

An Authoritarian Approach to Presheaves

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INRIA

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Good Properties We Love

Consistency There is no proof of False.

Implementability Type-checking is decidable.

Canonicity Closed integers are indeed integers, i.e

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Assuming we have a notion of reduction compatible with conversion:

Normalization Reduction is normalizing

Subject reduction Reduction is compatible with typing

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Some of these properties are interdependent

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PRESHEAVES!

- Bread and Butter of Model Construction
- Proof-relevant Kripke semantics
- a.k.a. Intuitionistic Forcing

A Bit of Categorical Nonsense

Definition

Let \mathbb{P} be a category. A presheaf over \mathbb{P} is just a functor $\mathbb{P}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$.

(In what follows we will fix the base category \mathbb{P} once and for all.)

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Bear with me, we will handwave through this in the next slides.

All Your Base Category Are Belong to Us

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Objects: A presheaf $(\mathbf{A}, \theta_{\mathbf{A}})$ is given by

- A family of \mathbb{P} -indexed sets $\mathbf{A}_p : \mathbf{Set}$
- A family of “restriction morphisms”

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s.t. given $x \in \mathbf{A}_p$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{P}(q, p)$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{P}(r, q)$:

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“Lowering is compatible with the structure of \mathbb{P} ”

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- which is natural, i.e. given $x \in \mathbf{A}_p$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{P}(q, p)$

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“ f is compatible with restriction”

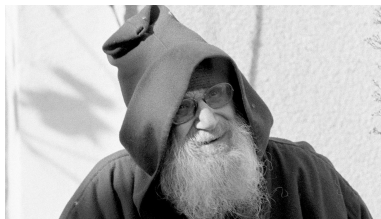
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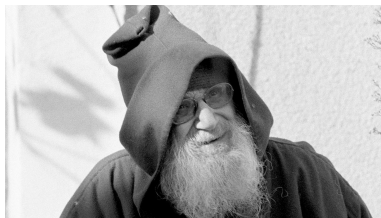


“Speak, friend, and pullback.”

Merely a categorical curse word

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For our purposes, that means that

- $\mathbf{Psh}(\mathbb{P})$ is some kind of type theory
- ... in particular, it contains the simply-typed λ -calculus

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As usual:

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$$\vdash M : A \rightsquigarrow \llbracket M \rrbracket \in \mathbf{Nat}(1, \llbracket A \rrbracket)$$

I won't give further details here. One remark though.

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Yet another ~~set-theoretical~~ model!

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Phenomenological Law

Set-theoretical models suck.

Syntactic Models



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- Takes syntax as input.
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“By Jove, this is a *compiler*!”

This is a folklore in the Curry-Howard community.

On Curry-Howard Poetry

Usual models are more like **interpreters**.

No separation between $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{implementation} \\ \text{meta} \end{array} \right\}$ vs. $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{host} \\ \text{target} \end{array} \right\}$ languages

$$\vdash_S A \xrightarrow{\text{meta}} \models_{\mathcal{M}} A$$

Notably, $\models_{\mathcal{M}}$ lives in the semantical world.

Example: NbE, external realizability.

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Syntactic models are proper **compilers**.

Target and meta languages are **clearly distinct**.

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We will be interested in instances where \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{T} are type theories.

Syntactic Models, Details

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Step 3: Expand \mathcal{S} by going down to the \mathcal{T} *assembly language*, implementing new terms through the $[\cdot]$ translation.

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Yet, a lot of nice consequences.

- Does not require non-type-theoretical foundations (*monism*)
- Can be implemented in Coq (*software monism*)
- Easy to show (relative) consistency, look at $\llbracket \text{False} \rrbracket$
- Inherit properties from CIC: computability, decidability, **implementation...**

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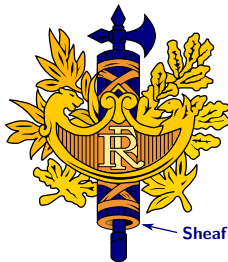
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PRESHEAVES!

