

# Tell: a type-safe imperative Tensor Intermediate Language

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ARRAY 2019

22 June 2019

Phoenix, AZ, USA

- Recent years have seen an inflation of *tensor frameworks*

- Each with its own *tensor language*

- tensor = (high-dimensional) array

- Functional array languages enjoy type-safety properties

- E.g. absence of out-of-bounds accesses in well-typed programs (aka. memory-safety)

- Recent tensor languages are imperative

- What about type-safety for imperative tensor/array languages?

## Frameworks



Just a selection of frameworks, apologies if your favorite is not listed

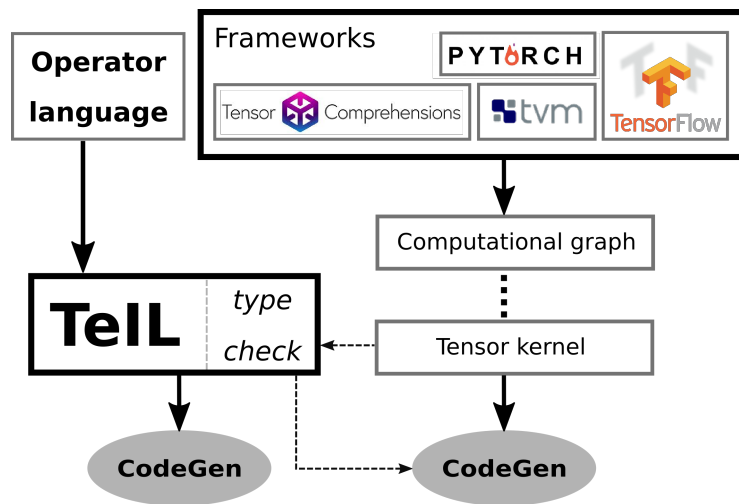
# Type-Safety, Formal Specification, and Tell

- ❑ Need a formal specification for formal type-safety results
  - ❑ Tensor languages from the frameworks not formally specified

## ➤ Tell: an imperative Tensor Intermediate Language

- Common denominator for reasoning about imperative tensor languages
- Formal specification and type-safety in Coq
- No out-of-bounds accesses in well-typed Tell programs

collective operations,  
aka. combinators



1. **A Motivating Example**
2. **The Tell Language**
3. **Core-Tell: Type-Safety**
4. **Directions for future work**

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# The TVM Framework: Example Kernel

## TVM – Tensor Virtual Machine

(T Chen, T Moreau Kamil, Z Jiang, L Zheng, E Yan, H Shen, M Cowan, Lwang, Y Hu, L Ceze, C Guestrin, A Krishnamurthy. OSDI 2018)

```
A = placeholder((m,h), name='A')
B = placeholder((n,h), name='B')
k = reduce_axis((0, h), name='k')
C = compute((m, n), lambda i, j:
    sum(A[k, i] * B[k, j], axis=k))
```

$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^h A_{ki} B_{kj}$$

Segmentation fault or  
silent data corruption.



```
A = placeholder((h,m), name='A')
B = placeholder((h,n), name='B')
k = reduce_axis((0, h), name='k')
C = compute((m, n), lambda i, j:
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$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^h A_{ki} B_{kj}$$



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## Syntax:

