#### Recent Work in Homotopy Type Theory

Steve Awodey Carnegie Mellon University

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## Introduction

- Homotopy Type Theory is a newly discovered connection between logic and topology, based on an interpretation of constructive type theory into homotopy theory.
- Univalent Foundations is a program for comprehensive foundations of mathematics based on HoTT.
- A large amount of mathematics has already been developed in this new foundational system, including some basic results in homotopy theory.
- Proofs are formalized and verified in an extension of the Coq proof assistant, suitably modified for UF.

# Type theory

Martin-Löf constructive type theory consists of:

- Types:  $X, Y, \ldots, A \times B, A \rightarrow B, \ldots$
- Terms:  $x : A, b : B, \langle a, b \rangle, \lambda x.b(x), \ldots$
- **Dependent Types**:  $x : A \vdash B(x)$ 
  - $\sum_{x:A} B(x)$  $\prod_{x:A} B(x)$
- Equations s = t : A

Intended as a foundation for constructive mathematics, but now also used extensively in programming languages.

# Propositions as Types

The system has a dual interpretation:

- once as mathematical objects: types are "sets" and their terms are "elements", which are being constructed,
- once as logical objects: types are "propositions" and their terms are "proofs", which are being derived.

This is also known as the Curry-Howard correspondence:

					$\prod_{x:A} B(x)$
Т	$A \lor B$	$A \wedge B$	$A \Rightarrow B$	$\exists_{x:A}B(x)$	$\forall_{x:A}B(x)$

Gives the system its constructive character.

#### Identity types

It's natural to add a primitive relation of identity between terms:

$$x, y : A \vdash \mathrm{Id}_A(x, y)$$

This type represents the **logical** proposition "x is identical to y". **Question:** What is the mathematical interpretation of  $Id_A(x, y)$ ? The **introduction** rule says that a : A is always identical to itself:

$$r(a)$$
 :  $Id_A(a, a)$ 

The **elimination** rule is a form of Lawvere's law:

$$\frac{c: \mathrm{Id}_{A}(a, b) \qquad x: A \vdash d(x): R(x, x, \mathbf{r}(x))}{\mathrm{J}_{d}(a, b, c): R(a, b, c)}$$

Schematically:

" 
$$a = b \& R(x, x) \Rightarrow R(a, b)$$
 "

#### The homotopy interpretation (Awodey-Warren)

Suppose we have terms of ascending identity types:

a, 
$$b : A$$
  
p,  $q : Id_A(a, b)$   
 $\alpha, \beta : Id_{Id_A(a,b)}(p,q)$   
...:  $Id_{Id_{Id_{...}}}(...)$ 

Consider the following interpretation:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{Types} & \rightsquigarrow & \mathsf{Spaces} \\ \mathsf{Terms} & \rightsquigarrow & \mathsf{Maps} \\ a:A & \rightsquigarrow & \mathsf{Points} \; a:1 \to A \\ p: \mathsf{Id}_A(a,b) & \rightsquigarrow & \mathsf{Paths} \; p:a \Rightarrow b \\ \alpha: \mathsf{Id}_{\mathsf{Id}_A(a,b)}(p,q) & \rightsquigarrow & \mathsf{Homotopies} \; \alpha:p \Rightarrow q \end{array}$$

The homotopy interpretation (Awodey-Warren)

This extends the topological interpretation of the (simply-typed)  $\lambda$ -calculus:

types  $\rightsquigarrow$  spaces terms  $\rightsquigarrow$  continuous functions

to (dependently-typed)  $\lambda$ -calculus with Id-types via the new idea:

 $p: \mathrm{Id}_X(a, b) \Leftrightarrow$ 

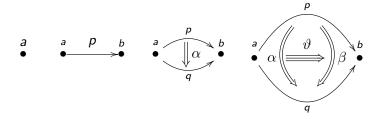
p is a path from point a to point b in the space X

This forces:

- dependent types to be *fibrations*,
- Id-types to be path spaces,
- general terms of Id-types to be homotopies.