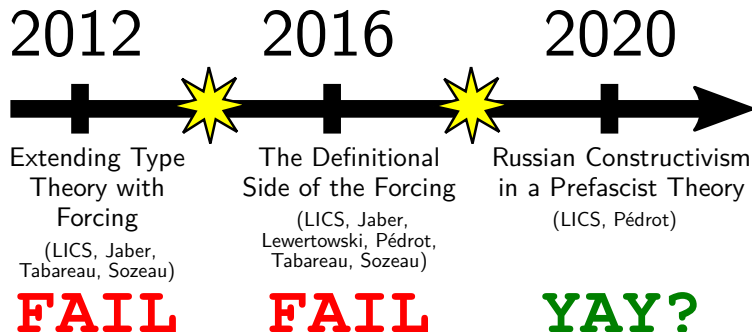
“Is it possible to see the presheaf construction as a syntactic model?”



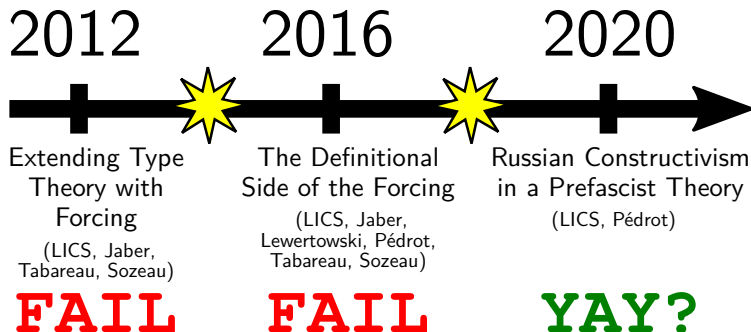
FRENCH COAT OF ARMS

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It is the journey, not the destination

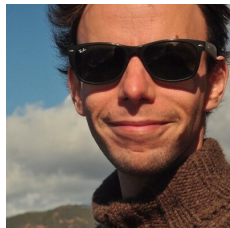
2012

(We were warned.)

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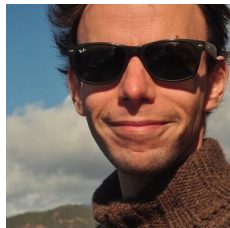
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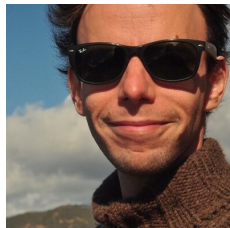
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Replace **Set** everywhere with **CIC**.

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What could possibly go wrong?

Close Encounters of the Third Type

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And voilà, the Great Typification is an utter success!

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... except that equations are propositional !!!

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“The Coherence Hell”

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Thus the target theory must be **EXTENSIONAL**

That Was Not My Intension

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No True Scotsman

Syntactic models into ETT are not really syntactic models[†].

That Was Not My Intension



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(†) To be more precise, I believe that ETT is not really a type theory.

2016

(Make conversion great again, and break everything else.)

Squaring the Circle

(Me to Guilhem, Nicolas and Matthieu, some time before defending PhD.)

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— What on earth does that even mean?

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Kripke models factorize through CBPV.

$$\begin{array}{lll} X & \text{computation type} & \mapsto \llbracket X \rrbracket^c : |\mathbb{P}| \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} \\ A & \text{value type} & \mapsto \llbracket A \rrbracket^v : \mathbf{Fun}(\mathbb{P}^{op}, \mathbf{Set}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket A \rightarrow X \rrbracket_p^c &:= \llbracket A \rrbracket_p^v \rightarrow \llbracket X \rrbracket_p^c \\ \llbracket \mathcal{F} A \rrbracket_p^c &:= |\llbracket A \rrbracket_p^v| \end{aligned}$$

$$\llbracket \mathcal{U} X \rrbracket_p^v := \prod (q : \mathbb{P}) (\alpha : q \leq p). \llbracket X \rrbracket_q^c \quad (\text{free functoriality})$$

$$\theta_{\llbracket \mathcal{U} X \rrbracket^v} (\alpha : q \leq p) (x : \llbracket \mathcal{U} X \rrbracket_p^v) := \lambda (r : \mathbb{P}) (\beta : r \leq q). x \, r \, (\alpha \circ \beta)$$

More Than One Way to Do It

Theorem

Kripke models factorize through CBPV.

