Computational (Higher) Type Theory

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Vladimir Voevodsky 1966-2017

Photo credit: Wikipedia



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References

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See also:

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Formal Type Theory Martin-Löf; Coquand; HoTT

A formal type theory is inductively defined by rules:

- Formation: $\Gamma \vdash A$ type, $\Gamma \vdash M : A$.
- Definitional equivalence: $\Gamma \vdash A \equiv B$, $\Gamma \vdash M \equiv N : A$.

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Axioms and rules are chosen to ensure:

- Not non-constructive, eg no unrestricted LEM.
- Formal correspondence to logics, eg HA, IHOL.
- Decidability of all assertions.

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Ought to admit a computational interpretation as programs.

Intensional Type Theory Martin-Löf

The canonical formal dependent type theory: ITT.

- Inductive types: nat, bool, sums, well-founded trees.
- Dependent function and product types: $\Pi x:A.B$, $\Sigma x:A.B$.
- Identity type: $Id_A(M, N)$.

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Identity type is the least reflexive relation:

- Reflexivity: $refl_A(M)$: $Id_A(M, M)$.
- Induction: if $P : Id_A(M, N)$ and $u:A \vdash Q : C[M, M, refl_A(M)]$, then J(u.Q; P) : C[M, N, P].

Computational Meaning of ITT Martin-Löf

Normalization: reduction of open terms.

- Variables are indeterminates, obey substitution.
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Meaning explanations: evaluation of closed terms.

- Variables range over closed terms, obey functionality.
- Canonicity by definition of observable values.

Equational reasoning is handled by the identity type:

$$x : \mathsf{nat}, y : \mathsf{nat} \vdash P(x, y) : \mathsf{Id}_{\mathsf{nat}}(x + y, y + x)$$

The proof P(x, y) is non-trivial: induction on x and y.

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Type families respect identity proofs:

$$x, y : \mathsf{nat} \vdash \mathsf{Vec}^{\dagger}(P(x, y)) : \mathsf{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(\mathsf{Vec}(x + y), \mathsf{Vec}(y + x)).$$

Identity proofs in $Id_{\mathcal{U}}(A, B)$ induce coercions:

$$a, b : \mathcal{U}, p : \mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(a, b) \vdash \mathrm{coerce}(p) : a \rightarrow b$$

In particular, for any M, N: nat,

$$\operatorname{coerce}(\operatorname{Vec}^{\dagger}(P(M,N))):\operatorname{Vec}(M+N) o \operatorname{Vec}(N+M)$$

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$$\mathsf{coerce}(\mathsf{Vec}^\dagger(P(M,N))) : \mathsf{Vec}(M+N) o \mathsf{Vec}(N+M)$$

But for closed M and N these types are definitionally equal!

Thus, no coercion is needed at run-time!

Program Extraction for ITT

Program extraction exploits irrelevance of identity proofs.

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Meaning explanation emphasizes extraction and execution.

- No transport operations to erase.
- Exact equality: x, y: nat $\gg x + y \doteq y + x \in \text{nat}$.

Hofmann & Streicher; Awodey & Warren; Voevodsky

 $Id_A(M, N)$ may be considered as type of paths.

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Univalence: if E: Equiv(A, B) is an equivalence, then

 $ua(E) : Id_{\mathcal{U}}(A, B).$

Higher inductive types, such as the "circle", \mathbb{C} :

base : $\mathbb C$

loop : $Id_{\mathbb{C}}(base, base)$.

Coercions are no longer erasable!

$$\mathsf{coerce}(\mathsf{ua}(\dots)) : \mathsf{nat} + \mathsf{nat} \to \mathsf{bool} \times \mathsf{nat}$$

(Even for closed terms.)

Coercions are no longer erasable!

$$coerce(ua(...)) : nat + nat \rightarrow bool \times nat$$

(Even for closed terms.)

What is the computational content of HoTT?

$$coerce(ua(...)) \mapsto ???$$

Identity elimination does not eliminate identifications!

Higher Meaning Explanations

Judgmental account of higher structure of types:

- What is a path in a type?
- Define the action of a path.
- Ensure that paths can be composed.

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Judgmental account of higher structure of types:

- What is a path in a type?
- Define the action of a path.
- Ensure that paths can be composed.

Identity type splits into two concepts:

- Exact equality: $M \doteq N \in A$.
- Path type: Path_{x,A}(M, N).

