

Univalent Involutions

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In this paper I prove that isomorphisms are isomorphic to Univalent Involutions.

An isomorphism^[1] from a Category^[2] theoretic view is a morphism f with an inverse g such that:

$$\begin{aligned} f \cdot g &\leq id_B \\ g \cdot f &\leq id_A \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f &: A \rightarrow B \\ g &: B \rightarrow A \end{aligned}$$

An involution^[3] is a morphism h such that:

$$\begin{aligned} h \cdot h &\leq id_T \\ h &: T \rightarrow T \end{aligned}$$

Every involution is an isomorphism, but not every isomorphism is an involution.

It turns out that every isomorphism can be turned into a Univalent Involution:

$$h := \lambda(x : T) = \text{if let some}(a) = h'_A{}^{-1}(x) \{ h'_B(f(a)) \} \\ \text{else if let some}(b) = h'_B{}^{-1}(x) \{ h'_A(g(b)) \} \\ \text{else } \{ \text{unreachable!}() \}$$

$T := A \mid B$	T is the sum type of A and B
$h'_A : A \rightarrow T$	Lifts A into T
$h'_B : B \rightarrow T$	Lifts B into T
$h'_A{}^{-1} : T \rightarrow \text{opt}[A]$	Takes A out of some T
$h'_B{}^{-1} : T \rightarrow \text{opt}[B]$	Takes B out of some T

The univalent involution h has the following normal paths (where opt is used as a functor):

$$\begin{aligned} h[h'_A{}^{-1} \rightarrow h'_B{}^{-1}] &\leq \text{opt}(f) \\ h[h'_B{}^{-1} \rightarrow h'_A{}^{-1}] &\leq \text{opt}(g) \end{aligned}$$

A Univalent Involution differs from ordinary involutions by the property it can be turned back into a heterogenous isomorphism, kind of like a tuple (a, b) can be turned into a and b :

$$\begin{aligned} h.0 &\leq f \\ h.1 &\leq g \end{aligned}$$

Since equality in Intuitionistic Logic^[4] using types is a tuple (f, g) , this particular form of involution is thought to be univalent^[5].

References:

- [1] “Isomorphism”
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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isomorphism>
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