Canonical embeddings of λ -calculus into CBPV:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{CBN} & (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)^{\mathbf{N}} & := \mathcal{U} \sigma^{\mathbf{N}} \rightarrow \tau^{\mathbf{N}} \quad (\text{a computation type}) \\ \text{CBV} & (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)^{\mathbf{V}} & := \mathcal{U} (\sigma^{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \tau^{\mathbf{V}}) \quad (\text{a value type}) \end{array}$$

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Thus, composing the CBV embedding with the “Kripke” interpretation:

$$\llbracket (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)^V \rrbracket_p^v := \Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \llbracket \sigma^V \rrbracket_q^v \rightarrow \llbracket \tau^V \rrbracket_q^v$$

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This is the presheaf interpretation of arrows! (up to naturality)**

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In particular, they only satisfy the CBV equational theory generated by

$$(\lambda x. t) \textcolor{red}{V} \equiv_{\beta\textcolor{red}{v}} t\{x := \textcolor{red}{V}\}$$

because

$$t \equiv_{\beta\textcolor{red}{v}} u \longrightarrow t^{\mathbf{V}} \equiv_{\text{CBPV}} u^{\mathbf{V}} \longrightarrow [t^{\mathbf{V}}]_p \equiv_{\mathcal{T}} [u^{\mathbf{V}}]_p$$

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Folklore

Call-by-name is not call-by-value!

If There is No Solution, There is No Problem

Easy solution! Pick the CBN decomposition instead.

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There is a syntactic presheaf model of CC^ω into CIC.

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$$\begin{aligned} \vdash_{CC^\omega} A : \Box &\longrightarrow p : \mathbb{P} \vdash_{CIC} [A]_p : \Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \Box \\ \vdash_{CC^\omega} M : A &\longrightarrow p : \mathbb{P} \vdash_{CIC} [M]_p : [A]_p \text{ } p \text{ id}_p \\ \vdash_{CC^\omega} M \equiv N &\longrightarrow p : \mathbb{P} \vdash_{CIC} [M]_p \equiv [N]_p \end{aligned}$$

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in general $\not\models \Pi(P : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \square). P \text{ tt} \rightarrow P \text{ ff} \rightarrow \Pi(b : \mathbb{B}). P b$

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because there are **non-standard** booleans.

It only validates it for specific predicates P

$\vdash P \text{ tt} \rightarrow P \text{ ff} \rightarrow \Pi(b : \mathbb{B}). P b$ if P strict

- Any predicate P can be made strict canonically (using storage operators)
- In presence of dep. elim. strictification is the identity

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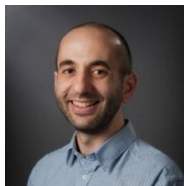
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The Proverbial Paul

CBPV Folklore

- In effectful CBV, functions are not functions. (no substitution)
- In effectful CBN, inductive types are not inductive types. (no dep. elim.)

Conclusion of the Episode II

Good News

This is one of the first reasonable example of dependent effects.

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Bad News

We still don't have a syntactic presheaf model.



INTERLUDE



In the meantime we worked quite a bit on effectful type theories

- Weaning translation
- Baclofen Type Theory
- Exceptional Type Theory
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This helped us understand what we first missed!

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Categorical presheaves form a model of the whole λ -calculus.

... in particular, it does interpret full β -conversion (although extensionally).

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \llbracket A \rrbracket_q & \xrightarrow{f_q \alpha} & \llbracket B \rrbracket_q \\ \theta_A \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \theta_B \beta \\ \llbracket A \rrbracket_r & \xrightarrow{f_r (\alpha \circ \beta)} & \llbracket B \rrbracket_r \end{array}$$

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- We do not have an equivalent in our CBN interpretation
- Isn't this some ad-hoc trick?

Completely Unrelated Slide

Consider an effectful CBV λ -calculus.

Definition (Führmann '99)

A term $t : A$ is said to be **thunkable** if it satisfies the equation

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Theorem (Folklore Realizability)

The sublanguage of hereditarily thunkable terms satisfies full β -conversion.

$$f \Vdash A \rightarrow B \quad := \quad \forall u. \quad u \Vdash A \quad \longrightarrow \quad f \text{ } u \text{ } \text{thk} \quad \wedge \quad f \text{ } u \Vdash B$$

Presheaves Are (Pure) Call-By-Value!

Theorem

A term $x : A \vdash t : B$ is thunkable in the Kripke semantics iff $[t]_p$ is natural.

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Literal unfolding of the definitions.



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$\text{Psh}(\mathbb{P})$ is the “pure” subcategory of an effectful CBV language!

- This is a systematic construction.
- Unfortunately it relies on extensionality.
- We *know* how to port this to the CBN setting **intensionally**.

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The CBN equivalent is parametricity!