Martin-Löf; Constable; Allen

Start with a programming language:

- Programs are closed terms.
- Evaluation $M \downarrow V$ to a canonical form aka value.

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Types are programs that name specifications of programs.

- A type means $A \downarrow V$ and V names a specification.
- if A type, then $M \doteq M' \in A$ means $M \Downarrow V$ and $M' \Downarrow V'$ and V and V' behave the same in the sense of A.

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What matters is behavior, not form!

Variables are interpreted semantically.

- Range over closed terms satisfying a type.
- Respect equality at that type.

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Functionality: $a: A \gg N \in B$ means

$$M \doteq M' \in A \text{ implies } N[M/a] \doteq N[M'/a] \in B[M/a].$$

Extensionality: $a: A \gg N \doteq N' \in B$ means

$$M \doteq M' \in A$$
 implies $N[M/a] \doteq N'[M'/a] \in B[M/a]$.

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- No privileged proof theory. (Down with C-H!).
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- Emphasizes program extraction.

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REDPRL proof theory is a refinement logic.

- Inspired by NuPRL.
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Inverts the conceptual order in ITT and related formalisms!

A specification is a symmetric, transitive relation on closed values.

Equal specifications must specify the same behavior, i.e., be interchangeable as classifiers.

The construction of a type system ensures that specifications satisfy these conditions.

Programs:

- bool, true, false are canonical.
- if $(true; P; Q) \mapsto P$.
- if (false; P; Q) $\longmapsto Q$.
- if $M \longmapsto M'$ then if $(M; P; Q) \longmapsto$ if (M'; P; Q).

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The type bool specifies that true and false are equal only to themselves. bool is an inductive type.

Theorem (Dependent Elimination)

If $M \in \text{bool}$ and $P \in A[\text{true}/a]$ and $Q \in A[\text{false}/a]$, then if $(M; P; Q) \in A[M/a]$.

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Theorem (Behavioral Typing)

If $M \doteq \text{true} \in \text{bool and } P \in A[\text{true}/a]$, then if $(M; P; Q) \in A[M/a]$.

Booleans

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Theorem (Shannon Expansion)

If $a : bool \gg M \in A$, then

 $a : bool \gg M \doteq if(a; M[true/a]; M[false/a]) \in A.$

Programs:

- $(a:A) \rightarrow B$ and $\lambda a.M$ are canonical.
- app $(\lambda a.P, N) \longmapsto P[N/a].$
- if $M \longmapsto M'$, then $app(M, N) \longmapsto app(M', N)$.

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Values $\lambda a.M$ and $\lambda a.M'$ are equal in $(a:A) \rightarrow B$ iff

$$a:A\gg M\doteq M'\in B\ [\Psi].$$

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If $M \in (a:A) \to B$, and $N \in A$, then $app(M, N) \in B[N/a]$.

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 and $N \in A$, then

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Theorem (Extensionality)

If
$$a: A \gg \operatorname{app}(M, a) \doteq \operatorname{app}(N, a) \in B$$
, then

$$M \doteq N \in (a:A) \rightarrow B$$
.

Exact Equality Martin-Löf

Programs:

- Eq_A(M, N) and \star are canonical.
- No elimination form needed!

The value \star satisfies spec. Eq_A(M, N) iff $M \doteq N \in A$.

The value \star is equal only to itself whenever it satisfies Eq_A(M, N).

Exact Equality Martin-Löf

Theorem If $M \in A$, then $\star \in Eq_A(M, M)$.

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Theorem

If $M \in A$, then $\star \in Eq_A(M, M)$.

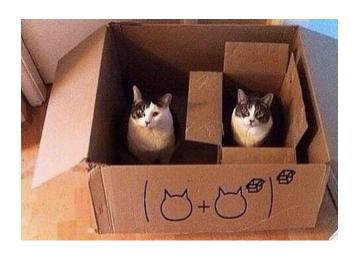
Theorem

If $P \in Eq_A(M, N)$, then $M \doteq N \in A$.

Demonstration

Please enjoy Carlo's demo of REDPRL!

Obligatory Cat Photo Thanks to Tran Ma



HoTT encodes path structure in identification types:

$$A$$
, $\operatorname{Id}_{A}(M, N)$, $\operatorname{Id}_{\operatorname{Id}_{A}(M, N)}(P, Q)$,...

