

Cubical Syntax for Reflection-Free Extensional Equality

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dependent type theory

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need to consider equality of types: if $A = B$ type, then elements of A should be elements of B .

types depend on elements, so equality of elements necessary too. not all equations can be made automatic, so a language of proofs must account for *coercions*.

equality in type theory

what equations can be made automatic? surely $\alpha/\delta/\beta$, and type theorists also know how to automate $\eta/\xi/\nu/ \dots$

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$$x : A \times B \vdash M : F(x)$$

iff

$$x : A \times B \vdash M : F(\langle x.1, x.2 \rangle)$$

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other equations may require explicit coercion.¹ consider a family
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$$n : \mathbf{nat} \vdash M : F(n + 1) \quad \mathbf{iff}???\quad n : \mathbf{nat} \vdash M : F(1 + n)$$

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1. is M equal to $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(P, M)$? **yes, up to a coercion**

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1. is M equal to $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(P, M)$? **yes, up to a coercion**
2. is $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(P, M)$ equal to $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(Q, M)$? **maybe**

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Altenkirch and McBride [AM06]. *Towards Observational Type Theory*.

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- heterogeneous equality type $\mathbf{Eq}(M : A, N : B)$ defined as *generic program*, by recursion on type codes A, B

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Eq}(F_0 : A_0 \rightarrow B_0, F_1 : A_1 \rightarrow B_1) = \\ (x_0 : A_0)(x_1 : A_1)(\tilde{x} : \mathbf{Eq}(x_0 : A_0, x_1 : A_1)) \\ \rightarrow \mathbf{Eq}(F_0(x_0) : B_0, F_1(x_1) : B_1) \end{aligned} \quad \text{(funext)}$$

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- judgmental UIP (proof irrelevance): always have $P = Q : \mathbf{Eq}(M_0 : A_0, M_1 : A_1)$

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- judgmental UIP (proof irrelevance): always have $P = Q : \mathbf{Eq}(M_0 : A_0, M_1 : A_1)$
- many primitives: reflexivity, respect, coercion, coherence, heterogeneous irrelevance (see Altenkirch, McBride, and Swierstra [AMS07])

cubical reconstruction: **XTT**

goal: find smaller set of primitives which systematically generate (something in the spirit of) **OTT**

idea: start with Cartesian cubical type theory [ABCFHL], restrict to *Bishop sets* à la Coquand [Coq17]

the **XTT** paper

Sterling, Angiuli, and Gratzer [SAG19]. “Cubical Syntax for Reflection-Free Extensional Equality”. *Formal Structures for Computation and Deduction (FSCD 2019)*.

XTT: equality using the interval

rather than defining heterogeneous equality by recursion on type structure, define *dependent equality* all at once using a formal interval:

EQ FORMATION

$$\frac{}{0, 1 : \mathbb{I}} \quad \frac{i : \mathbb{I} \vdash A : \mathbf{Type} \quad M : A[0] \quad N : A[1]}{\mathbf{Eq}_{i.A[i]}(M, N) : \mathbf{Type}}$$

EQ INTRODUCTION

$$\frac{i : \mathbb{I} \vdash M[i] : A[i] \quad M[0] = N_0 : A[0] \quad M[1] = N_1 : A[1]}{\lambda i.M[i] : \mathbf{Eq}_{i.A[i]}(N_0, N_1)}$$

EQ ELIMINATION

$$\frac{M : \mathbf{Eq}_{i.A[i]}(N_0, N_1) \quad r : \mathbb{I}}{M(r) : A[r] \quad M(0) = N_0 : A[0] \quad M(1) = N_1 : A[1]}$$

(along with more β, η rules, etc.)

function extensionality in XTT

we have function extensionality by swapping quantifiers:

$$\frac{F_0, F_1 : A \rightarrow B \quad Q : (x : A) \rightarrow \mathbf{Eq}_{-B}(F_0(x), F_1(x))}{\lambda i. \lambda x. Q(x)(i) : \mathbf{Eq}_{-A \rightarrow B}(F_0, F_1)}$$

generalized coercion: coercion, coherence, and more

given a cube $Q : \mathbf{Eq_Type}(A, B)$, we can *coerce* from A to B :

$$\frac{Q : \mathbf{Eq_Type}(A, B) \quad M : A}{[i.Q(i)] \downarrow_1^0 M : B}$$

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but how is M related to $[i.C[i]] \downarrow_1^0 M$?