Syntactic Models For Free

Bernardy-Lasson '11

There is a well-known parametricity interpretation for type theory

$$\Gamma \vdash_{\text{CIC}} M : A \quad \longrightarrow \quad \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} \vdash_{\text{CIC}} \llbracket M \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} : \llbracket A \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} M$$

where $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} := \cdot$ and $\llbracket \Gamma, x : A \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} := \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_{\varepsilon}, x : A, x_{\varepsilon} : \llbracket A \rrbracket_{\varepsilon} x$

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Bernardy-Lasson is parametricity over identity.

On Parametric Presheaves

What does parametricity look like on the CBN presheaf model?

$$x : \mathbb{B} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x : (\Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \mathbb{B}) \\ x_\varepsilon : \mathbb{B}_\varepsilon \quad p \quad x \end{array} \right.$$

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But we also critically need to be compatible with the presheaf structure!

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 Guess what? The CBV vs. CBN conundrum is back. 

Trouble All The Way Up

This is exactly the CBV vs. CBN conundrum **one level higher**

Either you pick $\mathbb{B}_\varepsilon p x := (x = \lambda q \alpha. \mathbf{tt}) + (x = \lambda q \alpha. \mathbf{ff})$

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Or you freeify $\mathbb{B}_\varepsilon p x := \Pi q \alpha. (\alpha \cdot x = \lambda r \beta. \mathbf{tt}) + (\alpha \cdot x = \lambda r \beta. \mathbf{ff})$

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It is not possible to get both at the same time in CIC!

Playing Cubes

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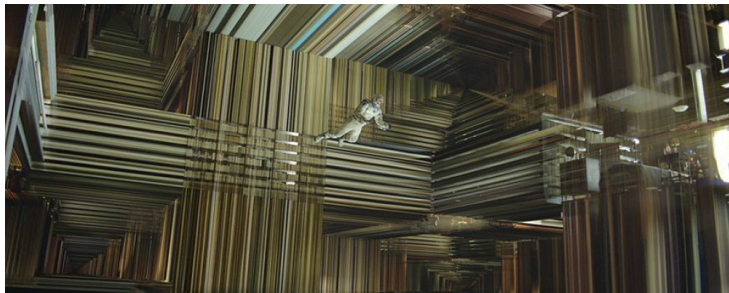


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Playing Cubes

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"Oh noes, not cubical type theory again!"

But CuTT itself is justified by presheaf models.

What would be the point to implement presheaves using presheaves?



(On the virtues of Authoritarianism.)

A New Hope

Essentially, we were blocked on this issue since then. When suddenly...

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They introduce a new sort `SProp` of **strict propositions**.

$$M, N : A : \text{SProp} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vdash M \equiv N$$

- It can be seen as a well-behaved subset of `Prop`
- It is compatible with `HoTT`
- It enjoys all good syntactic properties (SN, canonicity, decidability...)
- `Coq` has it impredicative, `Agda` has a parallel hierarchy `SPropi`

Strict Propositions

Critically, \mathbf{SProp} is closed under products.

$$\vdash A : \square, \quad x : A \vdash B : \mathbf{SProp} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vdash \Pi(x : A). B : \mathbf{SProp}$$

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Accepting the elimination of \mathbf{eq} gives rise to a **strict equality**.

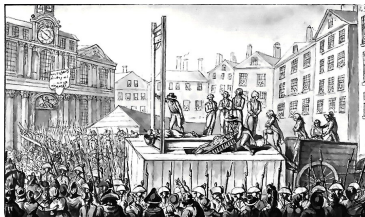
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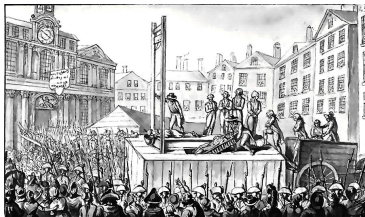


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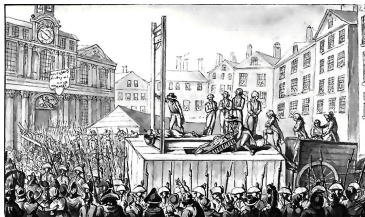
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Strict equality is the authoritarian way to solve the coherence hell.

(By default, $\mathcal{S}Prop$ as implemented in Coq doesn't take side, you have to opt-in.)