# The fundamental groupoid of a type (Hofmann-Streicher)

Like path spaces in topology, identity types give each type the structure of a (higher-) groupoid:



The laws of identity are the groupoid operations:

$$r : \mathrm{Id}(a, a)$$
 reflexivity  $a \to a$   
 $s : \mathrm{Id}(a, b) \to \mathrm{Id}(b, a)$  symmetry  $a \stackrel{\leftarrow}{\to} b$   
 $t : \mathrm{Id}(a, b) \times \mathrm{Id}(b, c) \to \mathrm{Id}(a, c)$  transitivity  $a \to b \to c$ 

The groupoid equations only hold "up to homotopy".

## Fundamental $\infty$ -groupoids

The entire system of identity terms of all orders forms an infinite-dimensional graph, or **globular set**:

$$A \coloneqq \operatorname{Id}_A \coloneqq \operatorname{Id}_{\operatorname{Id}_A} \coloneqq \operatorname{Id}_{\operatorname{Id}_{\operatorname{Id}_A}} \coloneqq \dots$$

It has the structure of a (weak), infinite-dimensional, groupoid, as occurring homotopy theory:

Theorem (Lumsdaine, Garner & van den Berg, 2009) The system of identity terms of all orders over any fixed type is a weak  $\infty$ -groupoid.

Every type has a **fundamental weak**  $\infty$ -groupoid.

# Homotopy *n*-types (Voevodsky)

The universe of all types is stratified by homotopical truncation, which is logically definable.

A type X is called:

contractible iff  $\sum_{x:X} \prod_{y:X} \operatorname{Id}_X(x,y)$  is inhabited,

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A type X is called a:
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proposition iff  $Id_X(x, y)$  is contractible for all x, y : X, set iff  $Id_X(x, y)$  is a proposition for all x, y : X, 1-type iff  $Id_X(x, y)$  is a set for all x, y : X, (n+1)-type iff  $Id_X(x, y)$  is an *n*-type for all x, y : X.

We then let set = 0-type, and proposition = (-1)-type. This corresponds to the homotopical notion of **truncation**, the level at which the fundamental groupoid becomes trivial.

# Homotopy type theory: Summary

- Constructive type theory has an interpretation into homotopy theory.
- ► Logical methods capture some homotopical concepts: e.g. the fundamental ∞-groupoid of a space and the notion of a homotopy *n*-type are *logically definable*.
- ► Many basic results have already been formalized: Homotopy groups of spheres π<sub>k</sub>(S<sup>n</sup>), Hopf fibration, Freudenthal suspension theorem, Eilenberg–Mac Lane spaces, ...
- Other areas are being developed:
  - Foundations: quotient types, inductive types, cumulative hierarchy of sets, ...
  - Elementary mathematics: basic algebra, real numbers, cardinal arithmetic, ...
- Some new logical ideas are suggested by the homotopy interpretation: Higher inductive types, Univalence axiom.

# Higher inductive types (Lumsdaine-Shulman)

The natural numbers  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{N}}$  are implemented as an (ordinary) inductive type:

$$\mathbb{N} := \begin{cases} & \mathsf{0} : \mathbb{N} \\ & s : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

The recursion property is captured by an elimination rule:

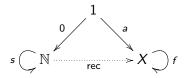
$$\frac{a: X \quad f: X \to X}{\operatorname{rec}(a, f): \mathbb{N} \to X}$$

with computation rules:

$$rec(a, f)(0) = a$$
$$rec(a, f)(sn) = f(rec(a, f)(n))$$

Higher inductive types (Lumsdaine-Shulman)

In other words,  $(\mathbb{N}, 0, s)$  is the **free** structure of this type:



The map  $rec(a, f) : \mathbb{N} \to X$  is unique.

Higher inductive types: The circle  $S^1$ 

The homotopical circle  $S = S^1$  can be given as an inductive type involving a "higher-dimensional" generator:

$$\mathbb{S} := \begin{cases} & \mathsf{base} : \mathbb{S} \\ & \mathsf{loop} : \mathsf{base} \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{base} \end{cases}$$

where we write "base  $\rightsquigarrow$  base" for "Id<sub>S</sub>(base, base)".

