

A Syntax for Higher Inductive-Inductive Types¹

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Motivation, overview

Higher inductive types (HITs) allow inductive equality (path) constructors.

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We have formalized this work in Agda, and also implemented a HIIT-checker and eliminator-generator as a standalone program, both available at <https://bitbucket.org/akaposi/elims>.

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Future work: (higher) categorical semantics, existence.

Outline

- 1 Inductive types, in general
- 2 Syntax and induction for HIITs
- 3 WIP and future work

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Natural numbers as usual

In pseudo-Agda.

```
data ℕ : Type where
```

```
  zero : ℕ
```

```
  suc   : ℕ → ℕ
```

```
ℕ-ind :
```

```
  (P : ℕ → Type)
```

```
  → P zero
```

```
  → ((n : ℕ) → P n → P (suc n))
```

```
  → (n : ℕ) → P n
```

```
ℕ-ind P z s zero    = z
```

```
ℕ-ind P z s (suc n) = s n (ℕ-ind P z s n)
```

Alternatively

$\mathbb{N}\text{-Algebra} : \text{Type}$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-Algebra} = \Sigma(N : \text{Type}) \times N \times (N \rightarrow N)$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-DisplayedAlg} : \mathbb{N}\text{-Algebra} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-DisplayedAlg } (N, z, s) =$

$\Sigma(Nd : N \rightarrow \text{Type}) \times Nd \ z \times ((n : N) \rightarrow Nd \ n \rightarrow Nd \ (s \ n))$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-Section} : (\alpha : \mathbb{N}\text{-Algebra}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}\text{-DisplayedAlg } \alpha \rightarrow \text{Type}$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-Section } (N, z, s) (Nd, zd, sd) =$

$\Sigma(Ns : (n : N) \rightarrow Nd \ n) \times (Ns \ z = zd)$
 $\times ((n : N) \rightarrow Ns \ (s \ n) = sd \ n \ (Ns \ n))$

Then, the following are definable in Agda/Coq:

$\mathbb{N} : \mathbb{N}\text{-Algebra}$

$\mathbb{N}\text{-Induction} : (D : \mathbb{N}\text{-DisplayedAlg } \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}\text{-Section } \mathbb{N} \ D$

(We borrow “displayed” from [Ahrens and Lumsdaine, 2017])

Initial algebra, displayed algebra over initial algebra, section of displayed algebra.

```
data ℕ : Type where
  zero : ℕ
  suc   : ℕ → ℕ
```

ℕ-ind :

```
  (P : ℕ → Type)
→ P zero
→ ((n : ℕ) → P n → P (suc n))
→ (n : ℕ) → P n
```

ℕ-ind P z s zero = z

ℕ-ind P z s (suc n) = s n (ℕ-ind P z s n)

Induction in general

For each inductive type, we need notions of:

Algebra : Type

DisplayedAlg : Algebra \rightarrow Type

Section : (α : Algebra) \rightarrow DisplayedAlg $\alpha \rightarrow$ Type

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Such that the following exist (we don't show this in the current work):

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InitialAlg : Algebra
Induction   : (D : DisplayedAlg InitialAlg) → Section InitialAlg D
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```

(There are more laws and operations on displayed algebras and sections which we could sensibly require)

Terminology

constructors
induction motives and methods
eliminators and β -rules

initial algebra
displayed algebra over initial algebra
section of displayed algebra

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Desired features of valid HIIT signatures

Possible dependencies

Type/term/path constructors depending on any previous constructor.

Example for type-type and term-term dependencies: a fragment of a syntax of a type theory [Altenkirch and Kaposi, 2016].

```
Con : Type
Ty  : Con → Type
•   : Con
_►_ : (Γ : Con) → Ty Γ → Con
Pi  : (Γ : Con)(A : Ty Γ) → Ty (Γ ► A) → Ty Γ
...
```

Other examples: Cauchy reals, surreal numbers.