Strict Parametricity

In the parametric presheaf translation,

- make the parametricity predicate free \rightsquigarrow **definitional functoriality**
- require it to be a strict proposition \rightsquigarrow **proof uniqueness**

$$x : A \quad \longrightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x : (\Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \llbracket A \rrbracket_q) \\ x_\varepsilon : (\Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \llbracket A \rrbracket_\varepsilon \, q \, (\alpha \cdot x)) \end{array} \right.$$

where critically $\llbracket A \rrbracket_\varepsilon \, p \, x : \mathbf{SProp}$.

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We call the result the **prefascist translation**. (lat. *fascis* : sheaf)

Theorem (Pédrot '20)

The prefascist translation is a syntactic model of CIC into $\mathfrak{s}\text{CIC}$.

- Full conversion, full dependent elimination.
- The actual construction is a tad involved, but boils down to the above.
- Unsurprisingly, UIP is required to interpret universes (tricky!).

\mathfrak{s} CIC is way weaker than ETT

\mathfrak{s} CIC is **conjectured** to enjoy the usual good syntactic properties.

- Canonicity seems relatively easy to show
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We don't rely on impredicativity in the prefascist model

We would inherit the purported good properties \mathfrak{s} CIC for free.

Set is a model of \mathfrak{sCIC}

Thus, the prefascist model can also be described set-theoretically.

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A prefascist set $\mathcal{A} := (\mathcal{A}_p, (-) \Vdash_p \mathcal{A})$ over a category \mathbb{P} is given by

- a family of sets \mathcal{A}_p for $p \in \mathbb{P}$.
- a family of predicates $(-) \Vdash_p \mathcal{A} \subseteq \text{Cone}_p(\mathcal{A}) := \Pi(q : \mathbb{P})(\alpha : q \leq p). \mathcal{A}_q$

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A prefascist morphism f from \mathcal{A} to \mathcal{B} is

- a family of functions $f_p : \text{El}_p \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_p$
- preserving predicates, i.e.

$$\forall x : \text{El}_p \mathcal{A}. \quad \text{app}_p(f, x) \Vdash_p \mathcal{B}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{El}_p \mathcal{A} &:= \{x : \text{Cone}_p(\mathcal{A}) \mid \forall q(\alpha : q \leq p). (\alpha \cdot x) \Vdash_q \mathcal{A}\} \\ \text{app}_p(f, x) &:= \lambda q(\alpha : q \leq p). f_q(\alpha \cdot x) \end{aligned}$$

Through The Looking Glass

Theorem

*Prefascist sets over \mathbb{P} form a category $\mathbf{Pfs}(\mathbb{P})$ with **definitional** laws.*

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Proving this requires extensionality principles!

- Hence, in a set-theoretical meta, both describe the same objects
- Yet, $\mathbf{Pfs}(\mathbb{P})$ is better behaved in an intensional setting
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Takeaway: prefascist sets are a better presentation of presheaves

Application



Russian Constructivism

Russian Constructivist School

A splinter group of constructivists, whose core tenet can be summarized as:

Proofs are Kleene realizers

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Thus, the principle that puts it apart both from Brouwer **and** Bishop:

Markov's Principle (MP)

$$\forall (f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}). \neg \neg (\exists n: \mathbb{N}. f\ n = \mathbf{tt}) \rightarrow \exists n: \mathbb{N}. f\ n = \mathbf{tt}$$

- A lot of equivalent statements, e.g. a TM that doesn't loop terminates
- Semi-classical: $\mathbf{HA}^\omega \subsetneq \mathbf{HA}^\omega + \text{MP} \subsetneq \mathbf{PA}^\omega$
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What if we tried to extend CIC with MP through a syntactic model?

Let's look at the realizer

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```
let mp f _ :=  
  let n := ref 0 in  
  while true do  
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We need something else...

What Else?



Not one, but at least **two** alternatives!



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- Coquand-Hofmann's syntactic model for $\mathbf{HA}^\omega + \mathbf{MP}$
- Herbelin's direct style proof using static exceptions

$$\text{mp } (p : \neg\neg(\exists n. f \, n = \mathbf{tt})) := \\ \text{try}_\alpha \perp_e (p \, (\lambda k. k \, (\lambda n. \text{raise}_\alpha \, n))) \text{ with } \alpha \, n \mapsto n$$

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In the remainder, we'll show that

- Coquand-Hofmann's model scales to CIC
- It can be presented as the composition of two translations
- It has the same computational content as Herbelin's proof

High-level view

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The secret sauce is that the exception type depends on the current p

