

Tiny Types and Cubical Type Theory

Mitchell Riley

New York University Abu Dhabi

April 17th 2025

Definition

A tiny object \mathbb{T} in a category \mathcal{C} is one for which $(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ has a *right* adjoint $\checkmark : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

- ▶ 1 in Set.
- ▶ The interval \mathbb{I} in many versions of cubical sets.
- ▶ The infinitesimal disk $D := \{x : \mathbb{R} \mid x^2 = 0\}$ in models of synthetic differential geometry.
- ▶ The universal object in the topos classifying objects, $[\text{FinSet}, \text{Set}]$.
- ▶ Any representable presheaf for a site with finite products.

Definition

A tiny object \mathbb{T} in a category \mathcal{C} is one for which $(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow -) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ has a *right* adjoint $\checkmark : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

- ▶ 1 in Set .
- ▶ The interval \mathbb{I} in many versions of cubical sets.
- ▶ The infinitesimal disk $D := \{x : \mathbb{R} \mid x^2 = 0\}$ in models of synthetic differential geometry.
- ▶ The universal object in the topos classifying objects, $[\text{FinSet}, \text{Set}]$.
- ▶ Any representable presheaf for a site with finite products.

In a model of SDG, let $D := \{x : \mathbb{R} \mid x^2 = 0\}$.

The *tangent space* of X is the type $TX := D \rightarrow X$.

A (not-necessarily linear) *1-form* on X is a map

$$(D \rightarrow X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

By adjointness these are the same as maps

$$X \rightarrow \sqrt{\mathbb{R}}$$

Want a right adjoint to $(\mathbb{T} \rightarrow -)$ satisfying

- ▶ No axioms
- ▶ Allows \mathbb{T} to be an ordinary type
- ▶ Comprehensible rules (relatively speaking)
- ▶ Usable by hand, informally and in a (hypothetical) proof assistant
- ▶ Plausible type-checking algorithm

Previous Approaches To Tininess

- ▶ [LOPS18] axiomatises:

$$\sqrt{} : \flat\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$R : \flat((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) \rightarrow B) \simeq \flat(A \rightarrow \sqrt{B})$$

$$R\text{-nat} : \{R \text{ is natural in } A\}$$

- ▶ [Mye22] improves to:

$$\sqrt{} : \flat\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$\varepsilon : (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow \sqrt{B}) \rightarrow B$$

$$e : \text{isEquiv}(\flat(A \rightarrow \sqrt{B}) \rightarrow \flat((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) \rightarrow B))$$

Previous Approaches To Tininess

- ▶ [LOPS18] axiomatises:

$$\sqrt : \flat\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$R : \flat((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) \rightarrow B) \simeq \flat(A \rightarrow \sqrt{B})$$

$$R\text{-nat} : \{R \text{ is natural in } A\}$$

- ▶ [Mye22] improves to:

$$\sqrt : \flat\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$\varepsilon : (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow \sqrt{B}) \rightarrow B$$

$$e : \text{isEquiv}(\flat(A \rightarrow \sqrt{B}) \rightarrow \flat((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) \rightarrow B))$$

- ▶ [ND21; ND19; Nuy25] targets a right adjoint to “telescope quantification”:

$$\frac{\Gamma, (\forall i : \mathbb{T}.\Delta) \vdash A \text{ type}}{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \Delta \vdash \wp A \text{ type}}$$

- ▶ [GWB24] uses a system of MTT modalities together with an axiom $\Gamma, \{p\} \equiv \Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}$.

Previous Approaches To Tininess

- ▶ [ND21; ND19; Nuy25] targets a right adjoint to “telescope quantification”:

$$\frac{\Gamma, (\forall i : \mathbb{T}.\Delta) \vdash A \text{ type}}{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \Delta \vdash \langle\rangle A \text{ type}}$$

- ▶ [GWB24] uses a system of MTT modalities together with an axiom $\Gamma, \{p\} \equiv \Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}$.

