

Strictification of categories with families

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What is type theory?

syntactic

- ▶ actual implementations: Agda, Coq, Idris, Lean
- ▶ extrinsic syntax: Abel–Öhman–Vezzosi 2018, Martin-Löf à la Coq, MetaRocq, Lean4Lean
- ▶ intrinsic unquotiented ASTs: Danielsson 2006, Chapman 2009
- ▶ CwF: Dybjer 1996, Altenkirch–K. 2016
- ▶ natural models: Awodey 2018
- ▶ comprehension categories: Brunerie–de Boer 2020
- ▶ LCCC: Seely 1984

semantic

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more practical,
observable computations,
ad-hoc choices

elegance, abstraction,
easier metatheory,
forced choices

semantic

Normalisation

- ▶ means that every term can be reduced to a normal form

$\text{suc} (\text{suc} ((\lambda x. x + x) (\text{suc zero}))) \rightsquigarrow \text{suc} (\text{suc} (\text{suc} (\text{suc zero})))$

- ▶ used in type checking
- ▶ In the CwF setting, we define normal forms inductively with a map back into terms:

$$\begin{aligned} n &::= x \mid n v & \ulcorner - \urcorner &: \text{Nf } \Gamma A \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma A \\ v &::= n \mid \lambda x. v \end{aligned}$$

Then normalisation is a section of $\ulcorner - \urcorner$.

- ▶ Reduction-free normalisation:
 - ▶ Simple types (Altenkirch–Hofmann–Streicher 1995)
 - ▶ Dependent types (Altenkirch–K. 2016)
 - ▶ Main idea: proof-relevant logical relation (categorical gluing)

Computer formalisation

There are several formalisations of type theory in extrinsic style:

- ▶ Abel–Öhman–Vezzosi 1998, MetaRocq (2014–2025), Martin-Löf à la Coq (Adjedj–Lennon–Bertrand–Maillard–Pédrot–Pujet 2024), Lean4Lean (Carneiro 2024)

Only very small CwF-style formalisations, and they are difficult to use. No formalisation of gluing-style normalisation. Reasons:

1. the syntax needs quotients
2. transport hell

$$\text{rev} : \text{Vec } A \ n \rightarrow \text{Vec } A \ n$$
$$\text{rev } [] : \equiv []$$
$$\text{rev } (x :: xs) \underbrace{(x :: xs)}_{:\text{Vec } A \ (1+n)} : \equiv \text{rev } xs ++ (x :: []) \underbrace{\text{rev } xs ++ (x :: [])}_{:\text{Vec } A \ (n+1)} (\text{comm}_+ n)$$
$$\text{revrev} : (xs : \text{Vec } A \ n) \rightarrow \text{rev } (\text{rev } xs) = xs$$
$$\text{revrev } [] : \equiv \text{refl}$$
$$\text{revrev } (x :: xs) : \equiv ? \cdot \text{ap } (x :: -) (\text{revrev } xs)$$

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3. substitution laws are propositional, rather than definitional

$$(\text{app } t \ u)[\gamma] = \text{app } (t[\gamma]) \ (u[\gamma])$$

Problems with intrinsic syntax

1. the syntax needs quotients
 - ▶ Cubical Type Theory / OTT / OTT via rewrite rules
2. transport hell
3. substitution laws are propositional

Solution to 2,3: make the equations in the syntax definitional:

- ▶ extensional type theory, conservativity
- ▶ rewrite rules
- ▶ replace the weak model with an equivalent, stricter one
 - ▶ examples:
 - ▶ difference lists in the Haskell Prelude: replace `List` by `List → List`
 - ▶ strictification of a category by Yoneda: replace $C(J, I)$ by $y_J \dot{\rightarrow} y_I$
 - ▶ non-example:
 - ▶ right adjoint splitting (Hofmann 1994)
 - ▶ left adjoint splitting, local universes (Lumsdaine–Warren 2015)

Weak CwF

Con : Set

Sub : Con \rightarrow Con \rightarrow Set

Ty : Con \rightarrow Set

Tm : (Γ : Con) \rightarrow Ty Γ \rightarrow Set

$- \circ -$: Sub $\Delta \Gamma \rightarrow$ Sub $\Theta \Delta \rightarrow$ Sub $\Theta \Gamma$

ass : $(\gamma \circ \delta) \circ \theta = \gamma \circ (\delta \circ \theta)$

id : Sub $\Gamma \Gamma$

idl : id $\circ \gamma = \gamma$

idr : $\gamma \circ \text{id} = \gamma$

\diamond : Con

ϵ : Sub $\Gamma \diamond$

$\diamond \eta$: $(\sigma : \text{Sub } \Gamma \diamond) \rightarrow \sigma = \epsilon$