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Instead, we present our CIC variant synthetically as the composition

$$\text{CIC} \xrightarrow{\text{Exn}} \text{CIC} + \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\text{Pfs}} \mathfrak{s}\text{CIC}$$

where

- **Pfs** is the prefascist model described before
- **Exn** is the exceptional model, a CIC-worthy A -translation

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \vdash_{\mathcal{S}} A : \Box & \longrightarrow \vdash_{\mathcal{T}} [A] := ([A], [A]_{\emptyset}) : \Sigma A_0 : \Box. (\mathcal{E} \rightarrow A_0) \\ \vdash_{\mathcal{S}} M : A & \longrightarrow \vdash_{\mathcal{T}} [M] : [A] \end{array}$$

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Theorem

Provided there is no closed $M : \mathcal{E}$ in the target theory, the source theory enjoys canonicity. In particular, it is consistent.

Somebody Set Up Us The Bomb

We perform the exceptional translation over an **exotic** type of exceptions

$$\text{CIC} \xrightarrow{\text{Exn}} \text{CIC} + \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\text{Pfs}} \mathfrak{s}\text{CIC}$$

\mathcal{E} exists in the prefascist model over $\mathbb{P} := \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$.

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$$\mathcal{E}_p := \Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \mathbf{ff} = \mathbf{tt} \quad \text{for } p \text{ constantly } \mathbf{ff}$$

(We **do not** have $\vdash_{\text{CIC} + \mathcal{E}} \neg \mathcal{E}$ though.)

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Therefore, the leftmost source theory is consistent.

Realizing MP

We also have a modality in $\text{CIC} + \mathcal{E}$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{local} & : & (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}) \rightarrow \Box \rightarrow \Box \\ [\text{local } \varphi A]_p & \stackrel{\sim}{=} & [A]_{p \wedge \varphi} \end{array}$$

- $\text{return} : A \rightarrow \text{local } \varphi A$
- local commutes to arrows and positive types
- $\text{local } \varphi \mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{E} + (\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi n = \text{tt})$

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To realize MP, we perform intuitionistic symbol pushing in $\text{CIC} + \mathcal{E}$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \neg \neg (\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt}) \rrbracket_{\mathcal{E}} &\cong ((\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \\ &\rightarrow \text{local } \varphi \ (((\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}) \\ &\cong ((\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt}) \rightarrow \text{local } \varphi \ \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \text{local } \varphi \ \mathcal{E} \\ &\rightarrow \mathcal{E} + (\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt}) \\ &\rightarrow \llbracket \Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \text{tt} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{E}} \end{aligned}$$

A Computational Analysis of MP

Every time we go under `local` we get new exceptions!

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`return` is a delimited continuation prompt / static exception binder.

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The structure of the realizer thus follows closely Herbelin's proof.

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In particular p can raise exceptions from outside, which is reflected here.

A Computational Analysis of MP

Every time we go under `local` we get new exceptions!

$$\text{local } \varphi \mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{E} + (\Sigma n : \mathbb{N}. \varphi \ n = \texttt{tt})$$

`return` is a delimited continuation prompt / static exception binder.

The structure of the realizer thus follows closely Herbelin's proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mp } (p : \neg\neg(\exists n. f \ n = \texttt{tt})) := \\ \text{try}_\alpha \perp_e (p (\lambda k. k (\lambda n. \text{raise}_\alpha \ n))) \text{ with } \alpha \ n \mapsto n \end{aligned}$$

In particular p can raise exceptions from outside, which is reflected here.

Thus, Herbelin's proof is the direct style variant of Coquand-Hofmann

This is also highly reminiscent of NbE models

Two canonical ways to extend Kripke completeness to positive types:

- Add neutral terms to the semantic of positive types
- Add MP in the meta

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Two canonical ways to extend Kripke completeness to positive types:

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Neutral terms behave as statically bound exceptions

As our model shows, these two techniques are morally equivalent.

This also highlights suspicious ties between delimited continuations and presheaves.

Conclusion

On presheaves:

- Presheaves are a purified sublanguage of a monotonic reader effect
- We have given a better-behaved presentation of presheaves
- It is a syntactic model that relies on strict equality in the target
- Provides for free extensions of CIC with SN, canonicity and the like
- ... assuming $\mathfrak{s}\text{CIC}$ enjoys this (\dagger)

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TODO:

- Implement cubical type theory in this model

Thanks for your attention.