The Less Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, x : A) \dashv (x : A) \rightarrow -$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.b : (x : A) \rightarrow B} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : (x : A) \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash f(a) : B[a/x]}$$
$$(\lambda x.b)(a) \equiv b[a/x] \qquad \qquad f \equiv \lambda x.f(x)$$

The Less Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, x : A) \dashv (x : A) \rightarrow -$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(b) : (x : A) \rightarrow B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : (x : A) \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{app}(f, a) : B[a/x]}$$

$$\text{app}(\text{lam}(b), a) \equiv b[a/x] \quad f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{app}(f, x))$$

The Less Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, x : A) \dashv (x : A) \rightarrow -$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(b) : (x : A) \rightarrow B}$$

$$\text{unlam}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : (x : A) \rightarrow B}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash \text{unlam}(f) : B}$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{unlam}(f))$$

The Fitch-Style Right Adjoint

$$\mathcal{L} \dashv \mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{L} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(a) : \mathcal{R}A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \mathcal{R}A}{\Gamma, \mathcal{L} \vdash \text{unlam}(f) : A}$$

$$\text{unlam}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{unlam}(f))$$

Following [BCMEPS20]. By Γ, \mathcal{L} I mean $\mathcal{L}(\Gamma)$.

The Fitch-Style Right Adjoint

$$\mathcal{L} \dashv \mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{L} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(a) : \mathcal{R}A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \mathcal{R}A \quad \mathcal{L} \notin \Gamma'}{\Gamma, \mathcal{L}, \Gamma' \vdash \text{unlam}(f) : A}$$

$$\text{unlam}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{unlam}(f))$$

Following [BCMEPS20]. By Γ, \mathcal{L} I mean $\mathcal{L}(\Gamma)$.

The FitchTT-Style Right Adjoint

$$\mathcal{E} \dashv \mathcal{L} \dashv \mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{L} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(b) : \mathcal{R}B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{E} \vdash f : \mathcal{R}B}{\Gamma, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{L} \vdash \text{unlam}(f) : B}$$

$$\text{unlam}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{unlam}(f))$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{L} \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\eta\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\varepsilon\}}$$

Following [GCKGB22].

The FitchTT-Style Right Adjoint

$$\mathcal{E} \dashv \mathcal{L} \dashv \mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{L} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(b) : \mathcal{R}B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{E} \vdash f : \mathcal{R}B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{app}(f) : B\{\eta\}}$$

$$\text{app}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b\{\eta\}$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{app}(f\{\varepsilon\}))$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{L} \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\eta\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{E} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\varepsilon\}}$$

Following [GCKGB22].

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare) \dashv \vee$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}(b) : \sqrt{B}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{B}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{app}(f) : B\{\eta\}}$$

$$\text{app}(\text{lam}(b)) \equiv b\{\eta\}$$

$$f \equiv \text{lam}(\text{app}(f\{\varepsilon\}))$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\eta\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\varepsilon\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type.

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare) \dashv \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare.b : \checkmark B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \checkmark B}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$(\blacksquare.b)(\gamma i.) \equiv b\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}$$

$$r \equiv \blacksquare.r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.)$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type. $\gamma i.$ binds i to its *left*.

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare) \dashv \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare.b : \checkmark B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \checkmark B}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$(\blacksquare.b)(\gamma i.) \equiv b\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}$$

$$r \equiv \blacksquare.r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.)$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type. $\gamma i.$ binds i to its *left*.

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare) \dashv \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare.b : \checkmark B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \checkmark B}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$(\blacksquare.b)(\gamma i.) \equiv b\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}$$

$$r \equiv \blacksquare.r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.)$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type. $\gamma i.$ binds i to its *left*.

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare) \dashv \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare.b : \checkmark B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \checkmark B}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$(\blacksquare.b)(\gamma i.) \equiv b\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}$$

$$r \equiv \blacksquare.r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.)$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type. $\gamma i.$ binds i to its *left*.

The Amazing Right Adjoint

$$(-, i : \mathbb{T}) \dashv (-, \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}) \dashv \checkmark$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}.b : \sqrt{\mathcal{L}}B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{\mathcal{L}}B}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}\}}$$

$$(\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}.b)(\gamma i.) \equiv b\{\gamma i./\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}\} \quad r \equiv \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}.(r\{i/\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}\})(\gamma i.)$$

where

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}} \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{\gamma i./\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}\}}$$

$$\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\blacksquare_{\mathcal{L}}\}}$$

Specialising to a tiny type. $\gamma i.$ binds i to its *left*.

