

# Models of HoTT

(simplicial & cubical)



Christian Sattler

EPII 2024

0. Introduction & Overview

1. What is a model of type theory?

2. Presheaf models

3. The simplicial model of HoTT

Exercises

4. Cubical models and open questions

Exercises

# 0. Introduction & overview

## Model of type theory:

- Interpretation of language that turns judgmental equality into actual equality.

Slogan

There are many frameworks for models, sometimes equivalent, other times differing in some aspects:

- collection of types over context  $\Gamma$  seen as set or groupoid or category.

- split vs. non-split

- contextual / democratic

- algebraic or categorical notion

category  
of models

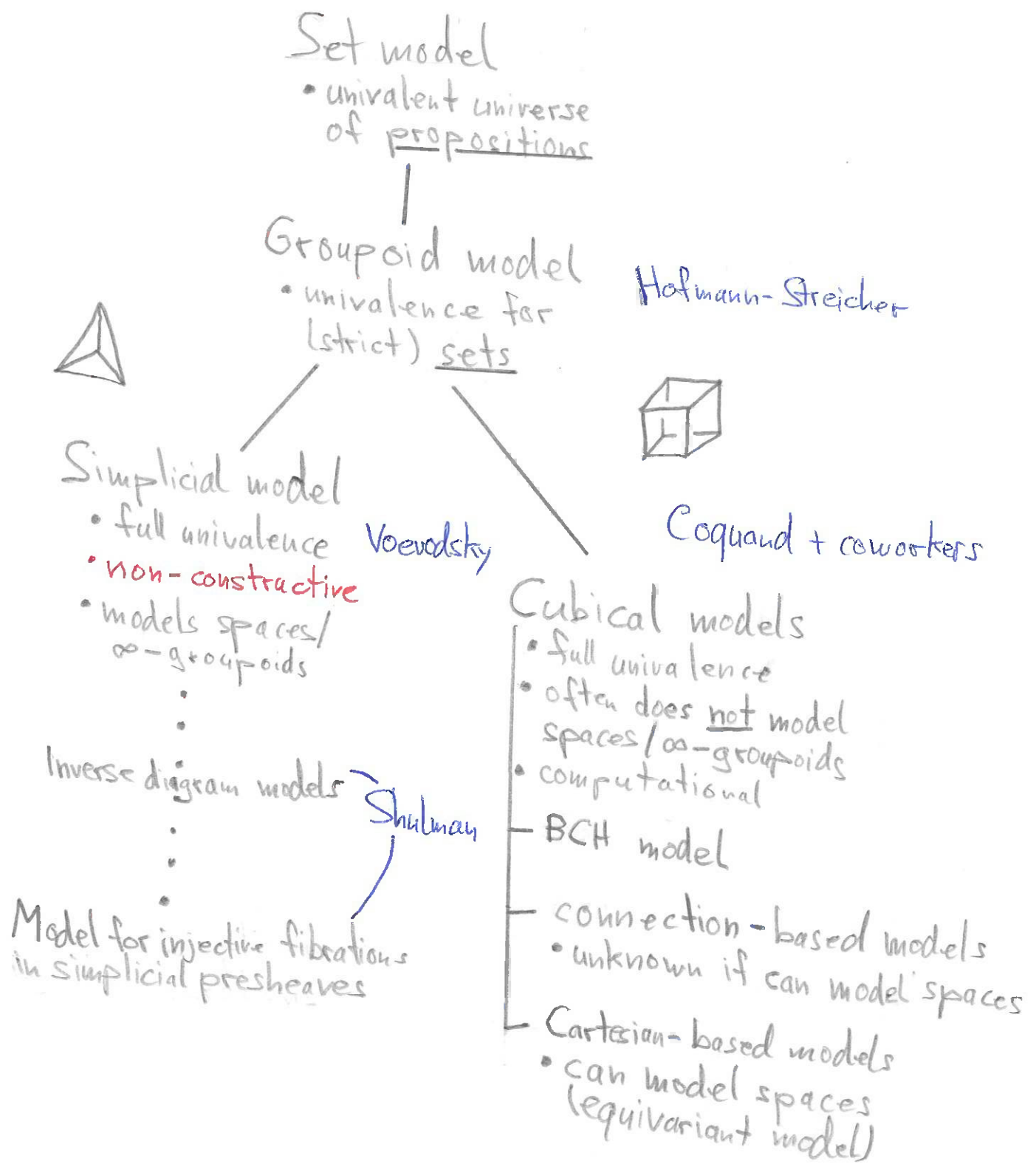
bicategory  
of models

- terms or context projections (display maps) as primitive

We will work with categories with families.