$-[-]$: Ty $\Gamma \rightarrow$ Sub $\Delta \Gamma \rightarrow$ Ty Δ

$[\circ]$: $A[\gamma \circ \delta] = A[\gamma][\delta]$

$[\text{id}]$: $A[\text{id}] = A$

$-[-]$: Tm $\Gamma A \rightarrow (\gamma : \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma) \rightarrow$
Tm $\Delta (A[\gamma])$

$[\circ]$: $[\circ]_* (a[\gamma \circ \delta]) = a[\gamma][\delta]$

$[\text{id}]$: $[\text{id}]_* (a[\text{id}]) = a$

$- \triangleright -$: (Γ : Con) \rightarrow Ty $\Gamma \rightarrow$ Con

$-, -$: $(\gamma : \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma) \rightarrow$ Tm $\Delta (A[\gamma]) \rightarrow$
Sub $\Delta (\Gamma \triangleright A)$

$., \circ$: $(\gamma, a) \circ \delta = (\gamma \circ \delta, [\circ]_* (a[\delta]))$

p : Sub $(\Gamma \triangleright A) \Gamma$

q : Tm $(\Gamma \triangleright A) (A[p])$

$\triangleright \beta_1$: $p \circ (\gamma, a) = \gamma$

$\triangleright \beta_2$: $([\circ] \cdot \triangleright \beta_1)_* (q[\gamma, a]) = a$

$\triangleright \eta$: id = (p, q)

Strict CwF

$\text{Con} : \text{Set}$	$-[-] : \text{Tm } \Gamma A \rightarrow (\gamma : \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma) \rightarrow$ $\text{Tm } \Delta (A[\gamma])$
$\text{Sub} : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Set}$	$[\circ] : a[\gamma \circ \delta] \equiv a[\gamma][\delta]$
$\text{Ty} : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Set}$	$[\text{id}] : a[\text{id}] \equiv a$
$\text{Tm} : (\Gamma : \text{Con}) \rightarrow \text{Ty } \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Set}$	$-\triangleright - : (\Gamma : \text{Con}) \rightarrow \text{Ty } \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Con}$
$-\circ - : \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Sub } \Theta \Delta \rightarrow \text{Sub } \Theta \Gamma$	$-, - : (\gamma : \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Delta (A[\gamma]) \rightarrow$ $\text{Sub } \Delta (\Gamma \triangleright A)$
$\text{ass} : (\gamma \circ \delta) \circ \theta \equiv \gamma \circ (\delta \circ \theta)$	$, \circ : (\gamma, a) \circ \delta \equiv (\gamma \circ \delta, a[\delta])$
$\text{id} : \text{Sub } \Gamma \Gamma$	$\text{p} : \text{Sub } (\Gamma \triangleright A) \Gamma$
$\text{idl} : \text{id} \circ \gamma \equiv \gamma$	$\text{q} : \text{Tm } (\Gamma \triangleright A) (A[\text{p}])$
$\text{idr} : \gamma \circ \text{id} \equiv \gamma$	$\triangleright \beta_1 : \text{p} \circ (\gamma, a) \equiv \gamma$
$\diamond : \text{Con}$	$\triangleright \beta_2 : \text{q}[\gamma, a] \equiv a$
$\epsilon : \text{Sub } \Gamma \diamond$	$\triangleright \eta : \text{id} = (\text{p}, \text{q})$
$\diamond \eta : (\sigma : \text{Sub } \Gamma \diamond) \rightarrow \sigma \equiv \epsilon$	
$-[-] : \text{Ty } \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Ty } \Delta$	
$[\circ] : A[\gamma \circ \delta] \equiv A[\gamma][\delta]$	
$[\text{id}] : A[\text{id}] \equiv A$	

Booleans in a weak CwF (i)

$\text{Bool} : \text{Ty } \Gamma$

$\text{Bool}[] : \text{Bool}[\gamma] = \text{Bool}$

$\text{true} : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}$

$\text{true}[] : \text{Bool}[]_* (\text{true}[\gamma]) = \text{true}$

$\text{false} : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}$

$\text{false}[] : \text{Bool}[]_* (\text{false}[\gamma]) = \text{false}$

$\text{ind} : (P : \text{Ty } (\Gamma \triangleright \text{Bool})) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle \text{true} \rangle]) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle \text{false} \rangle]) \rightarrow$
 $(b : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle b \rangle])$