Smoothing Out the Counit

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Building in a substitution:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Building in some weakening:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T} \quad \blacksquare \notin \Gamma'}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Smoothing Out the Counit

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Building in a substitution:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Building in some weakening:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T} \quad \blacksquare \notin \Gamma'}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Smoothing Out the Counit

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{i/\alpha\}}$$

Building in a substitution:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Building in some weakening:

$$\text{COUNIT} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J} \quad \Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T} \quad \blacksquare \notin \Gamma'}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Example: Extract

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathbf{a} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{a}.b : \sqrt{B}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{B}}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\mathbf{a}\}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\mathbf{a}\}}$$

Definition

For closed* A , define $\mathbf{e} : \sqrt{A} \rightarrow A$ by

$$\mathbf{e}(r) := r(\gamma i.)$$

Compare:

$$\text{const} : A \rightarrow (C \rightarrow A)$$
$$\text{const}(a) := \lambda c.a$$

Example: Functoriality

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathbf{a} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{a}.b : \sqrt{B}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{B}}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\mathbf{a}\}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\mathbf{a}\}}$$

Definition

For closed* $f : A \rightarrow B$, define $\sqrt{f} : \sqrt{A} \rightarrow \sqrt{B}$ by

$$(\sqrt{f})(r) := \mathbf{a}.f(r\{i/\mathbf{a}\}(\gamma i.))$$

Given $r : \sqrt{A}$ we want \sqrt{B} . It suffices to produce B after locking our assumptions. Because we have $f : A \rightarrow B$ we just need an A . We don't have access to $r : \sqrt{A}$, because r is locked. We could unlock r as $r\{i/\mathbf{a}\} : \sqrt{A}$ if only we had an assumption $i : \mathbb{T}$. Because we are eliminating $\sqrt{}$, we amazingly do have this assumption. So $(r\{i/\mathbf{a}\})(\gamma i.) : A$, and we can apply f .

Example: Functoriality

$$\frac{\Gamma, \mathbf{a} \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{a}.b : \sqrt{B}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{B}}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\mathbf{a}\}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{a}, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\mathbf{a}\}}$$

Definition

For closed* $f : A \rightarrow B$, define $\sqrt{f} : \sqrt{A} \rightarrow \sqrt{B}$ by

$$(\sqrt{f})(r) := \mathbf{a}.f(r\{i/\mathbf{a}\})(\gamma i.)$$

Compare:

$$f \circ - : (C \rightarrow A) \rightarrow (C \rightarrow B)$$
$$(f \circ -)(r) := \lambda c. f(r(c))$$

Copattern Syntax

$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \blacksquare.b : \sqrt{B}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash r : \sqrt{B}}{\Gamma \vdash r(\gamma i.) : B\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash t : \mathbb{T}}{\Gamma, \blacksquare, \Gamma' \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha\}}$$

Definition

For closed* $f : A \rightarrow B$, define $\sqrt{f} : \sqrt{A} \rightarrow \sqrt{B}$ by

$$(\sqrt{f})(r, \blacksquare) := f(r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.))$$

In an argument list, a \blacksquare locks all variables to the left of it. When applied, the lock “argument” becomes a counit:

$$(\sqrt{f})(s, \gamma i.) = f(r\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i.))[s/r]\{\gamma i./\blacksquare\}$$

“Higher Dimensional” Pattern Matching

Proposition

For types A and B , there is a map

$$\text{unsplit} : (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A + B) \rightarrow (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) + (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow B)$$

Proof.

$$\text{lemma} : A + B \rightarrow \sqrt{((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) + (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow B))}$$

$$\text{lemma}(\text{inl}(a), \blacksquare) : \equiv \text{inl}(\lambda t. a\{t/\alpha_i\})$$

$$\text{lemma}(\text{inr}(b), \blacksquare) : \equiv \text{inr}(\lambda t. b\{t/\alpha_i\})$$

