

Do-it-yourself Module Systems

Extending Dependently-Typed Languages to Implement Module System Features In The Core Language

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Abstract

Structuring-mechanisms, such as Java’s `package` and Haskell’s `module`, are often afterthought secondary citizens whose primary purpose is to act as namespace delimiters, while relatively more effort is given to their abstraction encapsulation counterparts, e.g., Java’s classes and Haskell’s typeclasses. A *dependently-typed language* (DTL) is a typed language where we can write *types* that depend on *terms*; thereby blurring conventional distinctions between a variety of concepts. In contrast, languages with non-dependent type systems tend to distinguish *external vs. internal* structuring-mechanisms—as in Java’s `package` for namespacing vs. `class` for abstraction encapsulation—with more dedicated attention and power for the internal case—as it is expressible within the type theory.

To our knowledge, relatively few languages—such as Ocaml, Maude, and the B Method—allow for the manipulation of external structuring-mechanisms as they do for internal ones. Sufficiently expressive type systems, such as those of dependently typed languages, allow for the internalisation of many concepts thereby conflating a number of traditional programming notions. Since DTLs permit types that depend on terms, the types may require non-trivial term calculation in order to be determined. Languages without such expressive type systems necessitate certain constraints on its constructs according to their intended usage. It is not clear whether such constraints have been brought to more expressive languages out of necessity or out of convention. Hence we propose a systematic exploration of the structuring-mechanism design space for dependently typed languages to understand *what are the module systems for DTLs?*

First-class structuring-mechanisms have values and types of their own which need to be subject to manipulation by the user, so it is reasonable to consider manipulation combinators for them from the beginning. Such combinators would correspond to the many generic operations that one naturally wants to perform on structuring-mechanisms—e.g., combining them, hiding components, renaming components—some of which, in the external case, are impossible to perform in any DTL without resorting to third-party tools for pre-processing. Our aim is to provide a sound footing for systems of structuring-mechanisms so that structuring-mechanisms become another common feature in dependently typed languages. An important contribution of this work is an Agda implementation of our module combinators—which we hope to be accepted into a future release of the Agda standard library.

If anything, our aim is practical—to save developers from ad hoc copy-paste preprocessing hacks.

—Source: <https://github.com/alhassy/next-700-module-systems>—

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Chapter 1

Introduction —The Thesis’ “Story”

[Editor Comment:

- "that demonstrates the distinction between what can currently be accomplished and what is desired when working with composition of software units." this is overly broad. Your thesis does not accomplish that, nor should it try. Focus!

I

In this chapter we aim to present the narrative that demonstrates the distinction between what can currently be accomplished and what is desired when working with composition of software units. We arrive at the observation that packaging concepts differ only in their use—for example, a `Typeclass` and a `Record` are both sequences of declarations that only differ in that the former is used for polymorphism with instance search whereas the latter is used as a structure, grouping related items together. In turn, we are led to propose that the various packaging concepts ought to have a uniform syntax. Moreover, since records are a particular notion of packaging, the commitment to syntactic similarity gives rise to a *homoiconic* nature to the host language.

[Editor Comment:

- the whole first paragraph is quite vague. It’s not false, but it’s also not helpful. You should try to remember your audience, which is your committee (Emil, Ridha, and an external person).

I

Within this work we refer to a *simple type theory* as a language that contains typed lambda terms for terms and formulae; if in addition it contains lambda terms whose types

are indexed by values then we say it is a *dependently-typed language*, or ‘DTL’ for short — depending on intent, value-indexed types could be interpreted as *propositions* and their terms as *proofs*. With the exception of declarations and ephemeral notions, nearly everything in a DTL is a typed lambda term. Just as Lisp’s Homoiconic nature blurs data and code leaving it not as a language with primitives but rather a language with meta-primitives, so too the lack of distinction between term and type lends itself to generic and uniform concepts in DTLs thereby leaving no syntactic distinction between a constructive proof and an algorithm.