$\text{ind}[] : (\alpha b)_* ((\text{ind } P p p' b)[\gamma]) =$
 $\text{ind} (\text{Bool}[]_* (P[\gamma^\uparrow])) (\text{true}[]_* ((\alpha \text{true})_* (p[\gamma]))) (\text{false}[]_* ((\alpha \text{false})_* (p'[\gamma])))$
 $(\text{Bool}[]_* (b[\gamma]))$

$\text{Bool}\beta_1 : \text{ind } P p p' \text{true} = p$

$\text{Bool}\beta_2 : \text{ind } P p p' \text{false} = p'$

where

$\alpha : (u : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}) \rightarrow P[\langle u \rangle][\gamma] = P[\text{Bool}[]_* (\gamma^\uparrow)][\langle \text{Bool}[]_* (u[\gamma]) \rangle]$

Booleans in a weak CwF (ii)

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \alpha u : P[\langle u \rangle][\gamma] & = ([\circ]) \\
 P[\langle u \rangle \circ \gamma] & \equiv \\
 P[(\text{id}, [\text{id}]_* u) \circ \gamma] & = (, \circ) \\
 P[\text{id} \circ \gamma, [\circ]_* (([\text{id}], u)[\gamma])] & = (- [-] \text{ and transport}) \\
 P[\text{id} \circ \gamma, [\circ]_* ([\text{id}]_* (u[\gamma]))] & = (\text{idl}) \\
 P[\gamma, \text{idl}_* (([\circ]_* ([\text{id}]_* (u[\gamma]))) & = (\cdot *) \\
 P[\gamma, ([\text{id}] \cdot [\circ] \cdot \text{idl})_* (u[\gamma])] & \equiv \\
 P[\gamma, u[\gamma]] & \equiv \\
 P[\gamma, ([\text{id}] \cdot [\text{id}])_* (u[\gamma])] & = (\cdot *) \\
 P[\gamma, [\text{id}]_* ([\text{id}]_* (u[\gamma]))] & = (\multimap \beta_2) \\
 P[\gamma, [\text{id}]_* (([\circ] \cdot \multimap \beta_1)_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))] & \equiv \\
 P[\gamma, [\text{id}]_* (([\circ] \cdot [\circ] \cdot \text{ass} \cdot \multimap \beta_1 \cdot \text{idr} \cdot [\text{id}])_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))] & = (\cdot *) \\
 P[\gamma, ([\circ] \cdot [\circ] \cdot \text{ass} \cdot \multimap \beta_1 \cdot \text{idr} \cdot [\text{id}] \cdot [\text{id}])_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle])] & \equiv \\
 P[\gamma, ([\circ] \cdot [\circ] \cdot \text{ass} \cdot \multimap \beta_1 \cdot \text{idr})_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle])] & = (\cdot *) \\
 P[\gamma, \text{idr}_* (\multimap \beta_1_* (\text{ass}_* ([\circ]_* ([\circ]_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))) & = (\text{idr}) \\
 P[\gamma \circ \text{id}, \multimap \beta_1_* (\text{ass}_* ([\circ]_* ([\circ]_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))) & = (\multimap \beta_1) \\
 P[\gamma \circ (\text{p} \circ \langle u[\gamma] \rangle), \text{ass}_* ([\circ]_* ([\circ]_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))) & = (\text{ass}) \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}) \circ \langle u[\gamma] \rangle, [\circ]_* ([\circ]_* (\text{q}[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle]))] & = (- [-] \text{ and transport}) \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}) \circ \langle u[\gamma] \rangle, [\circ]_* (([\circ]_* \text{q})[\langle u[\gamma] \rangle])] & = (, \circ) \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}, [\circ]_* \text{q}) \circ \langle u[\gamma] \rangle] & \equiv \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}, [\circ]_* \text{q}) \circ ((\text{Bool}[] \cdot \text{Bool}[])_* (u[\gamma]))] & = (\cdot *) \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}, [\circ]_* \text{q}) \circ (\text{Bool}[]_* (\text{Bool}[]_* (u[\gamma])))] & = ((-) \text{ and transport}) \\
 P[(\gamma \circ \text{p}, [\circ]_* \text{q}) \circ \text{Bool}[], \langle \text{Bool}[] \rangle_* (u[\gamma])] & = (- \circ - \text{ and transport}) \\
 P[(\text{Bool}[]_* (\gamma \circ \text{p}, [\circ]_* \text{q})) \circ (\text{Bool}[]_* (u[\gamma]))] & \equiv \\
 P[(\text{Bool}[]_* (\gamma^\dagger)) \circ (\text{Bool}[]_* (u[\gamma]))] & = ([\circ]) \\
 P[\text{Bool}[]_* (\gamma^\dagger)][\langle \text{Bool}[] \rangle_* (u[\gamma])] &
 \end{array}$$