Then:

$$\text{unsplit}(f) : \equiv \text{lemma}(f(i), \gamma_i.)$$



“Higher Dimensional” Pattern Matching

Proposition

For types A and B , there is a map

$$\text{unsplit} : (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A + B) \rightarrow (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) + (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow B)$$

Proof.

$$\text{lemma} : A + B \rightarrow \sqrt{((\mathbb{T} \rightarrow A) + (\mathbb{T} \rightarrow B))}$$

$$\text{lemma}(\text{inl}(a), \blacksquare) \equiv \text{inl}(\lambda t. a\{t/\alpha_i\})$$

$$\text{lemma}(\text{inr}(b), \blacksquare) \equiv \text{inr}(\lambda t. b\{t/\alpha_i\})$$

Then:

$$\text{unsplit}(f) \equiv \text{lemma}(f(i), \gamma_i.)$$



Counit and Unit

The counit and unit commute with ordinary constructions.

$$(x, y)\{i/\alpha\} \equiv (x\{i/\alpha\}, y\{i/\alpha\})$$

$$(\lambda y. x + y)\{i/\alpha\} \equiv (\lambda y. x\{i/\alpha\} + y\{i/\alpha\})$$

$$(x, y)\{Yi./\alpha\} \equiv (x\{Yi./\alpha\}, y\{Yi./\alpha\})$$

$$(\lambda y. x + y)\{Yi./\alpha\} \equiv (\lambda y. x\{Yi./\alpha\} + y\{Yi./\alpha\})$$

The Twain Shall Meet

When a unit meets a counit, it turns into a regular substitution:

$$\mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{Yi./\kappa_{\mathcal{L}}\} \equiv \mathcal{J}[t/i]$$

In the simplest case,

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \kappa_{\mathcal{L}} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{J}\{t/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{Yi./\kappa_{\mathcal{L}}\} \equiv \mathcal{J}[t/i]}$$

Or to make this more clearly a triangle identity:

$$\text{UNIT } \frac{\text{COUNIT } \frac{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}}{\Gamma, i : \mathbb{T}, \kappa_{\mathcal{L}}, j : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{j/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}}}{\Gamma, j : \mathbb{T} \vdash \mathcal{J}\{j/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{Yi./\kappa_{\mathcal{L}}\} \equiv \mathcal{J}[j/i]}$$

Paused Substitutions?

Cunits are almost substitutions waiting to be “activated”.

$$\begin{aligned}f : \mathbb{T} &\rightarrow \checkmark(\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T}) \\f(x, \bullet) &:= (x\{0/\alpha\}, x\{1/\alpha\})\end{aligned}$$

(supposing some global elements $0, 1 : \mathbb{T}$)

$$\begin{aligned}f(i, \gamma i.) &\\ \equiv (i\{0/\alpha\}, i\{1/\alpha\})\{\gamma i./\bullet\} &\\ \equiv (i\{0/\alpha\}\{\gamma i./\bullet\}, i\{1/\alpha\}\{\gamma i./\bullet\}) &\\ \equiv (i[0/i], i[1/i]) &\equiv (0, 1)\end{aligned}$$

A single bound variable can have different things substituted for it in different places.

Paused Substitutions?

But not quite!

$$f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \sqrt{\sqrt{\mathbb{T}}}$$

$$f(x, \alpha_{\mathcal{L}}, \alpha_{\mathcal{K}}) := x\{0/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{1/\alpha_{\mathcal{K}}\}$$

$$f(i, \gamma_i., \gamma_j.)$$

$$\equiv i\{0/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{1/\alpha_{\mathcal{K}}\}\{\gamma_i./\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{\gamma_j./\alpha_{\mathcal{K}}\}$$

$$\equiv i[0/i][1/j] \equiv 0$$

$$f(j, \gamma_i., \gamma_j.)$$

$$\equiv j\{0/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{1/\alpha_{\mathcal{K}}\}\{\gamma_i./\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}\{\gamma_j./\alpha_{\mathcal{K}}\}$$

$$\equiv j[0/i][1/j] \equiv 1$$

So the *user* of the term gets to choose which key is used.

