

A Generalized Logical Framework

András Kovács¹, Christian Sattler¹

¹University of Gothenburg & Chalmers University of Technology

18 Apr 2025, EuroProofNet WG6 meeting, Genoa

Overview

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
 - the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
 - the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.
 - **only a second-order (“internal”)** view on the model.

Overview

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
 - the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.
 - **only a second-order (“internal”)** view on the model.
- ② Generalized logical framework (GLF):
 - metaprogramming over **any number of models** of **any number of type theories**.

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
 - the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.
 - **only a second-order (“internal”)** view on the model.
- ② Generalized logical framework (GLF):
 - metaprogramming over **any number of models** of **any number of type theories**.
 - models are defined **inside the system**.

① Two-level type theories (2LTT):

- metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
- the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.
- **only a second-order (“internal”)** view on the model.

② Generalized logical framework (GLF):

- metaprogramming over **any number of models** of **any number of type theories**.
- models are defined **inside the system**.
- both a **first-order/external** and a **second-order/internal** view on each model.

- ① Two-level type theories (2LTT):
 - metaprogramming over a **single model** of a **single type theory**.
 - the chosen model is defined **outside the system**.
 - **only a second-order (“internal”)** view on the model.
- ② Generalized logical framework (GLF):
 - metaprogramming over **any number of models** of **any number of type theories**.
 - models are defined **inside the system**.
 - both a **first-order/external** and a **second-order/internal** view on each model.

In this talk:

- ① A syntax of GLF + examples + increasing amount of syntactic sugar.
- ② A short overview of semantics.

GLF basic universes & type formers

U : U	A universe of that supports ETT.
Base : U	Type of “base categories”.
1 : Base	The terminal category as a base category.
PSh : Base \rightarrow U	Universes of presheaves. Cumulativity: $\text{PSh}_i \subseteq \text{U}$. Supports ETT. We can only eliminate from PSh_i to PSh_j .
Cat_i : PSh_i	$:=$ <i>type of categories in</i> PSh_i
In : Cat_i \rightarrow U	“Permission token” for working in presheaves over some $\mathbb{C} : \text{Cat}_i$.
base : In $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow$ Base	“Using the permission”.

We use type-in-type everywhere for simplicity, i.e. $\text{U} : \text{U}$ and $\text{PSh}_i : \text{PSh}_i$.

Basic things we can do

$$\begin{array}{l} U : U \quad \text{Base} : U \quad \mathbf{1} : \text{Base} \quad \text{PSh} : \text{Base} \rightarrow U \\ \text{Cat}_i : \text{PSh}_i := \text{type of cats in PSh}_i \quad \text{In} : \text{Cat}_i \rightarrow U \quad \text{base} : \text{In } \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \text{Base} \end{array}$$

PSh_1 is a universe supporting ETT (semantically: universe of sets).

Basic things we can do

$$\begin{array}{l} U : U \quad \text{Base} : U \quad \mathbf{1} : \text{Base} \quad \text{PSh} : \text{Base} \rightarrow U \\ \text{Cat}_i : \text{PSh}_i := \text{type of cats in } \text{PSh}_i \quad \text{In} : \text{Cat}_i \rightarrow U \quad \text{base} : \text{In } \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \text{Base} \end{array}$$

PSh_1 is a universe supporting ETT (semantically: universe of sets).

We can define some $\mathbb{C} : \text{Cat}_1$, where $\text{Obj}(\mathbb{C}) : \text{PSh}_1$.

Basic things we can do

$$\begin{array}{l} U : U \quad \text{Base} : U \quad \mathbf{1} : \text{Base} \quad \text{PSh} : \text{Base} \rightarrow U \\ \text{Cat}_i : \text{PSh}_i := \text{type of cats in } \text{PSh}_i \quad \text{In} : \text{Cat}_i \rightarrow U \quad \text{base} : \text{In } \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \text{Base} \end{array}$$

PSh_1 is a universe supporting ETT (semantically: universe of sets).

We can define some $\mathbb{C} : \text{Cat}_1$, where $\text{Obj}(\mathbb{C}) : \text{PSh}_1$.

Now, **under the assumption** of $i : \text{In } \mathbb{C}$, we can form the universe $\text{PSh}_{(\text{base } i)}$, which is semantically the universe of presheaves over \mathbb{C} .

Basic things we can do

$$\begin{array}{l} U : U \quad \text{Base} : U \quad \mathbf{1} : \text{Base} \quad \text{PSh} : \text{Base} \rightarrow U \\ \text{Cat}_i : \text{PSh}_i := \text{type of cats in } \text{PSh}_i \quad \text{In} : \text{Cat}_i \rightarrow U \quad \text{base} : \text{In } \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \text{Base} \end{array}$$

PSh_1 is a universe supporting ETT (semantically: universe of sets).

We can define some $\mathbb{C} : \text{Cat}_1$, where $\text{Obj}(\mathbb{C}) : \text{PSh}_1$.

Now, **under the assumption** of $i : \text{In } \mathbb{C}$, we can form the universe $\text{PSh}_{(\text{base } i)}$, which is semantically the universe of presheaves over \mathbb{C} .

Syntax sugar: we'll omit base in the following.

At this point, we have no interesting interaction between PSh_1 and PSh_i .