Model of HoTT: Just a model of type theory  
with elements witnessing  
function extensionality + univalence.

## History of models of HoTT

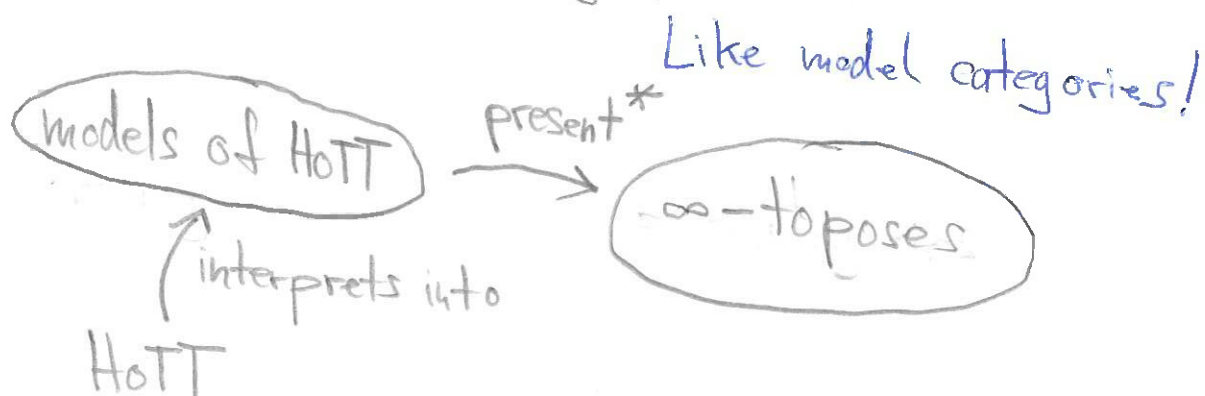


# HOTT and $\infty$ -toposes

We want to "interpret" HOTT in  $\infty$ -toposes.

But models of HOTT are not (directly)  $\infty$ -categories!

↳ They are 1-categories with homotopical structure, presenting an  $\infty$ -category.



So to interpret HOTT into a given  $\infty$ -topos  $X$ , first need to find suitable presentation of  $X$ .

Shulman found such a presentation for every  $\infty$ -topos!

So far, this is a classical (non-constructive) story.

# 1. What is a model of type theory?

Don't want to bother with modelling "named variables".

↳ Abstract over contexts as lists of hypotheses  $x_1:A_1, \dots, x_n:A_n$  by modelling contexts + substitutions as a category  $\mathcal{C}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Delta & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \Gamma \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [y_1:B_1, \dots, y_m:B_m] & & [x_1:A_1, \dots, x_n:A_n] \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & x_1 = t_1[y_1, \dots, y_m] \\ & & \vdots \\ & & x_n = t_n[y_1, \dots, y_m] \end{array}$$

Every context  $\Gamma$  has a set of types  $Ty(\Gamma)$ .

We can substitute types:  $A \in Ty(\Gamma) \rightsquigarrow A[\sigma] \in Ty(\Delta)$ .

↳  $Ty$  is a presheaf over  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Same for terms  $Term$ ,  
but they additionally depend on a type.

# Excursion: Presheaves and discrete fibrations

Def Presheaves over category  $\mathcal{C}$   
are functors  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ .

Traditional  
definition

Notation:  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}} = \text{Presheaf}(\mathcal{C})$

## Grothendieck construction \*

\* restricted  
version

$\int : [\mathcal{C}^{op}, \text{Set}] \xrightarrow[\text{ff}]{\text{fully faithful}} \{\text{category over } \mathcal{C}\}$

$F \mapsto \int F$   
"category of elements"

$\mathcal{E}$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $\mathcal{C}$

We regard  $\mathcal{E}$  as "displayed"  
over  $\mathcal{C}$ :

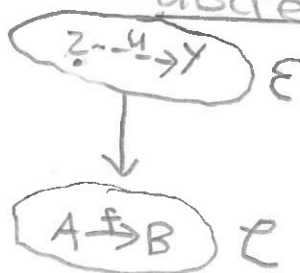
- $\mathcal{E}_0(A)$  set for  $A \in \mathcal{C}_0$
- $\mathcal{E}_1(x, y, f)$  set for  
 $x \in \mathcal{E}_0(A)$   
 $y \in \mathcal{E}_0(B)$   
 $f \in \mathcal{C}_1(A, B)$

$$(\int F)_0(A) = F(A)$$

$$(\int F)_1(x, y, f) = [F(f)(y) = x]$$

That way, we can  
strictly reindex  
categories over a base.