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Paths re-expressed using the interval I = [0, 1]:

- Points: A.
- Lines btw points: $\mathbb{I} \rightsquigarrow A$,
- Squares, lines btw lines: $\mathbb{I} \leadsto (\mathbb{I} \leadsto A) \cong \mathbb{I}^2 \leadsto A$,
- Cubes, lines btw squares: $\mathbb{I}^3 \rightsquigarrow A, \ldots$
- *n*-cubes: $\mathbb{I}^n \rightsquigarrow A$

Licata, Brunerie; Coquand, et al.

Cubical syntax:

- Dimensions $r := 0 \mid 1 \mid x$.
- Contexts $\Psi = x_1, \dots, x_n$.
- Substitutions $\psi = \langle r_1/x_1, \dots r_n/x_n \rangle : \Psi' \to \Psi$.
- Action on terms: $M \psi$

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Cartesian cubes = substitutions are structural:

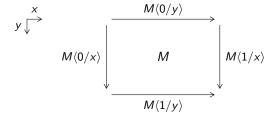
- Faces: 0/x, 1/x.
- Re-indexing: y/x.
- Weakening aka degeneracy: silent.
- Exchange aka symmetry: y, x/x, y.
- Contraction aka diagonal: z, z/x, y.

Substitutions act on cubes:



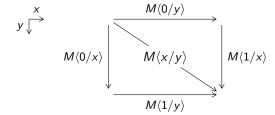
Substitutions act on cubes:

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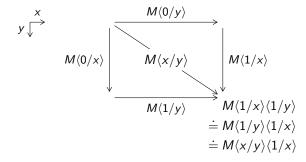
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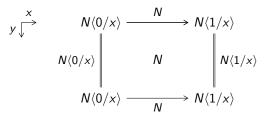
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Any cube can be seen as a degenerate cube of higher dimension:

$$y \stackrel{x}{\searrow} \qquad N\langle 0/x \rangle \stackrel{N}{\longrightarrow} N\langle 1/x \rangle$$

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Licata, Brunerie; Coquand, et al.

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Conventional functional programming constructs:

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Conventional functional programming constructs:

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Unconventional functional programming constructs:

- Circle: \mathbb{C} , base, loop_x, \mathbb{C} -elim_{a.A}(M; N, x.P).
- Kan operations: coe, hcom.

Evaluation is sensitive to dimensions:

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{loop}_0 \longmapsto \mathsf{base} \\ \mathsf{loop}_1 \longmapsto \mathsf{base} \end{array}$$

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-elim}_{a.A}(\mathsf{base}; \mathit{N}, x.P) \longmapsto \mathit{N}$$

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-elim}_{a.A}(\mathsf{loop}_y; \mathit{N}, x.P) \longmapsto P\langle y/x \rangle.$$

$$\mathsf{base} \doteq \mathsf{loop}_{\mathsf{x}} \langle \mathsf{0}/\mathsf{x} \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathsf{loop}_{\mathsf{x}}} \mathsf{loop}_{\mathsf{x}} \langle \mathsf{1}/\mathsf{x} \rangle \doteq \mathsf{base}$$

If A type $[\Psi]$, then all faces of A evaluate to specifications:

- $A \psi \Downarrow V [\Psi']$ for all $\psi : \Psi' \to \Psi$, and
- Value V names a specification of values.

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That is, for every $\psi: \Psi' \to \Psi$,

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- V satisfies the specification given by $A\psi$.

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(Actually, we must define equal types and equal members.)

Cubical Specifications

Specifications are cubical symmetric, and transitive binary relations.

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Specifications are cubical symmetric, and transitive binary relations.

If V is a canonical type, then all of its faces must be types:

for all
$$\psi : \Psi' \to \Psi$$
, $V\psi$ type $[\Psi']$.

If W is canonical of type V, then its faces must be elements:

for all
$$\psi: \Psi' \to \Psi, \ W\psi \in V\psi \ [\Psi'].$$

Coherence

An ambiguity arises for A type $[\Psi]$:

- $A \psi_1 \Downarrow V_1$ and $V_1 \psi_2 \Downarrow V_2$.
- $A(\psi_1 \cdot \psi_2) \Downarrow V_{12}$.

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- $A(\psi_1 \cdot \psi_2) \Downarrow V_{12}$.

But are V_2 and V_{12} the same canonical type?

- Not necessarily the same program.
- But should have the same elements and equality.

Coherence demands that they determine the same specification.

Meaning of Variables

Term variables express functional dependence on closed values at all dimensions.