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generalized coercion: attaching faces

allow either zero or two faces to be attached:

$$\frac{r, r', s : \mathbb{I} \quad i : \mathbb{I} \vdash A[i] : \mathbf{Type} \quad M : A[r] \quad \begin{array}{l} s = 0, j : \mathbb{I} \vdash N_0 : A[r'] \\ s = 1, j : \mathbb{I} \vdash N_1 : A[r'] \end{array}}{[i.A[i]] \downarrow_{r'}^r M [s = 0 \rightarrow j.N_0 \mid s = 1 \rightarrow j.N_1] : A[r']}$$

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implements symmetry, transitivity, coercion in $\mathbf{Eq}_{i.A}(M, N)$

\implies generalizes several primitives of **OTT** simultaneously

like **OTT**, deciding equality of coercions requires *inductive-recursive* universe

judgmental UIP via *boundary separation*

in **OTT**, we always have $Q_0 = Q_1 : \mathbf{Eq}(M : A, N : B)$; we achieve this modularly using a *boundary separation*² rule:

$$\frac{r : \mathbb{I} \quad r = 0 \vdash M = N : A \quad r = 1 \vdash M = N : A}{M = N : A}$$

(does not mention equality type!!)

given $Q_0, Q_1 : \mathbf{Eq}_{i.A}(M, N)$, we have $Q_0 = Q_1 : \mathbf{Eq}_{i.A}(M, N)$ by the β, η, ξ rules of the equality type, together with boundary separation.

²(it is a presheaf separation condition for a certain coverage on the category of contexts)

5 second coffee break

subjective metatheory: counting grains of sand

we used to study the metatheory of *presentations* of type theories, not of type theories.

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1. “raw” terms, “raw” substitution, insufficient annotations (*a priori* no determinate notion of model, nor interpretation)
2. ???
3. interpretation into models???

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actually this is totally intractable to do more than once! let's bootstrap it a different way.

objective metatheory and categorical gluing

a new (old) **syntax-invariant** approach to metatheory

³See also Coquand, Huber, and Sattler [CHS19], Kaposi, Huber, and Sattler [KHS19], and Shulman [Shu15].

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1. type theory is essentially algebraic (insist on it!) [Car86; ACD08; Awo18; Uem19]; **presentations considered up to isomorphism**

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3. easily prove **canonicity, normalization, decidability of type checking** for initial \mathbb{T} -algebra using **categorical gluing**/logical families [Coq18]³

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the language of category theory makes each of the preceding steps “easy”, and independent of syntax / representation details. **no raw terms, no PERs.**

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cubical gluing: canonicity for **XTT**

to warm up, we proved **canonicity** for **XTT** using a **cubical gluing** technique (independently proposed by Awodey).

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Theorem (Canonicity)

*In the initial **XTT**-algebra, if $M \in \mathbf{El}(\diamond, \mathbf{bool})$ then either $M = \mathbf{tt}$ or $M = \mathbf{ff}$.*

use “cubical version” of global sections functor (cubical nerve). first we need to understand **XTT**’s structure.

$\Psi \mid \Gamma \vdash M : A$

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Ψ *cube*₊

\square_+ : **Cat**

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$\Psi \text{ cube}_+$
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 $\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{u} \square_+$

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 $\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{Ty}} \mathbf{Set}$

$\Psi \mid \Gamma \vdash M : A$ $\mathbf{El} \longrightarrow \mathbf{T}y : \mathbf{Pr}(\mathbb{C})$ $\Psi \text{ cube}_+$ $\square_+ : \mathbf{Cat}$ $\Psi \mid \Gamma \text{ ctx}$ $\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{u}} \square_+$ $\Psi \mid \Gamma \vdash A \text{ type}$ $\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{T}y} \mathbf{Set}$

computability families and the *cubical nerve*

idea: consider empty Γ , arbitrary Ψ ; “cubical” version of closed terms

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⁴proposed by Awodey in 2015; analogous to Fiore’s *relative hom functor* in NbE (2002)

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define for each $\Psi \mid \diamond \vdash A$ type a family of “computability proofs” over each $M : A$; must live in $\mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \square_+ & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{i}} & \mathbb{C} \\ \Psi \vdash & \longrightarrow & \Psi \mid \diamond \end{array}$$

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“cubical global sections functor” is a nerve $\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{N}} \mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$,⁴ restricting the Yoneda embedding to **purely cubical** contexts:

$$\mathbf{N}(\Gamma) = \mathbb{C}[\mathbf{i}(-), \Gamma]$$

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a flavor of cubical gluing

- a glued context $\tilde{\Gamma} : \tilde{\mathbb{C}}$ is a context $\Gamma : \mathbb{C}$ together with a **computability family** $\Gamma^\bullet : \mathbf{N}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$ internal to $\mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$.

