Type theory in Lean

Riccardo Brasca

Université Paris Cité

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- an informal introduction to type theory (terms, types and universes);
- basic constructions in type theory:
  - functions and dependent products;
  - dependent sums;
  - inductive types;
- the natural numbers;
- various examples of inductive types;

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References

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To get the repository of the course go to https://github.com/riccardobrasca/TypeTheory/ and follow the instructions there.

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Being a "set" and $\in$ are primitive notions, undefined.

In ZFC *everything is a set*.

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A “strange” feature of set theory is that

$$\pi \in (\sin : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R})$$

is a valid mathematical statement (hopefully false...).

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\begin{gathered}
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\dots \\
n + 1 := \{0, 1, \dots, n\} = n \cup \{n\}
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Proposition

3 *is a topology on* 2.

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What the elaborator has to do

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$$(1+2)x = x + x + x.$$

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"Because $x \in V$". But maybe $V \subseteq W$ for another vector space W, so $x \in W$ too.

The elaborator has a complex job, and the fact that everything is a set does not help.

Type theory

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Sets and $\in$ play no special role, they are mathematical notions with a "normal" definition.

Terms, types and universes

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The natural number 0 is a term. So is the the function $\sin \colon \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ and the "set" $\mathbb{Z}$.

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In a sense, the type of x is its own nature. The fact that the type of x is T is not a (true/false) mathematical statement. We cannot prove or disprove it, we can only *check* the type of a term.

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Conjecture (Riemann)

Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$ be a complex number. If $\zeta(z) = 0$ and $\Im(z) > 0$ then $z \in L$, where L is the critical line.

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The two symbols $\in$, in the assumption $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and in the conclusion that $z \in L$ have different meaning:

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In type theory, Riemann hypothesis is a statement about a term z of type $\mathbb{C}$.

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Type is also a term! It has type Type 1.

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At the very bottom there is a special universe: $\mathrm{Prop} : \mathrm{Type}$.

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is *not* a mathematical statement, but it can be checked in practice.

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In principle definitional equality is algorithmically decidable.

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This is *not* an equivalence relation, but the "true" definitional equality is.