Thus $a: A \gg B$ type $[\Psi]$ means for all $\psi: \Psi' \to \Psi$,

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 [Ψ'], then $B\psi[M/a] \doteq B\psi[N/a]$ type [Ψ'].

In particular, type families transform lines into lines:

if
$$\underbrace{M \in A \ [\Psi, x]}_{\text{line in } A}$$
, then $\underbrace{B[M/a] \ \text{type } \ [\Psi, x]}_{\text{line of types}}$.

Pre- and Kan Types Voevodsky (HTS)

These conditions define cubical pre-types

- From zero- to higher-dimensional types.
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A full-fledged type must satisfy the Kan conditions:

- Type lines induce coercions between types.
- Paths must be closed under Kan composition.

Type lines A type $[\Psi, x]$ induce coercions:

$$coe_{x,A}^{r \to r'}(M) \in A\langle r'/x \rangle \ [\Psi] \text{ when } M \in A\langle r/x \rangle \ [\Psi].$$

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Coercion along A type $[\Psi, x]$ is trivial when r = r':

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Each type defines the meaning of coercion along lines!

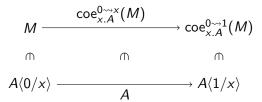
$$M$$

$$\cap A\langle 0/x\rangle \longrightarrow A\langle 1/x\rangle$$

$$M \xrightarrow{\cap} \operatorname{coe}_{x,A}^{0 \to 1}(M)$$

$$\cap \qquad \qquad \cap$$

$$A\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{A} A\langle 1/x \rangle$$



$$coe_{x.A}^{0 \leadsto 0}(M) \stackrel{:}{=} M \xrightarrow{coe_{x.A}^{0 \leadsto x}(M)} coe_{x.A}^{0 \leadsto x}(M)$$

$$\cap \qquad \qquad \cap \qquad \qquad \cap$$

$$A\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{A} A\langle 1/x \rangle$$

$$P\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{P} P\langle 1/x \rangle \qquad Q\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{Q} Q\langle 1/x \rangle$$

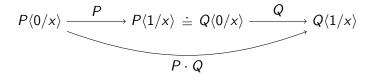
Paths in a type must compose.

• if $P \in A [\Psi, x]$, and $Q \in A [\Psi, x]$,

$$P\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{P} P\langle 1/x \rangle \stackrel{:}{=} Q\langle 0/x \rangle \xrightarrow{Q} Q\langle 1/x \rangle$$

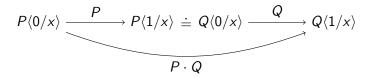
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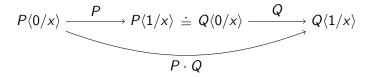
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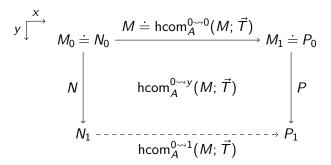
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Miraculously, there is a simple way to capture the full meaning!

The HCom Diagram

Pictorially,

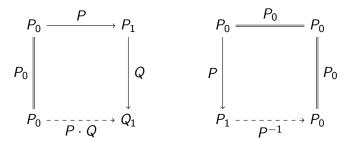


Symbolically,

$$\mathsf{hcom}_{A}^{0 \leadsto y}(\underbrace{M}_{\mathsf{cap}}; \underbrace{x = 0 \hookrightarrow y.N, x = 1 \hookrightarrow y.P}) \in A \ [\Psi, x, y].$$

Composition and Inversion from HCom

Concatenation and reversal are definable:



Kan composition suffices to derive composition laws.

Strict Booleans

The type bool is defined such that for all M and Ψ ,

$$M \in \mathsf{bool}\ [\Psi] \quad \mathsf{iff} \quad M \Downarrow \mathsf{true}\ \mathsf{or}\ M \Downarrow \mathsf{false}.$$

Therefore, we can make bool Kan:

- $coe_{_bool}^{r \leadsto r'}(M) \longmapsto M$ for any M, r, r'.
- $hcom_{bool}^{r \leadsto r'}(M; \vec{T}) \longmapsto M$ for any M, \vec{T}, r, r' .

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The properties of bool stated earlier carry over directly.

- Same proofs, using equality pre-type for equations.
- e.g., Shannon expansion.

Canonical:

- wbool, true, and false as before.
- fcom $^{r \rightarrow r'}(M; \vec{T})$, where $r \neq r'$.