```
 $\langle \text{program} \rangle ::= \langle \text{alloc} \rangle^* \langle \text{stmt} \rangle^*$   
 $\langle \text{alloc} \rangle ::= \mathbf{alloc} \langle \text{id} \rangle : [i, \dots, i]$   
 $\langle \text{stmt} \rangle ::= \langle \text{id} \rangle = \langle \text{expr} \rangle$   
 $\langle \text{expr} \rangle ::= \langle \text{id} \rangle \mid ( \langle \text{expr} \rangle )$   
           $\mid \mathbf{add} \langle \text{expr} \rangle \langle \text{expr} \rangle \mid \mathbf{mul} \langle \text{expr} \rangle \langle \text{expr} \rangle$   
           $\mid \mathbf{prod} \langle \text{expr} \rangle \langle \text{expr} \rangle \mid \mathbf{red+} i \langle \text{expr} \rangle$   
           $\mid \mathbf{transp} i i \langle \text{expr} \rangle \mid \mathbf{diag} i i \langle \text{expr} \rangle$   
           $\mid \mathbf{expa} i i \langle \text{expr} \rangle \mid \mathbf{proj} i i \langle \text{expr} \rangle$ 
```

- ❑ Tensor-valued variables are declared with **alloc**
- ❑ Declaration assigns a type (shape) to the variable
- ❑ Expressions are built from *combinators* (collective operations)

## Memory:

$$\mu : \langle \text{id} \rangle \rightarrow (\text{list of Nat}) \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$$

## Update of $\mu$ at name $y$ and indices $\bar{k}$ :

$$\mu' x \bar{l} = \begin{cases} r, & \text{if } x = y \text{ and } \bar{l} = \bar{k} \\ \mu x \bar{l}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Typing context (shape assignment):

$\Gamma : \langle id \rangle \rightarrow (\text{list of Nat})$

Expression typing (subset of rules):

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \bar{t}}{\Gamma \vdash x : \bar{t}} \text{ T-Var} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \bar{t}}{\Gamma \vdash (e) : \bar{t}} \text{ T-Paren}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_0 : \bar{t}_0 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \bar{t}_1}{\Gamma \vdash \text{prod } e_0 e_1 : (\bar{t}_0 \# \bar{t}_1)} \text{ T-Prod}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_0 : \bar{t} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \bar{t}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{add } e_0 e_1 : \bar{t}} \text{ T-Add}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, \dots, n_i, \dots, n_k]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{red}_+ i e : [n_1, \dots, n_k]} \text{ T-Red}_+$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, \dots, n_{i_0}, \dots, n_{i_1}, \dots, n_k]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{transp } i_0 i_1 e : [n_1, \dots, n_{i_1}, \dots, n_{i_0}, \dots, n_k]} \text{ T-Transp}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, \dots, n_{i_0}, \dots, n_{i_1}, \dots, n_k] \quad n_{i_0} = n_{i_1}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{diag } i_0 i_1 e : [n_1, \dots, n_{i_0}, \dots, n_k]} \text{ T-Diag}$$

$\llbracket \langle expr \rangle \rrbracket : context \rightarrow memory \rightarrow (list\ of\ Nat) \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$

Example (matrix multiplication):

$$C_{j_1 j_2} = \sum_{k=1}^h A_{j_1 k} B_{k j_2}$$

**alloc**  $A : [l, m]$

**alloc**  $B : [m, n]$

**alloc**  $C : [l, n]$

$C = \text{red}_+ 2 (\text{diag} 2 3 (\text{prod } A B))$

$$\begin{aligned} & \llbracket \text{red}_+ 2 (\text{diag} 2 3 (\text{prod } A B)) \rrbracket \Gamma \mu [j_1, j_2] \\ &= \sum_k \llbracket \text{diag} 2 3 (\text{prod } A B) \rrbracket \Gamma \mu [j_1, k, j_2] \\ &= \sum_k \llbracket \text{prod } A B \rrbracket \Gamma \mu [j_1, k, k, j_2] \\ &= \sum_k (\llbracket A \rrbracket \Gamma \mu [j_1, k]) \cdot (\llbracket B \rrbracket \Gamma \mu [k, j_2]) \\ &= \sum_k (\mu A [j_1, k]) \cdot (\mu B [k, j_2]) \end{aligned}$$

# Tell: Program Evaluation

## Program evaluation:

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \bar{i} \quad \forall \bar{k} \leq \bar{i}. \bar{k} \in \text{dom}(\mu x) \quad \forall \bar{k} \leq \bar{i}. \text{let } r_{\bar{k}} = \llbracket e \rrbracket \Gamma \mu \bar{k}}{\langle \mu, x = e \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma} \mu \{x \mapsto \lambda \bar{k}. r_{\bar{k}}\}} \text{ St-Stmt}$$