Higher inductive types: The circle  $S^1$ 

$$\mathbb{S} := \left\{egin{array}{cc} \mathsf{base} : \mathbb{S} \ \mathsf{loop} : \mathsf{base} \leadsto \mathsf{base} \end{array}
ight.$$

The recursion property of  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{S}}$  is given by its elimination rule:

$$\frac{a:X \quad p:a \rightsquigarrow a}{\operatorname{rec}(a,p):\mathbb{S} \to X}$$

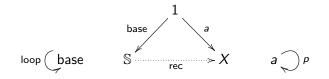
with computation rules:

$$rec(a, p)(base) = a$$
  
 $rec(a, p)(loop) = p$ 

(The map rec(a, p) acts on loop via the Id-elimination rule.)

Higher inductive types: The circle  $\mathbb{S}^1$ 

In other words, (S, base, loop) is the **free** structure of this type:



The map  $rec(a, p) : \mathbb{S} \to X$  is unique up to homotopy.

Higher inductive types: The circle  $S^1$ 

Here is a sanity check:

#### Theorem (Shulman 2011)

The type-theoretic circle  $\mathbb{S}$  has the correct homotopy groups:

$$\pi_n(\mathbb{S}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}, & \text{if } n = 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } n \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

The proof has been formalized in Coq. It combines classical homotopy theory with methods from constructive type theory, and uses Voevodsky's Univalence Axiom.

# Higher inductive types: The interval I

The unit interval  $\mathbb{I}=[0,1]$  is also an inductive type, on the data:

$$\mathbb{I} := \begin{cases} 0, 1 : \mathbb{I} \\ p : 0 \rightsquigarrow 1 \end{cases}$$

again writing  $0 \rightsquigarrow 1$  for the type  $Id_{\mathbb{I}}(0,1)$ .

#### Slogan:

*In classical topology* we start with the **interval** and use it to define the notion of a **path**.

*In HoTT* we start with the notion of a **path**, and use it to define the **interval**.

# Higher inductive types: Conclusion

Many basic spaces and constructions can be introduced as HITs:

- higher spheres  $S^n$ , cylinders, tori, cell complexes, ...,
- suspensions  $\Sigma A$ ,
- homotopy pullbacks, pushouts, etc.,
- ▶ truncations, such as connected components π<sub>0</sub>(A) and "bracket" types [A],
- quotients by equivalence relations, and more general quotients
- higher homotopy groups, Eilenberg-Mac Lane spaces, Postnikov systems
- Quillen model structure.

These are mostly ad hoc — the general theory is still a work in progress.

#### Univalence

Voevodsky has proposed a new foundational axiom to be added to HoTT: the **Univalence Axiom**.

- It captures the informal practice of identifying isomorphic objects.
- ► It is formally **incompatible** with set theoretic foundations.
- It is formally consistent with homotopy type theory.
- It has powerful consequences, especially together with HITs.

# Isomorphism and Equivalence

The notion of *type isomorphism*  $A \cong B$  is definable as usual:

$$A \cong B \Leftrightarrow$$
 there are  $f : A \to B$  and  $g : B \to A$   
such that  $gfx = x$  and  $fgy = y$ .

Formally, there is a type of isomorphisms:

$$\operatorname{Iso}(A,B) := \sum_{f:A \to B} \sum_{g:B \to A} \left( \prod_{x:A} \operatorname{Id}_A(gfx,x) \times \prod_{y:B} \operatorname{Id}_B(fgy,y) \right)$$

We say that  $A \cong B$  if this type is inhabited by a closed term, which is then an isomorphism between A and B.

# Isomorphism and Equivalence

► There is also a more refined notion of *equivalence* of types,

$$A \simeq B$$

which adds a further "coherence" condition relating the *proofs* of gfx = x and fgy = y.

- Under the homotopy interpretation, this is the type of homotopy equivalences between the spaces A and B.
- Depending on the *n*-type of *A* and *B*, this also subsumes:
  - categorical equivalence (n = 1),
  - isomorphism of sets (n = 0),
  - logical equivalence (n = -1).

#### Univalence

Question: How is equivalence related to *identity of types*?

