Computational Higher Inductive Types Computing with Custom Equalities

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MIT CSAIL Student Workshop

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Warm Up: Linked Lists

Example: Unordered Sets Canonical Inhabitants Higher Inductive Types

Computing with Higher Inductive Types

Thank you

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- ▶ Transitivity: if x = y and y = z, then x = z
- ▶ Leibniz rule: if x = y, then f(x) = f(y)

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 - ▶ In Coq, Agda, and Idris, you get all of these properties for free

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- In Haskell, Agda, Coq, and Idris, the Leibniz rule is false! (or at least not internally provable)
 - The problem is that either you don't have private fields, or you can't make use of the fact that everything is defined in terms of your public methods.

Solution 1: Canonical Inhabitants

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- ▶ Is this really what we wanted? We asked for unordered sets, and instead made sorted lists.

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 - Take the reflexive symmetric transitive closure of the given relation
- ► How do we get Leibniz for free?
 - Require proving it each time you define a particular function
 - To define a function that deals with unordered sets, you have to simultaneously prove that your function is invariant under permutations

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- ► This is Homotopy Type Theory

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Questions?

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- Very hard to do!
- ► Can probably be done by way of parametricity (aka "theorems for free"), or a generalization of it
- Parametricity can be given a computational interpretation, but it's very non-trivial to do so