[LOPS18] uses its version of \checkmark to build an internal model of cubical type theory in intensional MLTT + Axioms.

I think we can do something a little different: use the present theory (+ a little more) to *implement* cubical type theory.

Composition Structure

Fix a “notion of composition structure” $C : (\mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isFib} &: (\Gamma : \mathcal{U}) \rightarrow (X : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \\ \text{isFib}(\Gamma, X) &:= (p : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \Gamma) \rightarrow C(X \circ p) \end{aligned}$$

The [LOPS18] construction of a universe classifying (crisp) fibrations is:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{U}_{\text{Fib}} & \longrightarrow & \sqrt{(X : \mathcal{U}) \times X} \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \sqrt{\text{pr}_1} \\ \mathcal{U} & \xrightarrow{C^\vee} & \sqrt{\mathcal{U}} \end{array}$$

This classifies crisp fibrations in that, for $\Gamma :: \mathcal{U}$,

$$(\Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_{\text{Fib}}) \cong ((X :: \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \times \text{isFib}(\Gamma, X))$$

In our theory, the pullback works out to:

$$\mathcal{U}_{\text{Fib}} := (X : \mathcal{U}) \times \sqrt{\mathsf{C}(\lambda j. X\{j/\alpha\})}$$

So we're better off tweaking the definition of fibration

Definition

An *amazingly fibrant* type is a type X equipped with a term of

$$\text{isAFib}(X) := \sqrt{\mathsf{C}(\lambda j. X\{j/\alpha\})}$$

Ingredients from CCTT

- ▶ A universe of judgemental propositions Cof closed under the same things as in CCTT.
- ▶ Cubical subtypes $A[\alpha \mapsto a_0]$ for $\alpha : \text{Cof}$, roughly

$$A[\alpha \mapsto a_0] : \approx (a : A) \times ([\alpha] \rightarrow (a = a_0))$$

so that magically $\text{pr}_1(s) \equiv a_0$ when α holds.

- ▶ Glue types $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f)$ for functions $\alpha \vdash f : T \rightarrow B$ into totally defined types B , roughly

$$\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) : \approx (t : [\alpha] \rightarrow T) \times B[\alpha \mapsto f(t)]$$

so that magically $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) \equiv T$ when α holds.

- ▶ *Not* coercion, composition, Path.

Ingredients from CCTT

- ▶ A universe of judgemental propositions \mathbf{Cof} closed under the same things as in CCTT.
- ▶ Cubical subtypes $A[\alpha \mapsto a_0]$ for $\alpha : \mathbf{Cof}$, roughly

$$A[\alpha \mapsto a_0] : \approx (a : A) \times ([\alpha] \rightarrow (a = a_0))$$

so that magically $\mathsf{pr}_1(s) \equiv a_0$ when α holds.

- ▶ Glue types $\mathsf{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f)$ for functions $\alpha \vdash f : T \rightarrow B$ into totally defined types B , roughly

$$\mathsf{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) : \approx (t : [\alpha] \rightarrow T) \times B[\alpha \mapsto f(t)]$$

so that magically $\mathsf{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) \equiv T$ when α holds.

- ▶ *Not* coercion, composition, Path.

- ▶ A universe of judgemental propositions Cof closed under the same things as in CCTT.
- ▶ Cubical subtypes $A[\alpha \mapsto a_0]$ for $\alpha : \text{Cof}$, roughly

$$A[\alpha \mapsto a_0] : \approx (a : A) \times ([\alpha] \rightarrow (a = a_0))$$

so that magically $\text{pr}_1(s) \equiv a_0$ when α holds.

- ▶ Glue types $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f)$ for functions $\alpha \vdash f : T \rightarrow B$ into totally defined types B , roughly

$$\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) : \approx (t : [\alpha] \rightarrow T) \times B[\alpha \mapsto f(t)]$$

so that magically $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) \equiv T$ when α holds.

- ▶ *Not* coercion, composition, Path.