[Editor Comment:

- what is the message of your second paragraph? It says all sorts of things that are barely connected to each other. It doesn’t say any of those things crisply. I’m not sure which of the things it communicates are clearly important for the rest of the thesis.

]

An introduction to Agda and dependent types can be found in §4.3

The sections below explore our primary observation. Section 1 demonstrates the variety of ‘tongues’ present in a single language which are conflated in a DTL, section 2 discusses that such conflation should by necessity apply to notions of packaging, section 3 contains contributed work to ensure that happens. Finally, section 4 concludes by outlining the remainder of the thesis.

[Editor Comment:

- "The sections below explore our primary observation". By this point in the introduction, I should have an idea of what the thesis is about - I don’t. I’m not even quite sure what the ‘primary observation’ is. I certainly don’t know why NOW is a good time to explore it.

]

[Editor Comment:

"The goal is to use a dependently-typed language to implement the ‘missing’ module system features directly inside the language." is the first sentence, 7 pages in, that gets to the heart of the problem you have really worked hard on. **]**

1.1 A Language Has Many Tongues

[Editor Comment:

I don't really think that 1.1 and 1.2 really help the reader understand your thesis. They are too unfocused. This story might belong in the thesis, but not in the introduction. 1

A programming language is actually many languages working together.

The most basic of imperative languages comes with a notion of ‘statement’ that is executed by the computer to alter ‘state’ and a notion of ‘value’ that can be assigned to memory locations. Statements may be sequenced or looped, whereas values may be added or multiplied, for example. In general, the operations on one linguistic category cannot be applied to the other. Unfortunately, a rigid separation between the two sub-languages means that binary choice, for example, conventionally invites two notations with identical semantics —e.g.; in `C` one writes `if (cond) clause1 else clause2` for statements but must use the notation `cond ? term1 : term2` for values. Hence, there are value and statement languages.

Let us continue using the `C` language for our examples since it is so ubiquitous and has influenced many languages. Such a choice has the benefit of referring to a concrete language, rather than speaking in vague generalities. Besides Agda —our language of choice— we shall also refer to Haskell as a representative of the functional side of programming. For example, in Haskell there is no distinction between values and statements —the latter being a particular instance of the former— and so it uses the same notation `if ... then ... else ...` for both. However, in practice, statements in Haskell are more pragmatically used as a body of a `do` block for which the rules of conditionals and local variables change —hence, Haskell is not as uniform as it initially appears.

In `C`, one declares an integer value by `int x`; but a value of a user-defined type `T` is declared `struct T x`; since, for simplicity, one may think of `C` having an array named `struct` that contains the definitions of user-defined types `T` and the notation `struct T` acts as an array access. Since this is a clunky notation, we can provide an alias using the declaration `typedef existing-name new-name`;. Unfortunately, the existing name must necessarily be a type, such as `struct T` or `int`, and cannot be an arbitrary term. One must use `#define` to produce term aliases, which are handled by the `C` preprocessor, which also provides `#include` to ‘copy-paste import’ existing libraries. Hence, the type language is distinct from the libraries language, which is part of the preprocessor language.

In contrast, Haskell has a pragma language for enabling certain features of the compiler. Unlike `C`, it has an interface language using type-`class`-es which differs from its `module` language [DJH; SHH01; She] since the former’s names may be qualified by the names of the latter but not the other way around. In turn, type-`class` names may be used as constraints on types, but not so with `module` names. It may be argued that this interface language is part of the type language, but it is sufficiently different that it could be thought of as its own language [Ler00] —for example, it comes with keywords `class`, `instance`, `=>` that can only appear in

special phrases. In addition, by default, variable declarations are the same for built-in and user-defined types —whereas C requires using `typedef` to mimic such behaviour. However, Haskell distinguishes between term and type aliases. In contrast, Agda treats aliasing as nothing more than a normal definition.

Certain application domains require high degrees of confidence in the correctness of software. Such program verification settings may thus have an additional specification language. For C, perhaps the most popular is the ANSI C Specification Language, ACSL [BP10]. Besides the C types, ACSL provides a type `integer` for specifications referring to unbounded integers as well as numerous other notions and notations not part of the C language. Hence, the specification language generally differs from the implementation language. In contrast, Haskell’s specifications are generally [Hal+] in comments but its relative Agda allows specifications to occur at the type level.