Referring to external signature

We want to refer to already existing “external” constants.

For example, to natural numbers and a given A element type for length-indexed vectors.

```
Vec  :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type}$   
nil  : Vec zero  
cons : ( $n : \mathbb{N}$ )  $\rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{Vec } n \rightarrow \text{Vec } (\text{suc } n)$ 
```

Path constructors

At possibly higher dimensions, with recursive paths, e.g. in set truncation for some external A type:

$\|A\|_0 : \text{Type}$

$|_|_0 : A \rightarrow \|A\|_0$

$\text{trunc} : (x\ y : \|A\|_0) (p\ q : x = y) \rightarrow p = q$

Possibly with path induction on previous paths, as in the definition of the torus, where \blacksquare denotes path composition:

$T^2 : \text{Type}$

$b : T^2$

$p : b = b$

$q : b = b$

$t : p \blacksquare q = q \blacksquare p$

Strict positivity

An illegal signature:

```
Tm  : Type
con : (Tm → Tm) → Tm
```

HIIT signatures

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Strict positivity is enforced by a *universe* and typing rules for functions.

We compute notions of algebras, displayed algebras and sections by induction on the syntax.

Theory of signatures: setup

Algebras, displayed algebras, sections given by syntactic translation from ToS to a conventional “target” type theory.

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The target theory has Σ -types, dependent functions (denoted $(x : A) \rightarrow B$), identity, unit type and Russell-style universes, and has expressions in red.

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Algebras, displayed algebras, sections given by syntactic translation from ToS to a conventional “target” type theory.

The target theory has Σ -types, dependent functions (denoted $(x : A) \rightarrow B$), identity, unit type and Russell-style universes, and has expressions in red.

In the ToS, everything additionally depends on a target theory context, which serves as the source of non-inductive external symbols.

Theory of signatures (1)

Getting closed inductive-inductive types: by a universe and a “strictly positive” function space.

$$\frac{}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash U} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash a : U}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash \underline{a}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash a : U \quad \Gamma; \Delta, x : \underline{a} \vdash B}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash (x : a) \rightarrow B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : (x : a) \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma; \Delta \vdash u : \underline{a}}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash tu : B[x \mapsto u]}$$

Signature of natural numbers:

$$\cdot \vdash \cdot, \text{Nat} : U, \text{zero} : \underline{\text{Nat}}, \text{suc} : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Nat}}$$

Theory of signatures (2)

Universe is closed under equality of small terms, yielding recursive equalities and higher constructors.

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash a : U \quad \Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : \underline{a} \quad \Gamma; \Delta \vdash u : \underline{a}}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t =_a u : U} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : \underline{a}}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash \text{refl} : \underline{t =_a t}}$$

(+ path induction with propositional β -rule)

Signature of circle:

$$\cdot \vdash \cdot, \quad S^1 : U, \quad \text{base} : \underline{S^1}, \quad \text{loop} : \underline{\text{base} =_{S^1} \text{base}}$$

Theory of signatures (3)

Non-inductive parameters, infinitary constructors (application rules omitted):

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash \Delta \quad (\Gamma, x : A); \Delta \vdash B}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash (x : A) \rightarrow B}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash \Delta \quad (\Gamma, x : A); \Delta \vdash b : U}{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash (x : A) \rightarrow b : U}$$

Signature of W -types:

$$S : \text{Type}, P : S \rightarrow \text{Type} \vdash \cdot, \quad W : U, \quad \text{sup} : (s : S) \rightarrow ((p : P s) \rightarrow W) \rightarrow \underline{W}$$

Algebras: standard model

Specification:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta^A : \text{Type}} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash A^A : \Delta^A \rightarrow \text{Type}} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash t^A : (\delta : \Delta^A) \rightarrow A^A \delta}$$