⁵more complicated, because **XTT** needs inductive-recursive universe; just for intuition!

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- a glued substitution $\tilde{\Delta} \xrightarrow{\tilde{\gamma}} \tilde{\Gamma}$ is a substitution $\Delta \xrightarrow{\gamma} \Gamma$ together with a **realizer** $\gamma^\bullet : \prod_{\delta : \mathbf{N}(\Delta)} \prod_{\delta^\bullet : \Delta^\bullet \delta} \Gamma^\bullet(\gamma\delta)$.

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- a glued element $\tilde{M} \in \mathbf{El}(\tilde{\Gamma}, \tilde{A})$ is an element $M \in \mathbf{El}(\Gamma, A)$ together with a **realizer** $M^\bullet : \prod_{\gamma : \mathbf{N}(\Gamma)} \prod_{\gamma^\bullet : \Gamma^\bullet} A^\bullet \gamma \gamma^\bullet(M\gamma)$.

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intuition: “realizers” are semantic whnfs, but *intrinsic*. what remains is the pure essence of operational-style techniques [Hub18; AFH17].

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we choose a computability family for **bool** which forces this to be true!

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{bool}} \in \mathbf{T}_y(\tilde{\diamond})$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{bool}} = (\mathbf{bool}, ? : \prod_{\epsilon : \mathbf{N}(\diamond)} \prod_{\epsilon' : \diamond \cdot \epsilon} \mathbf{U})$$

proving canonicity

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*In the initial **XTT**-algebra, if $M \in \mathbf{El}(\diamond, \mathbf{bool})$ then either $M = \mathbf{tt}$ or $M = \mathbf{ff}$.*

we choose a computability family for **bool** which forces this to be true!

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{bool}} \in \mathbf{Ty}(\diamond)$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{bool}} = (\mathbf{bool}, \lambda \epsilon \in \bullet M. (M = \mathbf{tt}) + (M = \mathbf{ff}))$$

idea: the “realizer” of any closed boolean reveals whether it is **tt** or **ff**. abstract operational semantics!

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$$\widetilde{\mathbf{bool}} \in \mathbf{T}\mathbf{y}(\diamond)$$

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$$\widetilde{\mathbf{tt}}, \widetilde{\mathbf{ff}} \in \mathbf{El}(\diamond, \widetilde{\mathbf{bool}})$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{tt}} = (\mathbf{tt}, \lambda \epsilon \epsilon^\bullet . \mathbf{inl}(\mathbf{refl}_{\mathbf{tt}}))$$

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{ff}} = (\mathbf{ff}, \lambda \epsilon \epsilon^\bullet . \mathbf{inr}(\mathbf{refl}_{\mathbf{ff}}))$$

idea: the “realizer” of any closed boolean reveals whether it is **tt** or **ff**. abstract operational semantics!

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In the initial **XTT**-algebra, if $M \in \mathbf{El}(\diamond, \mathbf{bool})$ then either $M = \mathbf{tt}$ or $M = \mathbf{ff}$.

Proof.

If $M \in \mathbf{El}(\diamond, \mathbf{bool})$ in the initial **XTT**-algebra \mathbb{C} , then by the universal property of \mathbb{C} , there exists $\tilde{N} = (N, N^\bullet) \in \mathbf{El}(\tilde{\diamond}, \widetilde{\mathbf{bool}})$ such that $N = M$ and $N^\bullet \in \mathbf{bool}^\bullet N$.

Proceed by case:

1. if $N^\bullet = \mathbf{inl}(\mathbf{refl}_{\mathbf{tt}})$, then $M = N = \mathbf{tt}$
2. if $N^\bullet = \mathbf{inr}(\mathbf{refl}_{\mathbf{ff}})$, then $M = N = \mathbf{ff}$

□

we contributed a (Cartesian) cubical reconstruction of OTT, and took a first step toward objective metatheory (gluing) for cubical type theory. what's next?

- can we overcome inductive-recursive universes?
- can we add propositions with function comprehension (AUC)?
- can we add effective quotients?

judgmental boundary separation most likely too strict for any of the above; **XTT** could be extended to a language for quasitoposes (not toposes). programming applications hoped for!

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