Whether programs actually meet their specifications ultimately requires a proof language. For example, using the Frama-C tool [VME18], ACSL specifications can be supported by Isabelle or Coq proofs. In contrast, being dependently-typed, Agda allows us to use the implementation language also as a proof language —*the only distinction is a shift in our perspective; the syntax is the same*. Tools such as Idris and Coq come with ‘tactics’ — algorithms which one may invoke to produce proofs— and may combine them using specific operations that only act on tactics, whence yet another tongue.

Hence, even the simplest of programming languages contain the first three of the following sub-languages —types may be treated at runtime.

1. Expression language;
2. Statement, or control flow, language;
3. Type language;
4. Specification language;
5. Proof language;
6. Module language;
7. Meta-programming languages —including Coq tactics, C preprocessor, Haskell pragmas, Template Haskell’s various quotation brackets `[x| ...]`, Idris directives, etc.

As briefly discussed, the first five languages telescope down into one uniform language within the dependently-typed language Agda. So why not the module language?

1.2 Needless Distinctions for Containers

[Editor Comment:

I don't really think that 1.1 and 1.2 really help the reader understand your thesis. They are too unfocused. This story might belong in the thesis, but not in the introduction.]

Computing is compositionality. Large mind-bending software developments are formed by composing smaller, much more manageable, pieces together. How? In the previous section we outlined a number of languages equipped with term constructors, yet we did not indicate which were more primitive and which could be derived.

The methods currently utilised are ad hoc, e.g., “dump the contents of packages into a new über package”. What about when the packages contain conflicting names? “Make an über package with field names for each package’s contents”. What about viewing the new über package as a hierarchy of its packages? “Make conversion methods between the two representations.” These tedious and error-prone operations *should be* mechanically derivable.

In general, there are special-purpose constructs specifically for working with packages of “usual”, or “day-to-day” expression- or statement-level code. That is, a language for working with containers whose contents live in another language. This forces the users to think of these constructs as rare notions that are seldom needed —since they belong to an ephemeral language. They are only useful when connecting packages together and otherwise need not be learned.

When working with mutually dependent modules, a simple workaround to cyclic type-checking and loading is to create an interface file containing the declarations that dependents require. To mitigate such error-prone duplication of declarations, one may utilise literate programming [Knu84] to tangle the declarations to multiple files —the actual parent module and the interface module. This was the situation with Haskell before its recent module signature mechanism [Kil+14]. Being a purely functional language, it is unsurprising that Haskell treats nested record field updates awkwardly: Where a C-like language may have $a.b.c := d$, Haskell requires $a \{ b = b \ a \{ c = d \} \}$ which necessarily has field names b , c polluting the global function namespace as field projections. Since a record is a possibly deeply nested list of declarations, it is trivial to flatten such a list to mechanically generate the names “ $a-b-c$ ” —since the dot is reserved— unfortunately this is not possible in the core language thereby forcing users to employ ‘lenses’ [Rom20] to generate such accessors by compile-time meta-programming. In the setting of DTLs, records in the form of nested Σ -types tend to have tremendously poor performance —in existing implementations of Coq [GCS14] and Agda [Per17], the culprit generally being projections. More generally, what if we wanted to do something with packages that the host language does not support? “Use a pre-processor, approximate packaging at a different language level, or simply settle with what you have.”

Main Observation Packages, modules, theories, contexts, traits, typeclasses, interfaces,

what have you all boil down to dependent records at the end of the day and *really differ* in *how* they are used or implemented. At the end of section 5 we demonstrate various distinct presentations of such notions of packaging arising from a single package declaration.

1.3 Novel Contributions

[Editor Comment:

1.3 really mixes Related Work and Contributions. It does not even state a crisp "Research Problem" that you are investigating. The outcomes reads like "stuff I've done", rather than "contributions worth of a PhD". 1

The thesis investigates the current state of the art of grouping mechanisms —sometimes referred to as modules or packages—, their shortcomings, and implementing candidate solutions based upon a dependently-typed language.

