# CaTT: A type theory for weak $\omega$ -categories

### Thibaut Benjamin

CEA LIST, work conducted at Ecole Polytechnique

HoTTEST Event for Junior Researchers January 13, 2022

### Introduction

▶ I will present the type theory CaTT, introduced by Finster and Mimram.

### Introduction

▶ I will present the type theory CaTT, introduced by Finster and Mimram.

▶ I have conducted my PhD thesis about this theory.

#### Introduction

▶ I will present the type theory CaTT, introduced by Finster and Mimram.

▶ I have conducted my PhD thesis about this theory.

▶ I am currently a postdoc at CEA LIST, where I work on runtime verification of C programs (in frama-c). HoTT, Groupoids, and Brunerie's Type Theory

## HoTT and $\omega$ -Groupoids

 $\triangleright$  The iterated identity types endow types with a structure of a weak  $\omega$ -groupoid.

## HoTT and $\omega$ -Groupoids

 $\triangleright$  The iterated identity types endow types with a structure of a weak  $\omega$ -groupoid.

▶ But we can abstract out this structure and define it as a minimal type theory (Brunerie)

# Brunerie's Type Theory

▶ HoTT, but stripped off of everything except identities

# Brunerie's Type Theory

▶ HoTT, but stripped off of everything except identities

▷ So a context looks like :

```
(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x=y, f':x=y, g:z=y, a:f=f')
```

# Brunerie's Type Theory

▶ HoTT, but stripped off of everything except identities

▷ So a context looks like :

$$(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x=y, f':x=y, g:z=y, a:f=f')$$

 $\triangleright$  These contexts describe *arbitrary equality situations* (a.k.a computads for weak  $\omega$ -groupoids)

$$x \underbrace{\iint_{a}}_{f'} y = g z$$

▶ In HoTT, identity types have recursors that allows to combine them.

▶ In HoTT, identity types have recursors that allows to combine them.

▶ In Brunerie's Type Theory, we define *compositions* and *axioms* for that.

▶ In HoTT, identity types have recursors that allows to combine them.

▶ In Brunerie's Type Theory, we define compositions and axioms for that.

▶ This allows for instance to derive the terms

$$(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x=y, g:y=z) \vdash c(f,g) : x=z$$

$$x \xrightarrow{f} y \xrightarrow{g} z$$

▶ In HoTT, identity types have recursors that allows to combine them.

▶ In Brunerie's Type Theory, we define *compositions* and *axioms* for that.

▶ This allows for instance to derive the terms

(x:\*, y:\*, z:\*, f:x=y, g:y=z) 
$$\vdash$$
 c(f,g) : x=z  
 $x \stackrel{f}{=} y \stackrel{g}{=} z$ 

$$(x:*, y:*, z:*, w:*, f:x=y, g:y=z, h:z=w)$$
  
 $\vdash a(f,g,h) : c(f,c(g,h))=c(c(f,g),h)$   
 $x = \frac{f}{x} y = \frac{g}{x} z = \frac{h}{x} w$ 

 $\mathsf{CaTT}: \mathsf{A} \mathsf{\ Type\ Theory\ for\ Weak\ } \omega\text{-}\mathsf{Categories}$ 

### General Idea

ightharpoonup Same as Brunerie's Type Theory, but for weak  $\omega$ -categories Replace equalities with rewriting relations

#### General Idea

ightharpoonup Same as Brunerie's Type Theory, but for weak  $\omega$ -categories Replace equalities with rewriting relations

ightharpoonup Contexts are arbitrary rewriting situations (a.k.a computads for weak  $\omega$ -categories)

### General Idea

ightharpoonup Same as Brunerie's Type Theory, but for weak  $\omega$ -categories Replace equalities with rewriting relations

 $\triangleright$  Contexts are arbitrary rewriting situations (a.k.a computads for weak  $\omega$ -categories)

▶ Define compositions and axioms for those.

▶ Like in Brunerie's Type Theory, but replace equalities with arrows

▶ Like in Brunerie's Type Theory, but replace equalities with arrows

▶ Example :

```
(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x->y, f':x->y, g:z->y, a:f->f')
```

▶ Like in Brunerie's Type Theory, but replace equalities with arrows

▶ Example :

$$(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x->y, f':x->y, g:z->y, a:f->f')$$

▶ This context corresponds to the following diagram (globular set)

$$x \underbrace{\psi_a}^f y \leftarrow_g z$$

▶ Like in Brunerie's Type Theory, but replace equalities with arrows

▶ Example :

$$(x:*, y:*, z:*, f:x->y, f':x->y, g:z->y, a:f->f')$$

▶ This context corresponds to the following diagram (globular set)

$$x \underbrace{\psi_a}^f y \leftarrow_g z$$

▶ We will see more general contexts later

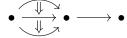


▶ Pasting schemes are the context that describe essentially a single unambiguous rewriting situation.

▶ Pasting schemes are the context that describe essentially a single unambiguous rewriting situation.

▶ Example :

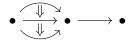




▶ Pasting schemes are the context that describe essentially a single unambiguous rewriting situation.

▶ Example :





▶ Counter-example :

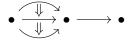




▶ Pasting schemes are the context that describe essentially a single unambiguous rewriting situation.

▶ Example :





▶ Counter-example :





▶ We can recognize them algorithmically



▶ Composition express the idea that the space of composite of a pasting schemes is contractible.

▷ Composition express the idea that the space of composite of a pasting schemes is contractible.

▶ First rule (operations) : Every pasting scheme has a composition

▷ Composition express the idea that the space of composite of a pasting schemes is contractible.

▶ First rule (operations) : Every pasting scheme has a composition

▶ Second rule (axioms): Any two compositions of the same pasting scheme are related by a higher cell.

▶ Composition express the idea that the space of composite of a pasting schemes is contractible.

▶ First rule (operations) : Every pasting scheme has a composition

▶ Second rule (axioms): Any two compositions of the same pasting scheme are related by a higher cell.

▶ Let's see this live!