The essential image of  $\int$   
are the discrete fibrations:



$\mathcal{E} \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}_1(A, B), y \in \mathcal{E}_0(B)$

have unique lift

$x \in \mathcal{E}_0(A), u \in \mathcal{E}_1(f, x, y)$

We use both  
interchangeably.

Often, discrete fibrations are a better model  
for presheaves, than  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ !

# Categories with families

## Definition

A category with families consists of:

cwf

- Category  $\mathcal{C}$
- Terminal object  $1 \in \mathcal{C}$
- $T_\gamma \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}$
- $T_m \in \widehat{ST_\gamma}$

• Context extension:

for  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $A \in T_\gamma(\Gamma)$ , a representation of:

$$(\mathcal{C} \downarrow \Gamma)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Set}$$

$$\Delta \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Gamma \mapsto T_m(\Delta, A[\sigma])$$

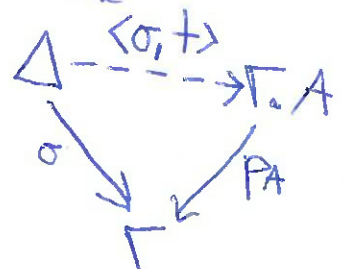
$\Leftrightarrow$  a terminal object  $(\Gamma.A, \text{PA}, \eta_A)$  in the category of tuples  $(\Delta, \sigma, t)$  where:

- $\Delta \in \mathcal{C}$
- $\Delta \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Gamma$
- $t \in T_m(\Delta, A[\sigma])$

□

$\Gamma.A$  context extension  
 $\downarrow$  context projection / display map for  $A$   
 $\Gamma$

$\eta_A \in T_m(\Gamma.A, A[\text{PA}])$   
 generic term,  
 last variable



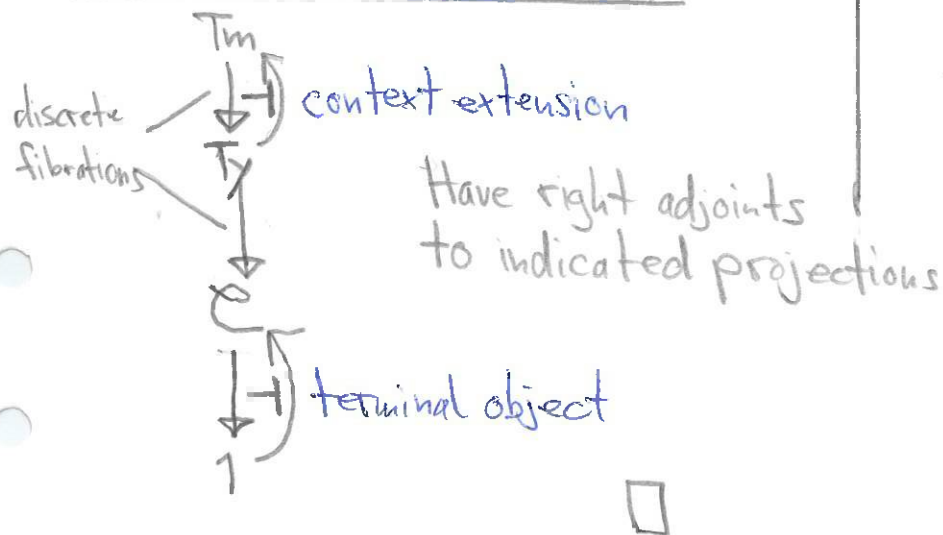
For algebraic notion of model:

- context extension is structure, strictly preserved by morphisms of models
- obtain category of models
- "Syntax"  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{initial object}$

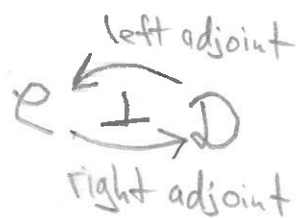


Context extension is really a property of the presheaf  $T_m$ !

### Alternative definition (conf)



Notation for adjunctions:



Exercise: show that this means the same as the first definition.