- ▶ A universe of judgemental propositions Cof closed under the same things as in CCTT.
- ▶ Cubical subtypes $A[\alpha \mapsto a_0]$ for $\alpha : \text{Cof}$, roughly

$$A[\alpha \mapsto a_0] : \approx (a : A) \times ([\alpha] \rightarrow (a = a_0))$$

so that magically $\text{pr}_1(s) \equiv a_0$ when α holds.

- ▶ Glue types $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f)$ for functions $\alpha \vdash f : T \rightarrow B$ into totally defined types B , roughly

$$\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) : \approx (t : [\alpha] \rightarrow T) \times B[\alpha \mapsto f(t)]$$

so that magically $\text{Glue}(\alpha, B, T, f) \equiv T$ when α holds.

- ▶ *Not* coercion, composition, Path .

The CCTT Composition Structure

The composition structure used in [ABCFHL21] is

$$\begin{aligned} C(L) &:= (\alpha : \text{Cof}) \rightarrow (r : \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow (r' : \mathbb{I}) \\ &\rightarrow (P : (z : \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow [z = r \vee \alpha] \rightarrow L(z)) \\ &\rightarrow L(r')[r = r' \vee \alpha \mapsto P(r')] \end{aligned}$$

Plugging into the definition of amazing fibrancy:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isAFib}(X) &:= \sqrt{\mathcal{L}}(\alpha : \text{Cof}) \rightarrow (r : \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow (r' : \mathbb{I}) \\ &\rightarrow (P : (z : \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow [z = r \vee \alpha] \rightarrow X\{z/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}) \\ &\rightarrow X\{r'/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}[r = r' \vee \alpha \mapsto P(r')] \end{aligned}$$

Example: Fibrancy of \times

Being amazingly fibrant is *stronger* than the previous notion of fibrancy, so we have to re-check all the closure properties.

Suppose $A, B : \mathcal{U}$ with $\text{comp}_A : \text{isAFib}(A)$ and $\text{comp}_B : \text{isAFib}(B)$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{comp}_{A \times B}(\blacksquare, \alpha, r, r', t) \\ & \equiv (\text{comp}_A\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i., \alpha, r, r', \lambda z.\text{pr}_1(t(z))), \\ & \quad \text{comp}_B\{i/\alpha\}(\gamma i., \alpha, r, r', \lambda z.\text{pr}_2(t(z)))) \end{aligned}$$

Example: Fibrancy of Σ

Suppose $A : \mathcal{U}$ and $B : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ with $\text{comp}_A : \text{isAFib}(A)$ and $\text{comp}_B : (a : A) \rightarrow \text{isAFib}(B(a))$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{comp}_{(a:A) \times B(a)}(\blacksquare, \alpha, r, r', t) \\ & \equiv (\text{comp}_A\{i/\alpha\})(\gamma i., \alpha, r, r', \lambda z.\text{pr}_1(t(z))), \\ & \quad \text{comp}_B\{i/\alpha\}(a(i))(\gamma i., \alpha, r, r', \lambda z.\text{pr}_2(t(z))) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$a(i) : \equiv \text{comp}_A\{j/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}(\gamma j., \alpha, r, i, \lambda z.\text{pr}_1(t(z)))$$

Implementation: Admissibility of Unit and Counit

We can push the counit and unit operations to the leaves.

- The counit gets stuck on variable uses, so needs to be built into the variable rule.

$$\text{VAR} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \vdash \vec{t} : \mathbb{T} \quad \text{for } \mathcal{L} \in \text{locks}(\Gamma')}{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \vdash x\{\vec{t}/\mathcal{L}\} : A\{\vec{t}/\alpha_{\mathcal{L}}\}}$$

- The unit *never* gets stuck, and does not need any special treatment.