To reason about identity of types, we need a *type universe*  $\mathcal{U}$ , with an identity type:

$$\operatorname{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(A,B)$$

Since *identity implies equivalence*, there is a comparison map:

$$\operatorname{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(A,B) \to (A \simeq B).$$

The Univalence Axiom asserts that this map is an equivalence:

$$\operatorname{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(A,B) \simeq (A \simeq B)$$
 (UA)

It can thus be stated: "Identity is equivalent to equivalence."

# The Univalence Axiom: Remarks

Since UA is an equivalence, there is a map coming back:

$$\mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{U}}(A,B) \longleftarrow (A \simeq B)$$

#### So equivalent objects are identical.

(In particular, isomorphic sets, groups, etc., get identified.)

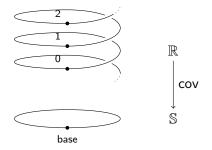
• UA is *equivalent* to the following **invariance property**:

 $A \simeq B$  and P(A) implies P(B),

for all definable properties P(-) of types.

- UA is incompatible with the assumption that everything is a set (0-type), but it is consistent with general HoTT.
- ► The **computational character** of UA is an open question.

To compute the fundamental group of the circle  $\mathbb{S},$  we first construct the universal cover:



This will be a dependent type over S, i.e. a type family

$$\operatorname{cov}: \mathbb{S} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}.$$

To define a type family

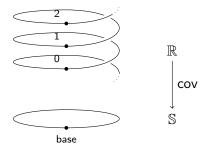
$$\operatorname{cov}: \mathbb{S} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U},$$

by the recursion property of the circle, we just need the following data:

- ▶ a point A : U
- a loop  $p: A \rightsquigarrow A$

We have:

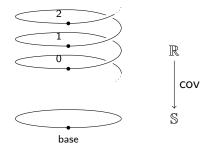
- For the point A we take the integers  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
- By UA, to give a loop p : Z → Z in U, it suffices to give an equivalence Z ≃ Z.
- Since Z is a set, equivalences are just isomorphisms, so we can take the successor function succ : Z ≃ Z.



#### Definition (Universal Cover of $\mathbb{S}^1$ )

The dependent type cov :  $\mathbb{S} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is given by circle-recursion, with:

$$cov(base) := \mathbb{Z}$$
  
 $cov(loop) := ua(succ).$ 



Then, as usual, we can define the "winding number" of a path p : base  $\rightsquigarrow$  base to give a map

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wind : (base \rightsquigarrow base) \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z},
```

which is inverse to the map  $z \mapsto \mathsf{loop}^z$ .

#### The formal proof

```
(** * Theorems about the circle S^1. *)
Require Import Overture PathGroupoids Equivalences Trunc HSet.
Require Import Paths Forall Arrow Universe Empty Unit.
Local Open Scope path_scope.
Local Open Scope equiv scope.
Generalizable Variables X A B f g n.
(* *** Definition of the circle. *)
Module Export Circle.
Local Inductive S1 : Type :=
| base : S1.
Axiom loop : base = base.
Definition S1_rect (P : S1 -> Type) (b : P base) (l : loop # b = b)
  : forall (x:S1), P x
  := fun x => match x with base => h end.
Axiom S1_rect_beta_loop
  : forall (P : S1 -> Type) (b : P base) (1 : loop # b = b).
 apD (S1_rect P b 1) loop = 1.
End Circle
```

```
(* *** The non-dependent eliminator *)
Definition S1 rectnd (P : Type) (b : P) (1 : b = b)
  : S1 -> P
  := S1 rect (fun => P) b (transport const @ 1).
Definition S1_rectnd_beta_loop (P : Type) (b : P) (1 : b = b)
  : ap (S1_rectnd P b 1) loop = 1.
Proof
 unfold S1 rectnd.
 refine (cancelL (transport_const loop b) _ _ _).
 refine ((apD const (S1 rect (fun => P) b ) loop)^ @ ).
 refine (S1_rect_beta_loop (fun _ => P) _ _).
Defined.
(* *** The loop space of the circle is the Integers. *)
(* First we define the appropriate integers. *)
Inductive Pos : Type :=
l one : Pos
| succ pos : Pos -> Pos.
Definition one_neq_succ_pos (z : Pos) : ~ (one = succ_pos z)
  := fun p => transport (fun s => match s with one => Unit | succ pos t => Empty end) p tt.
Definition succ_pos_injective {z w : Pos} (p : succ_pos z = succ_pos w) : z = w
  := transport (fun s => z = (match s with one => w | succ pos a => a end)) p (idpath z).
Inductive Int : Type :=
| neg : Pos -> Int
| zero : Int
| pos : Pos -> Int.
```