Substitution-strict booleans in a strict CwF

$\text{Bool} : \text{Ty } \Gamma$

$\text{Bool}[] : \text{Bool}[\gamma] \equiv \text{Bool}$

$\text{true} : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}$

$\text{true}[] : \text{true}[\gamma] \equiv \text{true}$

$\text{false} : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}$

$\text{false}[] : \text{false}[\gamma] \equiv \text{false}$

$\text{ind} : (P : \text{Ty } (\Gamma \triangleright \text{Bool})) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle \text{true} \rangle]) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle \text{false} \rangle]) \rightarrow$
 $(b : \text{Tm } \Gamma \text{ Bool}) \rightarrow \text{Tm } \Gamma (P[\langle b \rangle])$

$\text{ind}[] : (\text{ind } P \rho \rho' b)[\gamma] \equiv \text{ind } (P[\gamma^\uparrow]) (\rho[\gamma]) (\rho'[\gamma]) (b[\gamma])$

$\text{Bool}\beta_1 : \text{ind } P \rho \rho' \text{true} = \rho$

$\text{Bool}\beta_2 : \text{ind } P \rho \rho' \text{false} = \rho'$

Higher-order abstract syntax

- ▶ $\text{Psh}(C)$ is a CwF with Π types for any C
- ▶ if C is a model of type theory, then *internal to* $\text{Psh}(C)$ we have

$$\text{Ty} : \text{Set}, \quad \text{Tm} : \text{Ty} \rightarrow \text{Set}.$$

- ▶ if C supports Π , then this universe is closed under Π :

$$\Pi : (A : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow (\text{Tm } A \rightarrow \text{Ty}) \rightarrow \text{Ty}$$

- ▶ *internal to* $\text{Psh}(C)$, we define a model closed under the same type formers as C :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Con} & : \equiv \text{Set} & \text{Ty } \Gamma & : \equiv \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Ty} \\ \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma & : \equiv \Delta \rightarrow \Gamma & \text{Tm } \Gamma A & : \equiv (\gamma_{\bullet} : \Gamma) \rightarrow \text{Tm}(A \gamma_{\bullet}) \\ A[\gamma] & : \equiv A \circ \gamma & \Pi A B \gamma_{\bullet} & : \equiv \Pi (A \gamma_{\bullet}) (\lambda a_{\bullet}. B(\gamma_{\bullet}, a_{\bullet})) \end{array}$$

- ▶ This is a substitution-strict model, we call it the contextualisation of P .
- ▶ We would like to externalise.

HOAS externally, abstractly

- ▶ We assume P a strict CwF_Π . We think about it as $P \equiv \text{Psh}(C)$.
- ▶ A P -universe closed under Π and Bool is:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Ty} : \text{Con}_P & \Pi : \text{Sub}_P (\text{Ty} \triangleright \text{Tm} \Rightarrow \text{K Ty}) \text{Ty} \quad \dots \\ \text{Tm} : \text{Ty}_P \text{Ty} & \text{Bool} : \text{Sub}_P \diamond \text{Ty} \end{array}$$

- ▶ If $P \equiv \text{Psh}(C)$, then C with a P -universe is almost the same as a model.
- ▶ The P -contextualisation of a P -universe:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Con} & \equiv \text{Con}_P & \text{Ty } \Gamma & \equiv \text{Sub}_P \Gamma \text{ Ty} \\ \text{Sub } \Delta \Gamma & \equiv \text{Sub}_P \Delta \Gamma & \text{Tm } \Gamma A & \equiv \text{Tm}_P \Gamma (\text{Tm}[A]) \\ A[\gamma] & \equiv A \circ_P \gamma & \Pi A B & \equiv \Pi \circ_P (A, \text{lam}_P B) \end{array}$$

- ▶ Yoneda relates the syntax to the P -contextualisation model:

$$\begin{array}{ll} y : \text{Con}_1 \rightarrow \text{Con}_P & y : \text{Ty}_1 \Gamma \cong \text{Sub}_P (y \Gamma) \text{ Ty} \\ y : \text{Sub}_1 \Delta \Gamma \cong \text{Sub}_P (y \Delta) (y \Gamma) & y : \text{Tm}_1 \Gamma A \cong \text{Tm}_P (y \Gamma) (\text{Tm}[y A]) \end{array}$$