The introduction of first-class structuring mechanisms drastically changes the situation by allowing the composition and manipulation of structuring mechanisms within the language itself. Granted, languages providing combinators for structuring mechanisms are not new; e.g., such notions already exist for Full Maude [DM07] and B [BGL06]. The former is closer in spirit to our work, but it differs from ours in that it is based on a *reflective logic*: A logic where certain aspects of its metatheory can be faithfully represented within the logic itself. Not only does the meta-theory of our effort not involve reflection, but our distinctive attribute is that our aim is to form powerful module system features for Dependently-Typed Languages (DTLs).

To the uninitiated, the shift to DTLs may not appear useful, or at least would not differ much from existing approaches. We believe otherwise; indeed, in programming and, more generally, in mathematics, there are three —below: 1, 2a, 2b— essentially equivalent perspectives to understanding a concept. Even though they are equivalent, each perspective has prompted numerous programming languages; as such, the equivalence does not make the selection of a perspective irrelevant. The perspectives are below, and examples in the subsequent table.

1. “Point-wise” or “Constituent-Based”: A concept is understood by studying the concepts it is “made out of”.

Common examples include:

- ◊ *Extensionality*: A mathematical set is determined by the elements it contains.
- ◊ A method is determined by the sequence of statements or expressions it is composed from.
- ◊ A package —such as a record or data declaration— is determined by its components, which may be *thought of* as fields or constructors.

Object-oriented programming is based on the notion of inheritance which is founded on the “has a” and “is a” relationships.

2. “Point-free” or Relationship Based: A concept is understood by its relationship to other concepts in the domain of discourse.

This approach comes into two sub-classifications:

- (a) “First Class Citizen” or “Concept as Data”: The concept is treated as a static entity and is identified by applying operations *onto it* in order to observe its nature.

Common examples include:

- ◊ A singleton set is a set whose cardinality is 1.
- ◊ A method, in any coding language, is a value with the ability to act on other values of a particular type.
- ◊ A renaming scheme to provide different names for a given package; more generally, applicative modules.

- (b) “Second Class Citizen” or “Concept as Method”: The concept is treated as a dynamic entity that is fed input stimuli and is understood by its emitted observational output.

Common examples include:

- ◊ A singleton set is a set for which there is a unique mapping to it from any other set. Input any set, obtain a map from it to the singleton set.
- ◊ A method, in any coding language, is unique up to observational equality: Feed it arguments, check its behaviour. Realistically, one may want to also consider efficiency matters.
- ◊ Generative modules as in the `new` keyword from object-oriented programming: Basic construction arguments are provided and a container object is produced.

Observing such a sub-classification as distinct led to traditional structural programming languages, whereas blurring the distinction somewhat led to functional programming.

Table 1.1: Four ways to percieve ‘the’ empty collection \emptyset , and associated theory

| | | | |
|------|-------------|--|-----------------|
| (1) | Extensional | $X = \emptyset \equiv (\forall e \bullet e \in X \equiv \text{false})$ | Predicate Logic |
| (2) | Intensional | $X = \emptyset \equiv (\forall Y \bullet X \subseteq Y)$ | Set Theory |
| (2a) | Data | $X = \emptyset \equiv \#X = 0$ | Numbers-as-Sets |
| (2b) | Method | $X = \emptyset \equiv (\forall Y \bullet \exists_1 f \bullet f \in (X \rightarrow Y))$ | Function Theory |

A simple selection of equivalent perspectives leads to wholly distinct paradigms of thought. It is with this idea that we seek to implement first-class grouping mechanisms in a dependently typed language —theories have been proposed, on paper, but as just discussed *actual design decisions may have challenging impacts on the overall system*. Most importantly, this is a *requirements driven* approach to coherent modularisation constructs in dependently typed languages.