To have been used, encountered variables *must* have an attached key.

$$(x\{t/\alpha\}, y\{t/\alpha\})\{Yi./\alpha\} \equiv (x\{t/\alpha\}\{Yi./\alpha\}, y\{t/\alpha\}\{Yi./\alpha\})$$
$$(\lambda y.x\{t/\alpha\} + y)\{Yi./\alpha\} \equiv (\lambda y.x\{t/\alpha\}\{Yi./\alpha\} + y)$$

Implementation: Normalisation

Leads to an interesting normalisation-by-evaluation algorithm.

```
data Env =  
  Empty  
  | Cons Val Env  
  | Lock (Val -> Env)  
  
...  
  
data Neutral  
= ...  
| NVar { level :: Int, keys :: [Val] }
```

Variable lookup means feeding the variable keys to the environment locks.

Prototype at <https://github.com/mvr/tiny>

Final Thoughts

- ▶ Easy to tweak the notion of fibration
 - ▶ Which definition of equivalence is fastest?
 - ▶ Equivariant fibrations ([ACCRS24])?
 - ▶ Directed fibrations ([WL20])?
 - ▶ Or several notions at once?
- ▶ Hand-crafted fibrancy structures? (Thinking of $\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}$)
- ▶ Lazy normalisation algorithm allows more sharing?
- ▶ Other non-cubical applications:
 - ▶ Myers on form classifiers and connections
 - ▶ Fiore et al. on variable binding in HOAS

Thanks!

References I

- [ABCFHL21] Carlo Angiuli, Guillaume Brunerie, Thierry Coquand, Robert Harper, Kuen-Bang Hou, and Daniel R. Licata. “Syntax and models of Cartesian cubical type theory”. In: *Math. Structures Comput. Sci.* 31.4 (2021). DOI: [10.1017/s0960129521000347](https://doi.org/10.1017/s0960129521000347).
- [ACCRS24] Steve Awodey, Evan Cavallo, Thierry Coquand, Emily Riehl, and Christian Sattler. *The equivariant model structure on cartesian cubical sets*. 2024. arXiv: 2406.18497 [math.AT].

References II

- [BCMEPS20] Lars Birkedal, Ranald Clouston, Bassel Mannaa, Rasmus Ejlers Møgelberg, Andrew M. Pitts, and Bas Spitters. “Modal dependent type theory and dependent right adjoints”. In: *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science* 30.2 (2020). DOI: [10.1017/S0960129519000197](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960129519000197).
- [GCKGB22] Daniel Gratzer, Evan Cavallo, G. A. Kavvos, Adrien Guatto, and Lars Birkedal. “Modalities and Parametric Adjoints”. In: *ACM Trans. Comput. Logic* 23.3 (2022). DOI: [10.1145/3514241](https://doi.org/10.1145/3514241).
- [GWB24] Daniel Gratzer, Jonathan Weinberger, and Ulrik Buchholtz. *Directed univalence in simplicial homotopy type theory*. 2024. arXiv: [2407.09146](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.09146) [cs.LO].

References III

- [LOPS18] Daniel R. Licata, Ian Orton, Andrew M. Pitts, and Bas Spitters. “Internal Universes in Models of Homotopy Type Theory”. In: *3rd International Conference on Formal Structures for Computation and Deduction*. 2018. DOI: [10.4230/LIPIcs.FSCD.2018.22](https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.FSCD.2018.22).
- [Mye22] David Jaz Myers. *Orbifolds as microlinearity types in synthetic differential cohesive homotopy type theory*. 2022. arXiv: 2205.15887 [math.AT].
- [ND19] Andreas Nuyts and Dominique Devriese. *Dependable Atomicity in Type Theory*. 14, 2019.
URL: <https://lirias.kuleuven.be/retrieve/540872>.

References IV

- [ND21] Andreas Nuyts and Dominique Devriese. “Transpension: The Right Adjoint to the Pi-type”. In: *Logical Methods in Computer Science* (2021). arXiv: 2008.08533v3 [cs.LO]. Submitted.
- [Nuy25] Andreas Nuyts. “Transpension for Cubes without Diagonals”. 2025. URL: https://hott-uf.github.io/2025/abstracts/HoTTUF_2025_paper_3.pdf.
- [WL20] Matthew Z. Weaver and Daniel R. Licata. “A constructive model of directed univalence in bicubical sets”. In: *Proceedings of the 35th Annual ACM/IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science (LICS 2020)*. [2020] ©2020. doi: 10.1145/3373718.3394794.