```
Definition neg_injective {z w : Pos} (p : neg z = neg w) : z = w
  := transport (fun s => z = (match s with neg a => a | zero => w | pos a => w end)) p (idpath z).
Definition pos_injective {z w : Pos} (p : pos z = pos w) : z = w
  := transport (fun s => z = (match s with neg a => w | zero => w | pos a => a end)) p (idpath z).
Definition neg_neq_zero {z : Pos} : ~ (neg z = zero)
  := fun p => transport (fun s => match s with neg a => z = a | zero => Empty
  | pos => Empty end) p (idpath z).
Definition pos_neq_zero {z : Pos} : ~ (pos z = zero)
  := fun p => transport (fun s => match s with pos a => z = a
  | zero => Empty | neg => Empty end) p (idpath z).
Definition neg_neq_pos {z w : Pos} : ~ (neg z = pos w)
  := fun p => transport (fun s => match s with neg a => z = a
  | zero => Empty | pos _ => Empty end) p (idpath z).
(* And prove that they are a set. *)
Instance hset int : IsHSet Int.
Proof
 apply hset_decidable.
 intros [n | | n] [m | | m].
 revert m: induction n as [|n IHn]: intros m: induction m as [|m IHm].
 exact (inl 1).
 exact (inr (fun p => one_neq_succ_pos _ (neg_injective p))).
 exact (inr (fun p => one neg succ pos (symmetry (neg injective p)))).
 destruct (IHn m) as [p | np].
 exact (inl (ap neg (ap succ_pos (neg_injective p)))).
 exact (inr (fun p => np (ap neg (succ_pos_injective (neg_injective p))))).
 exact (inr neg neg zero).
 exact (inr neg_neq_pos).
 exact (inr (neg_neq_zero o symmetry _ _)).
 exact (inl 1).
```

```
exact (inr (pos_neq_zero o symmetry _ _)).
 exact (inr (neg neg pos o symmetry )).
 exact (inr pos neg zero).
 revert m; induction n as [|n IHn]; intros m; induction m as [|m IHm].
 exact (inl 1)
 exact (inr (fun p => one neg succ pos (pos injective p))).
 exact (inr (fun p => one_neq_succ_pos _ (symmetry _ _ (pos_injective p)))).
 destruct (IHn m) as [p | np].
 exact (inl (ap pos (ap succ_pos (pos_injective p)))).
 exact (inr (fun p => np (ap pos (succ_pos_injective (pos_injective p))))).
Defined.
(* Successor is an autoequivalence of [Int]. *)
Definition succ int (z : Int) : Int
  := match z with
       | neg (succ_pos n) => neg n
      | neg one => zero
       | zero => pos one
       | pos n => pos (succ_pos n)
    end.
Definition pred int (z : Int) : Int
  := match z with
       | neg n => neg (succ pos n)
       | zero => neg one
       | pos one => zero
       | pos (succ pos n) => pos n
    end
Instance isequiv_succ_int : IsEquiv succ_int
  := isequiv adjointify succ int pred int .
Proof
  intros [[|n] | | [|n]]; reflexivity.
 intros [[|n] | | [|n]]: reflexivity.
Defined
```

