiguousName object

- **1** Firstly, reclassify() looks up the simple name, java in the symbol table.
- 2 Not finding that, it looks up java.lang

For example, consider the message expression

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- Not finding that, it looks up java.lang.System, which (assuming java.lang.System has been properly imported) it finds to be a class.

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- (4) It then assumes that the rest of the ambiguous part, that is  $_{\rm out},$  is a field
- 5 Thus the target is a field selection whose target is java.lang.System and whose field name is out

After reclassifying any ambiguous part and making that the target, analysis of a JFieldSelection proceeds as follows 1 It analyzes the target and determines the target's type

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```
field = targetType.fieldFor(fieldName);
    if (field == null) {
        JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
            "Cannot find a field: " + fieldName):
        type = Type.ANY;
    } else {
        context.definingType().checkAccess(line,
            (Member) field):
        type = field.type();
        // Non-static field cannot be referenced from a
        // static context.
        if (!field.isStatic()) {
            if (target instanceof JVariable &&
                ((JVariable) target).iDefn() instanceof
                   TypeNameDefn) {
                 JAST.compilationUnit.
                     reportSemanticError(line(),
                     "Non-static field " + fieldName +
                        " cannot be referenced from a static
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After reclassifying any AmbiguousName, analyzing a JMessageExpression proceeds as follows:

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- It takes the message name and the array of argument types and looks for a matching method defined in the target's type (in j--, argument types must match exactly), and if no such method is found, it reports an error

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- It takes the message name and the array of argument types and looks for a matching method defined in the target's type (in j--, argument types must match exactly), and if no such method is found, it reports an error
- Otherwise, the target class and method are checked for accessibility, a non-static method is now allowed to be referenced from a static context, and the method's return type becomes the type of the message expression

```
public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
    // Reclassify the ambiguous part

    // Then analyze the arguments, collecting
    // their types (in Class form) as argTypes
    argTypes = new Type[arguments.size()];
    for (int i = 0; i < arguments.size(); i++) {
        arguments.set(i, (JExpression) arguments.get(i).analyze(
            context));
        argTypes[i] = arguments.get(i).type();
    }
}</pre>
```

```
// Where are we now? (For access)
Type thisType = ((JTypeDecl) context.classContext
    .definition()).thisType():
// Then analyze the target
if (target == null) {
             // Implied this (or, implied type for statics)
    if (!context.methodContext().isStatic()) {
        target = new JThis(line()).analyze(context):
    3
    else f
        target = new JVariable(line(),
                    context.definingType().toString()).
                        analyze(context):
} else {
    target = (JExpression) target.analyze(context);
    if (target.type().isPrimitive()) {
        JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
            "cannot invoke a message on a primitive type:"
                + target.type()):
```

```
// Find appropriate Method for this message expression
method = target.type().methodFor(messageName, argTypes);
if (method == null) {
    JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
        "Cannot find method for: "
            + Type.signatureFor(messageName, argTypes));
    type = Type.ANY;
} else {
    context.definingType().checkAccess(line,
                                      (Member) method);
    type = method.returnType();
    // Non-static method cannot be referenced from a
    // static context.
    if (!method.isStatic()) {
        if (target instanceof JVariable &&
            ((JVariable) target), iDefn() instanceof
                TypeNameDefn) {
             JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line(),
              "Non-static method " +
              Type.signatureFor(messageName, argTypes) +
              "cannot be referenced from a static context"):
return this:
```

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Analysis of JIfStatement

```
public JStatement analyze(Context context) {
    test = (JExpression) test.analyze(context);
    test.type().mustMatchExpected(line(), Type.BOOLEAN);
    consequent = (JStatement) consequent.analyze(context);
    if (alternate != null) {
        alternate = (JStatement) alternate.analyze(context);
    }
    return this;
}
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    }
    return this;
}
```

Analysis of JSubtractOp

```
public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
    lhs = (JExpression) lhs.analyze(context);
    rhs = (JExpression) rhs.analyze(context);
    lhs.type().mustMatchExpected(line(), Type.INT);
    type = Type.INT;
    return this;
  }
}
```

Analysis of JPlusOp

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Analysis of JStringConcatenateOp

```
public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
   type = Type.STRING;
   return this;
}
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Analysis of JPlusOp

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```
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   type = Type.STRING;
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```

Analysis of JLiteralInt

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public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
   type = Type.INT;
   return this;
}
```

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This does not exclude polymorphism; for example if type  $_{Bar}$  extends type  $_{Foo}$ , if  $_{bar}$  is a variable of type  $_{Bar}$  and  $_{foo}$  is a variable of type  $_{Foo}$ , we can say

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must determine two things:

- ${\rm I\!I}$  That an expression of type  ${\rm _{Type1}}$  can be cast to  ${\rm _{Type2}},$  ie, that the cast is valid
- ${\rm 2}\,$  The type of the result, which is simply  $_{{\rm Type2}}$

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  - 1 The first type is a sub-type of (extends) the second type; this is called widening and requires no action at run time
  - The second type is a sub-type of the first type; this is called narrowing and requires a run-time check to make sure the expression being cast is actually an instance of the type it is being cast to
- The following table summarizes other casts, and says whether or not (and how) a type labeling a row may be cast to a type labeling a column

	boolean	char	int	Boolean	Character	Integer
boolean	Identity	Error	Error	Boxing	Error	Error
char	Error	Identity	Widening	Error	Boxing	Error
int	Error	Narrowing	Identity	Error	Error	Boxing
Boolean	Unboxing	Error	Error	Identity	Error	Error
Character	Error	Unboxing	Error	Error	Identity	Error
Integer	Error	Error	Unboxing	Error	Error	Identity

Analysis in  $_{\text{JCastOp}}$ 

```
public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
    expr = (JExpression) expr.analyze(context);
    type = cast = cast.resolve(context);
   if (cast.equals(expr.type())) {
       converter = Converter.Identity;
   } else if (cast.isJavaAssignableFrom(expr.tvpe())) {
       converter = Converter.WidenReference:
   } else if (expr.type().isJavaAssignableFrom(cast)) {
       converter = new NarrowReference(cast):
   } else if ((converter =
       conversions.get(expr.type(), cast)) != null) {
   } else {
       JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line,
            "Cannot cast a " + expr.type().toString() + " to a "
               + cast.toString()):
   return this:
```
## Analysis of j-- Programs

Analysis in  $_{\text{JCastOp}}$ 

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public JExpression analyze(Context context) {
   expr = (JExpression) expr.analyze(context);
   type = cast = cast.resolve(context);
   if (cast.equals(expr.tvpe())) {
       converter = Converter.Identity;
   } else if (cast.isJavaAssignableFrom(expr.tvpe())) {
       converter = Converter.WidenReference:
   } else if (expr.type().isJavaAssignableFrom(cast)) {
       converter = new NarrowReference(cast):
   } else if ((converter =
       conversions.get(expr.type(), cast)) != null) {
   } else {
       JAST.compilationUnit.reportSemanticError(line.
           "Cannot cast a " + expr.type().toString() + " to a "
               + cast.toString()):
   return this:
```

A converter for narrowing one reference type to another (more specific) reference sub-type

```
class NarrowReference implements Converter {
    private Type target;
    public NarrowReference(Type target) {
        this.target = target;
    }
    public void codegen(CLEmitter output) {
        output.addReferenceInstruction(CHECKCAST, target.jvmName());
    }
}
```

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Our JVM to MIPS translator performs data-flow analysis as part of computing live intervals for register allocation