

# Cubical Syntax for Reflection-Free Extensional Equality

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**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*.

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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**
2. is  $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(P, M)$  equal to  $\mathbf{coe}_{F(-)}(Q, M)$ ? **maybe**

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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  $P = Q : \mathbf{Eq}(M_0 : A_0, M_1 : A_1)$
- 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  $\beta, \eta$  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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$$\frac{i : \mathbb{I} \vdash C[i] : \mathbf{Type} \quad M : C[0]}{\lambda j. [i.C[i]] \downarrow_j^0 M : \mathbf{Eq}_{i.C[i]}(M, [i.C[i]] \downarrow_1^0 M)}$$

# 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*<sup>2</sup> 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  $\beta, \eta, \xi$  rules of the equality type, together with boundary separation.

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

5 second coffee break

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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

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

# objective metatheory and categorical gluing

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4. relate “informal” & unannotated syntax to initial  $\mathbb{T}$ -algebra by elaboration (using the above)

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 $\mathbf{XTT}$

to warm up, we proved **canonicity** for  $\mathbf{XTT}$  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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$\Psi$  *cube*<sub>+</sub>

$\square_+$  : **Cat**

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

# computability families and the *cubical nerve*

idea: consider empty  $\Gamma$ , arbitrary  $\Psi$ ; “cubical” version of closed terms

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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  $\mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{N}} \mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$ ,<sup>4</sup> 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  $\mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$ .

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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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# 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  $\mathbf{Pr}(\square_+)$ .
- a glued substitution  $\tilde{\Delta} \xrightarrow{\tilde{\gamma}} \tilde{\Gamma}$  is a substitution  $\Delta \xrightarrow{\gamma} \Gamma$  together with a **realizer**  $\gamma^\bullet : \prod_{\delta:\mathbf{N}(\Delta)} \prod_{\delta^\bullet:\Delta^\bullet\delta} \Gamma^\bullet(\gamma\delta)$ .
- a glued type  $\tilde{A} \in \mathbf{Ty}(\tilde{\Gamma})$  has a type  $A \in \mathbf{Ty}(\Gamma)$  together with a **computability family**  $A^\bullet : \prod_{\gamma:\mathbf{N}(\Gamma)} \prod_{\gamma^\bullet:\Gamma^\bullet} \mathbf{N}(A\gamma) \rightarrow \mathbf{U}$ .<sup>5</sup>
- 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**  $M^\bullet : \prod_{\gamma:\mathbf{N}(\Gamma)} \prod_{\gamma^\bullet:\Gamma^\bullet} A^\bullet\gamma\gamma^\bullet(M\gamma)$ .

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

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

# proving canonicity

## Theorem (Canonicity)

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

# proving canonicity

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

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

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

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

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

**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!

# canonicity, delivered

## Theorem (Canonicity)

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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