$$\frac{}{\langle \mu, \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma} \mu} \text{ St-Empty}$$

$$\frac{\langle \mu', \text{stmts} \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma} \mu' \quad \langle \mu', \text{stmt} \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma} \mu''}{\langle \mu, \text{stmts stmt} \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma} \mu''} \text{ St-Seq}$$

$$\frac{\langle \mu_{\text{allocs}}, \text{stmts} \rangle \longrightarrow_{\Gamma_{\text{allocs}}} \mu'}{\langle \mu_{\text{allocs}}, \text{allocs stmts} \rangle \Downarrow \mu'} \text{ Eval-Prog}$$

## Program typing:

$$\frac{\Gamma(x) = \bar{i} \quad \Gamma \vdash e : \bar{i}}{\Gamma \vdash x = e : \text{ok}} \text{ OK-Stmt}$$

Evaluation can only proceed if there are **no out-of-bounds accesses**.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{stmts} : \text{ok} \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{stmt} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{stmts stmt} : \text{ok}} \text{ OK-Seq}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma_{\text{allocs}} \vdash \text{stmts} : \text{ok}}{\Gamma_{\text{allocs}} \vdash \text{allocs stmts} : \text{ok}} \text{ OK-Prog}$$

## Type-safety:

well-typed programs can be fully evaluated

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3. **Core-Tell: Formal Development of Type-Safety**
4. Directions for future work

- Types/shapes and index lists are modelled as lists of natural numbers

- Need a number of straightforward results about list operations

- Formal reasoning simplifies if we restrict the manipulation of types/shapes

- E.g. let transpositions act only on adjacent dimensions

No loss of generality by a standard result of group theory.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, \dots, n_i, n_{i+1}, \dots, n_k]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{transp } i e : [n_1, \dots, n_{i+1}, n_i, \dots, n_k]} \text{T-Transp}^{core}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{red}_+ e : [n_2, \dots, n_k]} \text{T-Red}_+^{core}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [n_1, n_2, \dots, \dots, n_k] \quad n_1 = n_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{diag } e : [n_2, \dots, n_k]} \text{T-Diag}^{core}$$

## Theorem (type-safety):

If  $\Gamma_{allocs} \vdash allocs\ stmts : ok$ , then there exists a memory  $\mu'$  such that

- $\langle \mu_{allocs}, allocs\ stmts \rangle \Downarrow \mu'$
- $\mu' \sim \mu_{allocs}$ .

(Theorem 4.6)

## Lemma:

If  $\Gamma_{allocs} \vdash x = e : ok$  and  $\mu \sim \mu_{allocs}$ , then there exists a memory  $\mu'$  such that

- $\langle \mu_{allocs}, x = e \rangle \rightarrow \mu'$
- $\mu' \sim \mu_{allocs}$ .

(Lemma 4.5)

## Equivalence of memories:

$\mu_1 \sim \mu_2$  iff the memories  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  have the same domains.

## Type-safety (aka. memory safety) for reads:

### Lemma:

If  $\Gamma_{allocs} \vdash e : \bar{t}$  and  $\mu \sim \mu_{allocs}$ , then  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\Gamma_{allocs} \mu \bar{\kappa}}$  is well-defined for all  $\bar{\kappa} \leq \bar{t}$ .

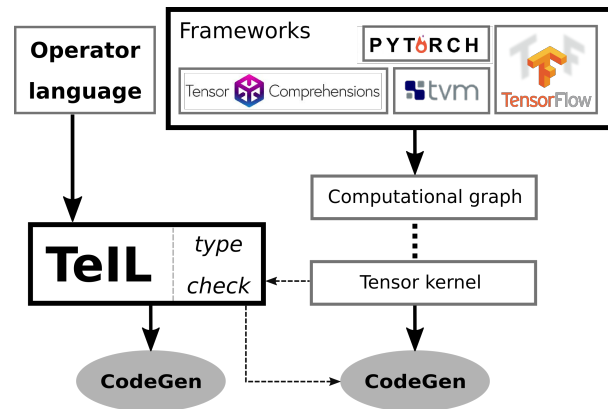
(Lemma 4.3)

<https://github.com/normanrink/TensorIR>

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# Directions for future work

- ❑ Application: language for tensor operators in CFD
  - ❑ <https://github.com/normanrink/cfdlang/tree/operators>
  - ❑ Use Tell as a typed intermediate language
  - ❑ Equational reasoning for validating transformations
  
- ❑ Stencil kernels cannot currently be expressed in Tell
  - ❑ Extend Tell analogously to recent extensions of Lift  
(B Hagedorn, L Stoltzfus, M Steuwer, S Gorlatch, C Dubach. CGO 2018)
  
- ❑ Variation/instanciation of the abstract memory model
  - ❑ Potential application to performance portability between array languages  
(A Šinkarovs, R Bernecky, H-N Vießmann, S-B Scholz. ARRAY 2018)
  
- ❑ Reasoning about data races in parallel execution of Tell





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## Thank you