Canonical:

- wbool, true, and false as before.
- fcom $^{r \mapsto r'}(M; \vec{T})$, where $r \neq r'$.

Fcom = formal composition of booleans:

$$N \longrightarrow N'$$

Conditional offloads composition to the motive at higher dims!

Result composition is heterogeneous.

The motive of the conditional on wbool must be Kan!

 $a: \mathsf{wbool} \gg A \mathsf{type}_{\mathsf{Kan}} [\Psi].$

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Theorem (Dependent Elimination)

If
$$M \in \mathsf{bool}\ [\Psi]$$
 and $P \in A[\mathsf{true}/a]\ [\Psi]$ and $Q \in A[\mathsf{false}/a]\ [\Psi]$, then

$$\mathsf{if}_{a.A}(M;P;Q) \in A[M/a] \ [\Psi].$$

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Looks unremarkable, but is not trivial because of higher dim's.

Circle

The circle \mathbb{C} is like wbool.

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-elim}_{a.A}(\mathsf{base};\, N, x.P) \longmapsto N$$

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-elim}_{a.A}(\mathsf{loop}_y;\, N, x.P) \longmapsto P\langle y/x \rangle$$

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-elim}_{a.A}(M';\, N, x.P) \longmapsto$$

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Iterations of loop defined using formal composition.

Functions

Abstraction and application as before:

- Canonical: $(a:A) \rightarrow B$, $\lambda a.M$.
- Non-canonical: app(M, N).
- Computation: $app(\lambda a.P, N) \longmapsto P[N/a]$.

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Coercion co- and contra-variantly:

$$coe_{x.(a:A)\to B}^{r \leadsto r'}(M) \longmapsto \lambda a.coe_{x.B}^{r \leadsto r'}(app(M, coe_{x.A}^{r' \leadsto r}(a))).$$

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Kan composition by extensionality:

$$\mathsf{hcom}_{(a:A)\to B}^{r\leadsto r'}(M;\vec{T})\longmapsto \lambda a.\mathsf{hcom}_B^{r\leadsto r'}(\mathsf{app}(M,a);\mathsf{app}(\vec{T},a)).$$

Paths

The type $Path_{x.A}(P_0, P_1)$ specifies paths in A with end points P_0 and P_1 .

Dimension abstraction and application:

- Path_{x,A}(P_0, P_1), $\langle x \rangle M$ are canonical.
- $(\langle x \rangle M)@r \longmapsto M\langle r/x \rangle$.

Paths are Kan, provided that A is Kan.

Paths

Coercion:
$$coe_{y,Path_{x,A}(P_0,P_1)}^{0 op 1}(M) \longmapsto$$

$$\langle x \rangle \text{com}_{y.A}^{0 \leadsto 1} (M@x; x = 0 \hookrightarrow y.P_0, x = 1 \hookrightarrow y.P_1).$$

$$y \stackrel{\times}{\searrow} P_0 \langle 0/y \rangle \doteq M@0 \xrightarrow{\qquad M@x \qquad} M@1 \doteq P_1 \langle 1/y \rangle$$

$$\downarrow P_0 \qquad \qquad \downarrow P_1$$

$$\downarrow P_0 \langle 1/y \rangle ------ P_1 \langle 1/y \rangle$$

HoTT identity type splits into two concepts:

- Exact equality: extensional, evidence-free.
- Paths of arbitrary dimension.

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- Path type, always Kan.

Equality proofs are irrelevant and erasable.

Coercion and composition express the computational content of paths in each type.

Path type admits structure of identity type.

- Intro: $\operatorname{refl}_A(M) \in \operatorname{Path}_{-A}(M, M)$.
- Elim: J(u,Q;P) with $P \in Path_A(M,N)$.

Does not validate β law, because reflexivity is not special.

HoTT, Revisited Awodey; Cavallo

Jdentity type is definable as free Kan type on reflexivity:

- Validates β law for J.
- Elimination commutes with free Kan structure.

Admits computation: J is never "stuck."

But does not validate type-directed path laws!

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It seems that we cannot have it both ways!