## Type formers

### Dependent sums

For  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $A \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma)$ ,  $B \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma.A)$ ,  
have  $\Sigma(A, B) \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma)$  with a bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Term}(\Gamma, \Sigma(A, B)) & \xleftarrow{\text{pair}} & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \in \text{Term}(\Gamma, A), \\ b \in \text{Term}(\Gamma, B[\langle \text{id}, a \rangle]) \end{array} \right\} \\ \eta \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\pi_1, \pi_2} & \beta \end{array}$$

natural in  $\Gamma$ .

### Dependent products

For  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $A \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma)$ ,  $B \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma.A)$ ,  
have  $\Pi(A, B) \in \text{Ty}(\Gamma)$  with a bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Term}(\Gamma, \Pi(A, B)) & \xleftarrow{\lambda} & \text{Term}(\Gamma.A, B), \\ \eta \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\text{app}} & \beta \end{array}$$

natural in  $\Gamma$ .

Exercise: identity types

# Adjoint perspective on $\Sigma/\Pi$

$$\Gamma. \Sigma(A, B) \simeq \Gamma. A. B$$

$$\Gamma. \Sigma(A, B) \dashrightarrow \Delta$$

$$\Gamma. A. B \dashrightarrow \Delta. A[\sigma]$$

$$\Delta \dashrightarrow \Gamma. \Pi(A, B)$$

$$\Delta. A[\sigma] \dashrightarrow \Gamma. A. B$$

$$\Sigma_A \dashv \Pi_A^* \dashv \Pi_A$$

after switching to "display map" presentation.

Caveat:  $\Sigma_A/\Pi_A$  only defined on types / display maps!

$$Tm(\Gamma, A) \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \Gamma. A \\ \downarrow \\ \Gamma \end{array} \text{ section} \right\}$$

## Lifting perspective on Id

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma. A & \xrightarrow{d} & \Gamma. A. A. Id_A. C \\ \text{ref}_A \downarrow & \dashrightarrow & \downarrow p_C \\ \Gamma. A. A. Id_A & \xrightarrow{J_{C,d}} & \Gamma. A. A. Id_A \end{array}$$

$C \in Ty(\Gamma. A. A. Id_A)$   
motive

$d \in Tm(\Gamma. A, C[\text{ref}_A])$   
witness

## Universe

$U \in Ty(\Gamma)$ ,  $E \in Ty(\Gamma, U)$   
natural in  $\Gamma$

Equivalently:

$U \in Ty(1)$ ,  $E \in Ty(1, U)$

$A \in T_m(\Gamma, U) \mapsto E[\langle id_\Gamma, A \rangle]$   
decodes elements of  $U$  into types.

$Ty_U \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$

$Tm_U \in \widehat{STy_U}$

$Ty_U(\Gamma) = Tm(\Gamma, U)$

$Tm_U(A) = Tm(\Gamma, E[\langle id_\Gamma, A \rangle])$

defines cwf structure on  $\mathcal{C}$  induced by  $U$ .

$U$  closed under type formers means:

(1) induced cwf structure has type formers,

(2) map of cwf structures preserves type formers.

$Ty_U$

$Ty_U \rightarrow Ty$

Can abstractly define cumulative hierarchy  
using morphisms of cwf structures.

## Axioms (FunExt + Univalence)

Witnessed by a term of the type for the axiom  
(naturally in the context).

## Examples

- Set as cwf:

$$Ty(\Gamma) = \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

$$Tm(\Gamma, A) = (x: \Gamma) \rightarrow A(x)$$

- Groupoids as cwf:

$$Ty(\Gamma) = \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Gpd}$$

$$Tm(\Gamma, A) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} SA \\ \uparrow \downarrow \\ \Gamma \end{array} \right\}$$

Split fibration model.

There is also the (cloven) fibration model:

pseudofunctors  $\Gamma \rightarrow \text{Gpd}$ .

- Cube category  $\square$ :

$$Ty(x) = 1$$

$$Tm(x, *) = \square(x, I)$$

for interval  $I$  generating  $\square$

- For a cwf  $\mathcal{C}$ , the core  $\mathcal{C}_{\text{fib}}$  has  
- objects  $Ty(1)$

- maps  $1.A \dashrightarrow 1.B$

-  $Ty_{\text{fib}}(A) = Ty(1.A)$

- For a cwf  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{C}$ , the slice  $\mathcal{C} \downarrow \Gamma$  inherits a cwf structure.

...