Action:

$$\begin{aligned} .^A &: \equiv \top \\ (\Delta, x : A)^A &: \equiv \Sigma(\delta : \Delta^A) \times A^A \delta \\ x^A \delta &: \equiv x^{\text{th}} \text{ component in } \delta \\ U^A \delta &: \equiv \text{Type} \\ (\underline{a})^A \delta &: \equiv a^A \delta \\ ((x : a) \rightarrow B)^A \delta &: \equiv (x : a^A \delta) \rightarrow B^A(\delta, x) \\ \dots & \end{aligned}$$

Displayed algebras: logical predicate interpretation

Analogously to [Bernardy et al., 2012]. Specification:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta^D : \Delta^A \rightarrow \text{Type}} \quad \frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash A^D : (\delta : \Delta^A) \rightarrow \Delta^D \delta \rightarrow A^A \delta \rightarrow \text{Type}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash t^D : (\delta : \Delta^A) \rightarrow (\delta^D : \Delta^D \delta) \rightarrow A^D \delta \delta^D (t^A \delta)}$$

Action:

$$\begin{aligned} \cdot^D \delta & \equiv \top \\ (\Delta, x : A)^D \delta \delta^D & \equiv \Sigma(\delta^D : \Delta^D \delta) \times A^D \delta \delta^D \\ \cup^D \delta \delta^D A & \equiv A \rightarrow \text{Type} \\ ((x : a) \rightarrow B)^D \delta \delta^D f & \equiv (x : a^A \delta)(x^D : a^D \delta \delta^D x) \rightarrow B^D (\delta x) (\delta^D x^D) (fx) \\ \dots \end{aligned}$$

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- Moreover, these interpretations work regardless of strict positivity.
- This was an early motivation of [Reynolds, 1983] for logical relations vs. homomorphisms, since the latter don't work for negative signatures.
- For strictly positive signatures, we can recover homomorphisms and sections (which are “dependent” homomorphisms).

Sections (1)

Specification:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \Delta^S : (\delta : \Delta^A) \rightarrow \Delta^D \delta \rightarrow \text{Type}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash A^S : (\delta : \Delta^A)(\delta^D : \Delta^D \delta)(\delta^S : \Delta^S \delta \delta^D)(\alpha : A^A \delta) \rightarrow A^D \delta \delta^D \alpha \rightarrow \text{Type}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma; \Delta \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash t^S : (\delta : \Delta^A)(\delta^D : \Delta^D \delta)(\delta^S : \Delta^S \delta \delta^D) \rightarrow A^S \delta \delta^D \delta^S (t^A \delta) (t^D \delta \delta^D)}$$

Every context is interpreted as a dependent relation between an algebra and a displayed algebra over it.

Sections (2)

$$\mathbf{U}^S \delta^S A A^D \quad :\equiv (x : A) \rightarrow A^D x$$

$$(\underline{a})^S \delta^S t t^D \quad :\equiv a^S \delta^S t = t^D$$

$$\begin{aligned} ((x : a) \rightarrow B)^S \delta^S f f^D &:\equiv \\ & (x : A^A \delta) \rightarrow B^S (\delta, x) (\delta^D, a^S \delta^S x) (\delta^S, \text{refl}) (fx) (f^D x (a^S \delta^S x)) \end{aligned}$$

...

For identity types, refl, path induction: we construct $n + 1$ -level paths by induction on n -level paths from induction hypotheses.

(See details in article/formalization)

Induction for HIITs

Now, for a $\Gamma \vdash \Delta$ signature and an algebra $\Gamma \vdash \text{initAlg} : \Delta^A$, the type of induction is $(D : \Delta^D \text{ initAlg}) \rightarrow \Delta^S \text{ initAlg } D$.

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- This is hard, so let's first assume uniqueness of identity proofs in the target theory, and develop semantics for QIITs using strict categories of algebras.
- This is WIP, but categorical semantics appears to work out nicely, and existence of initial algebras as well.

Thank you!

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