REDPRL: Proof Refinement Logic

Sterling, Hou, Angiuli

NOTATION	MEANING
$\Psi \mid \Gamma \Longrightarrow A \text{ true} \rightsquigarrow e$	There exists a term e such that if Γ ctx $[\Psi]$, then $\Gamma \gg A$ $type_{pre}$ $[\Psi]$ and $\Gamma \gg e \in A$ $[\Psi]$.
$\Psi \mid \Gamma \Longrightarrow A \doteq B \text{ type}_k$	If Γ ctx $[\Psi]$, then $\Gamma \gg A \doteq B$ type _k $[\Psi]$.
$\Psi \mid \Gamma \Longrightarrow e \text{ synth } \rightsquigarrow A$	There exists a term A such that if Γ ctx $[\Psi]$, then $\Gamma \gg A$ $type_{pre}$ $[\Psi]$ and $\Gamma \gg e \in A$ $[\Psi]$.
$\Psi \mid \Gamma \Longrightarrow A \sqsubseteq B$	If Γ ctx $[\Psi]$, then $\Gamma \gg A$ type _{pre} $[\Psi]$ and $\Gamma \gg B$ type _{pre} $[\Psi]$, and Γ , $a : A \gg a \in B$ $[\Psi]$.
$\Psi \mid \Gamma \Longrightarrow A \sqsubseteq \mathcal{U}_{\omega}^{k}$	If Γ ctx $[\Psi]$, then there exists some level i and kind $k' \leq k$ such that $\Gamma \gg A \doteq \mathcal{U}_i^{k'}$ type _{pre} $[\Psi]$.

Demonstration

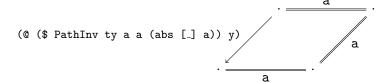
Please enjoy Carlo's demonstration of REDPRL!

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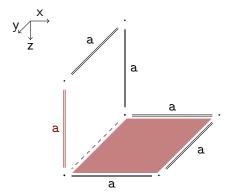
InvRefl

$$y$$
 \xrightarrow{X}



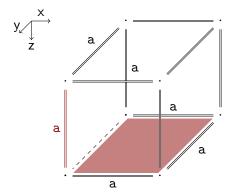
InvRefl

(path [_] (path [_] ty a a) (\$ PathInv ty a a (abs [_] a)) (abs [_] a))
abs x => abs y =>



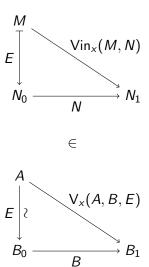
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The Univalence Type

Favonia; CCHM



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Favonia; CCHM

$$M \xrightarrow{\text{Vin}_{X}(M, N)} N_{1}$$

$$E \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$N_{0} \xrightarrow{N} N_{1}$$

$$\in$$

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{V}_{X}(A, B, E)} B_{1}$$

$$E \mid \emptyset \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

В

 B_1

 B_0

The Coe Diagram

Given $M \in A [\Psi, x]$:

$$M_0 \xrightarrow{M} M_1 \in A_0 \xrightarrow{A} A_1$$

Then $coe_{x,A_x}^{x \to y}(M_x) \in A_y [\Psi, x, y]$:

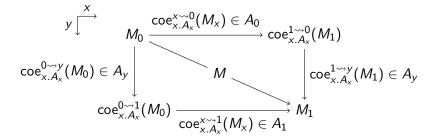
$$\begin{array}{c}
y \downarrow^{X} \\
M_{0} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{X \to 0}(M_{x}) \in A_{0}} \operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{1 \to 0}(M_{1}) \\
\operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{0 \to y}(M_{0}) \in A_{y} \downarrow & \operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{X \to y}(M_{x}) & \operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{1 \to y}(M_{1}) \in A_{y} \\
\operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{0 \to 1}(M_{0}) \xrightarrow{\operatorname{coe}_{X.A_{x}}^{X \to 1}(M_{x}) \in A_{1}} M_{1}
\end{array}$$

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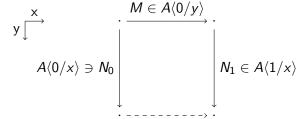
$$M_0 \xrightarrow{M} M_1 \in A_0 \xrightarrow{A} A_1$$

Then $coe_{x,A_{x}}^{x \to y}(M_{x}) \in A_{y} [\Psi, x, y]$:



The Com Diagram

$$\mathsf{com}_{y,A}^{0 \leadsto 1} (M; x = 0 \hookrightarrow y.N_0, x = 1 \hookrightarrow y.N_1) \in A\langle 1/y \rangle \ [\Psi, x]$$



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$$\operatorname{\mathsf{com}}_{y.A}^{0 \leadsto 1}(M; x = 0 \hookrightarrow y.N_0, x = 1 \hookrightarrow y.N_1) \in A\langle 1/y \rangle \ [\Psi, x]$$