Example: embedding pure lambda calculus

A **second-order model of pure LC** in PSh_i consists of:

$$\mathsf{Tm} : \text{PSh}_i$$

$$\text{lam} : (\mathsf{Tm} \rightarrow \mathsf{Tm}) \rightarrow \mathsf{Tm}$$

$$-\$- : \mathsf{Tm} \rightarrow \mathsf{Tm} \rightarrow \mathsf{Tm}$$

$$\beta : \text{lam } f \$ t = f t$$

$$\eta : \text{lam } (\lambda x. t \$ x) = t$$

We define $\text{SMod}_i : \text{PSh}_i$ as the above Σ -type.

Example: embedding pure lambda calculus

A **first-order model of pure LC** consists of:

- A category of contexts and substitutions with $\text{Con} : \text{PSh}_I$, $\text{Sub} : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{PSh}_I$ and terminal object \bullet .
- $\text{Tm} : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{PSh}_I$, plus a term substitution operation.
- A context extension operation $-\triangleright : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Con}$ such that $\text{Sub } \Gamma (\Delta \triangleright) \simeq \text{Sub } \Gamma \Delta \times \text{Tm } \Gamma$.
- A natural isomorphism $\text{Tm} (\Gamma \triangleright) \simeq \text{Tm } \Gamma$ whose components are λ and application.

We define $\text{FMod}_I : \text{PSh}_I$ as the above Σ -type.

FMod is mechanically derivable from SMod .¹

¹Ambrus Kaposi & Szumi Xie: *Second-Order Generalised Algebraic Theories*.

Example: embedding pure lambda calculus

GLF Axiom 1

Assuming $M : \text{FMod}_j$ and $j : \text{In } M$, we have $S_j : \text{SMod}_j$.

(In “In M ” we implicitly convert M to its underlying category.)

Now we have 2LTT over M inside PSh_j :

- ETT type formers in PSh_j comprise the outer level.
- S_j comprises the inner level.

Y-combinator as example:

$$\text{YC} : \text{Tm}_{S_j}$$

$$\text{YC} := (\text{lam}_{S_j}(\lambda x. x \$_{S_j} x)) \$_{S_j} (\text{lam}_{S_j}(\lambda f. \text{lam}_{S_j}(\lambda x. f \$_{S_j} (x \$_{S_j} x))))$$

With a reasonable amount of sugar:

$$\text{YC} : \text{Tm}_{S_j}$$

$$\text{YC} := (\text{lam } x. x \ x) (\text{lam } f. \text{lam } x. f \ (x \ x))$$

- More generally, we have the previous axiom for every second-order generalized algebraic theory.
- Hence: all 2LTTs are syntactic fragments of GLF.
- Moreover, for each 2LTT, the semantics of GLF restricts to the standard presheaf semantics of the 2LTT.

Yoneda embedding

GLF Axiom: Yoneda embedding for pure LC

Assuming $M : \text{FMod}_i$, we have

$$Y : \text{Con}_M \rightarrow ((j : \text{In}_M) \rightarrow \text{PSh}_j)$$

$$Y : \text{Sub}_M \Gamma \Delta \simeq ((j : \text{In}_M) \rightarrow Y \Gamma j \rightarrow Y \Delta j)$$

$$Y : \text{Tm}_M \Gamma \simeq ((j : \text{In}_M) \rightarrow Y \Gamma j \rightarrow \text{Tm}_{S_j})$$

such that Y preserves empty context and context extension up to iso:

$$Y \bullet j \simeq \top$$

$$Y (\Gamma \triangleright) j \simeq Y \Gamma j \times \text{Tm}_{S_j}$$

and Y preserves all other structure strictly.

Notation: we write Λ for inverses of Y .

LC examples, sugar

Υ and Λ allow ad-hoc switching between first-order and second-order notation. Let's redefine some operations using second-order notation:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{id} : \text{Sub}_M \Gamma \Gamma & \text{comp} : \text{Sub}_M \Delta \Theta \rightarrow \text{Sub}_M \Gamma \Delta \rightarrow \text{Sub}_M \Gamma \Theta \\ \text{id} := \Lambda (\lambda j \gamma. \gamma) & \text{comp } \sigma \delta := \Lambda (\lambda j \gamma. \Upsilon \sigma (\Upsilon \delta \gamma j) j) \end{array}$$

With reasonable amount of sugar:

$$\text{id} := \Lambda \gamma. \gamma \quad \text{comp } \sigma \delta := \Lambda \gamma. \Upsilon \sigma (\Upsilon \delta \gamma)$$

Or even:

$$\text{comp } \sigma \delta := \Lambda \gamma. \sigma (\delta \gamma)$$

Example for “pattern matching” notation:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{wk} : \text{Sub}_M (\Gamma \triangleright) \Gamma \\ \text{wk} := \Lambda (\gamma, \alpha). \gamma \end{array}$$

Second-order named notation

- When working with CwF-s, De Bruijn indices and substitutions can be hard to read.
- Handwaved “named” binders in CwFs have been used a couple of times.
- GLF provides a rigorous implementation of such notation.

Example: type theoretic gluing

This is a model construction which looks awful in explicit CwF notation.² We assume a weak CwF morphism $F : S \rightarrow M$ between two models of a type theory. We define a displayed model P lying over S .

²Kaposi, Huber, Sattler: *Gluing for Type Theory*.