- ▶ Finally we replace Con_P with telescopes

$\mathcal{P} \equiv \text{Psh}(C)$ (presheaves)

- ▶ The CwF of presheaves is strict
 - ▶ This relies crucially on SProp
 - ▶ Needs a trick for Ty (notion of dependent presheaf):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Ty } \Gamma &\equiv (A : (I : C) \rightarrow \Gamma I \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \\ &\quad \times (-[-]_A : A I \gamma_I \rightarrow (f : C(J, I)) \rightarrow \gamma_I[f]_\Gamma = \gamma_J \rightarrow A J \gamma_J) \\ &\quad \times \text{functoriality}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Π is not strict:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi A B I \gamma_I &\equiv \text{Tm } (y I \triangleright A[y I \gamma_I]) (B[(y I \gamma_I)^\wedge]) \\ (\Pi A B)[\gamma] I \delta_I &\equiv \\ \Pi A B I (\gamma \delta_I) &\equiv \\ \text{Tm } (y I \triangleright A[y I (\gamma \delta_I)]) (B[(y I (\gamma \delta_I))^\wedge]) &= \\ \text{Tm } (y I \triangleright A[\gamma \circ y I \delta_I]) (B[(\gamma \circ y I \delta_I)^\wedge]) &\equiv \\ \Pi (A[\gamma]) (B[\gamma^\wedge]) I \delta_I &\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Π with locally representable domain has a similar problem

$P \equiv \text{Pfa}(C)$ (prefascist sets, Pédrot 2020)

- ▶ Prefascist sets come from a right Kan extension:

$$F : \text{Disc}(C) \rightarrow C \quad \text{Psh}(C) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F^*} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{F_*} \end{array} \text{Psh}(\text{Disc}(C))$$

$$|\text{Pfa}(C)| \equiv (\Gamma : C \rightarrow \text{Set}) \\ \times ((I : C) \rightarrow ((J : C) \rightarrow C(J, I) \rightarrow \Gamma J) \rightarrow \text{Prop})$$

- ▶ The CwF of prefascist sets is strict (except $\triangleright \eta : \text{id} = (p, q)$)
- ▶ Π is strict
- ▶ Yoneda can be defined

Application

- ▶ In Agda, we defined the QIT of the CwF-syntax of a type theory with Π and **Bool** with large elimination.
 - ▶ All equations are propositional.
 - ▶ We call it l .
- ▶ We formalised the CwF_{Π} of prefascist sets,
- ▶ defined the $Pfa(l)$ -universe.
- ▶ showed that l is isomorphic to the telescopic $Pfa(l)$ -contextualisation of the universe.
- ▶ We derived the elimination principle of our new syntax.
- ▶ We proved gluing-style canonicity.
 - ▶ The canonicity displayed model is substitution-strict.
 - ▶ Agda hangs when we try to compute with it.

Related work

- ▶ Logical frameworks (Harper–Honsell–Plotkin 1993): work in the internal language of a presheaf model, figure out how to do proofs in there
 - ▶ Same semantics as HOAS (Hofmann 1999), 2-level type theory (Annenkov–Capriotti–Kraus–Sattler 2023)
 - ▶ Synthetic Tait Computability (Sterling 2021), internal scoping (Bocquet–K.–Sattler 2023)
 - ▶ Talk by Kovács at the WG6 meeting
 - ▶ We are staying external, no special metatheory
- ▶ Generic strictification via conservativity of equality reflection (Hofmann 1995, Oury 2005, Winterhalter 2019)
- ▶ Local universe construction also provides more definitional equalities (Donkó–K. 2021)
- ▶ Other ad-hoc strictification methods:
 - ▶ Redefining $-[-]$ recursively (K. TYPES 2023)
 - ▶ Shallow embedding (K.–Kovács–Kraus 2019)

Summary

- ▶ We analysed Hofmann's semantics of HOAS in an intensional setting
- ▶ A method for strictifying substitutions in a model of type theory
- ▶ This eliminates the disadvantages of intrinsic syntax when compared to extrinsic syntax:
 - + more abstract
 - + more definitional equalities
 - explicit weakenings
- ▶ Future work
 - ▶ Conjecture: works for any SOGAT (Uemura 2023, K.–Xie 2024)
 - ▶ Without SProp?
 - ▶ Make it compute
 - ▶ Formalise larger type theories