```
(* Now we do the encode/decode. *)
Section AssumeUnivalence.
Context '{Univalence} '{Funext}.
Definition S1 code : S1 -> Type
  := S1 rectnd Type Int (path universe succ int).
(* Transporting in the codes fibration is the successor autoequivalence. *)
Definition transport_S1_code_loop (z : Int)
  : transport S1_code loop z = succ_int z.
Proof
 refine (transport_compose idmap S1_code loop z @ _).
 unfold S1_code; rewrite S1_rectnd_beta_loop.
 apply transport_path_universe.
Defined
Definition transport S1 code loopV (z : Int)
  : transport S1_code loop^ z = pred_int z.
Proof.
 refine (transport_compose idmap S1_code loop^ z @ _).
 rewrite ap V.
 unfold S1_code; rewrite S1_rectnd_beta_loop.
 rewrite <- path_universe_V.
  apply transport path universe.
Defined
```

```
(* Encode by transporting *)
Definition S1 encode (x:S1) : (base = x) \rightarrow S1 code x
  := fun p => p # zero.
(* Decode by iterating loop. *)
Fixpoint loopexp {A : Type} {x : A} (p : x = x) (n : Pos) : (x = x)
  := match n with
       | one => p
       | succ_pos n => loopexp p n @ p
     end.
Definition looptothe (z : Int) : (base = base)
  := match z with
       | neg n => loopexp (loop^) n
       | zero => 1
       | pos n => loopexp (loop) n
     end
Definition S1_decode (x:S1) : S1_code x -> (base = x).
Proof.
 revert x: refine (S1 rect (fun x => S1 code x -> base = x) looptothe ).
 apply path_forall; intros z; simpl in z.
 refine (transport_arrow _ _ _ @ _).
 refine (transport paths r loop @ ).
 rewrite transport_S1_code_loopV.
 destruct z as [[|n] | | [|n]]; simpl.
 by apply concat_pV_p.
 by apply concat_pV_p.
 by apply concat_Vp.
 by apply concat_1p.
 reflexivity.
Defined.
```

(\* The nontrivial part of the proof that decode and encode are equivalences is showing that decoding followed by encoding is the identity on the fibers over [base]. \*)

```
Definition S1 encode looptothe (z:Int)
  : S1_encode base (looptothe z) = z.
Proof
 destruct z as [n | | n]; unfold S1 encode.
 induction n; simpl in *.
 refine (moveR_transport_V _ loop _ _ _).
 by apply symmetry, transport_S1_code_loop.
 rewrite transport_pp.
 refine (moveR_transport_V _ loop _ _ _).
 refine ( @ (transport S1 code loop )^).
 assumption.
 reflexivity.
 induction n: simpl in *.
 by apply transport_S1_code_loop.
 rewrite transport_pp.
 refine (moveR_transport_p _ loop _ _ _).
 refine ( @ (transport S1 code loopV )^).
 assumption.
Defined.
```

```
(* Now we put it together. *)
Definition S1_encode_isequiv (x:S1) : IsEquiv (S1_encode x).
Proof.
refine (isequiv_adjointify (S1_encode x) (S1_decode x) _ _).
(* Here we induct on [x:S1]. We just did the case when [x] is [base]. *)
refine (S1_rect (fun x => Sect (S1_decode x) (S1_encode x))
S1_encode_looptothe _ _).
(* What remains is easy since [Int] is known to be a set. *)
by apply path_forall; intros z; apply set_path2.
(* The other side is trivial by path induction. *)
intros []; reflexivity.
Defined.
Definition equiv loopS1 int : (base = base) <> Int
```

```
:= BuildEquiv _ _ (S1_encode base) (S1_encode_isequiv base).
```

End AssumeUnivalence.

# Univalent Foundations: Summary

- Explicit logical foundations are now *feasible*, because computers can take over what was once too tedious or complicated to be done by hand.
- Formalization can provide a *practical tool* for working mathematicians: increased certainty and precision, supports collaborative work, cumulativity of results, searchable library of code, ... Mathematics could eventually be fully formalized.
- UF uses a "synthetic" method involving high-level axiomatics and direct, structural descriptions; allows shorter, more abstract proofs; closer to mathematical practice than the "analytic" method of ZFC.
- Use of UA is very powerful.

References and Further Information

General information:

www.HomotopyTypeTheory.org

Current state of the Univalent Foundations Program:

uf-ias-2012.wikispaces.com

The Book:

Homotopy Type Theory: Univalent Foundations of Mathematics

# Homotopy Type Theory

Univalent Foundations of Mathematics