Later on, we shall demonstrate that with a sufficiently expressive type system, a number of traditional programming notions regarding ‘packaging up data’ become conflated—in particular: Records and modules; which for the most part can all be thought of as “dependent products with named components”. Languages without such expressive type systems necessitate certain constraints on these concepts according to their intended usage—e.g., no multiple inheritance for Java’s classes and only one instance for Haskell’s typeclasses. It is not clear whether such constraints have been brought to more expressive languages out of necessity, convention, or convenience. Hence, in chapter 5, we perform a systematic exploration of the structuring-mechanism design space for DTLs as a starting point for the design of an appropriate dependently-typed module system (§ 5). Along the way, we intend to provide a set of atomic combinators that suffice as building blocks for generally desirable features of grouping mechanisms, and moreover we intend to provide an analyses of their interactions.

That is, we want to look at the edge cases of the design space for structuring-mechanism *systems*, not only what is considered convenient or conventional. Along the way, we will undoubtedly encounter useless or non-feasible approaches. The systems we intend to consider would account for, say, module structures with intrinsic types—hence treating them as first class concepts—so that our examination is based on sound principles.

Understandably, some of the traditional constraints have to do with implementations. For example, a Haskell typeclass is generally implemented as a dictionary that can, for the most part, be inlined whereas a record is, in some languages, a contiguous memory block: They can be identified in a DTL, but their uses force different implementation methodologies and consequently they are segregated under different names.

In summary, our research builds upon the existing state of module systems [DCH03] in a dependently-typed setting [Mac86] which is substantiated by developing practical and pragmatic tools. Our outcomes include:

1. A clean module system for DTLs that treats modules uniformly as any other value type.
2. A variety of use-cases contrasting the resulting system with previous approaches.
 - ◊ We solve the so-called unbundling problem and demonstrate—using our implemented tools—how pushout and homomorphisms constructions, among many others, can be *mechanically* obtained.
3. A module system that enables rather than inhibits efficiency.
4. Demonstrate that module features traditionally handled using meta-programming can be brought to the data-value level; thereby not actually requiring the immense power and complexity of meta-programming.

Most importantly, we have implemented our theory thereby obtaining validation that it ‘works’. We provide an extensible Emacs interface as well as an Agda library for forming module constructions.

1.4 Overview of the Remaining Chapters

When a programming language does not provide sufficiently expressive primitives for a concept —such as typeclass derivation [BLS18]— users use some form of pre-processing to accomplish their tasks. In our case, the insufficient primitives are regarding the creation and manipulation of theories —i.e., records, classes, packages, modules. In section 5, we will demonstrate a prototype that clarified the requirements of our envisioned system. Even though the prototype appears to be metaprogramming, the aim is not to force users interested in manipulating packages to worry about the intricacies of representations; that is, the end goal is to avoid metaprogramming —which is an over-glorified form of preprocessing. The goal is to *use a dependently-typed language to implement the ‘missing’ module system features directly inside the language.*

[Editor Comment:

"The goal is to use a dependently-typed language to implement the ‘missing’ module system features directly inside the language." is the first sentence, 7 pages in, that gets to the heart of the problem you have really worked hard on. I

An important design decision is whether the resulting development is intended to be reasoned about or not. If reasoning is important, then a language that better supports it is ideal. That is why we are using Agda —using a simpler language and maintaining data invariants eventually becomes much harder [LM13].

The remainder of the thesis is organised as follows.

◇ §5 Examples from the wild

There are a host of repeated module patterns since modules are not a first-class construct. We look at three Agda libraries and extract “module design patterns for dependently-typed programming”. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to formalise such design patterns for dependently-typed languages. Three other, non-module, design patterns are discussed in [OS08].

◇ §5 Metaprogramming Module Meta-primitives

To show that first-class modules are *reasonable*, we begin by providing `PackageFormer` [ACK19]: A specification and manipulation language for modules, for Agda. To show that the approach is promising, we demonstrate how some problems from §5 can be tackled.

- The tool is a **practical** sandbox for exploring do-it-yourself grouping mechanisms: From pushouts and pullbacks, to forming homomorphism types over a given theory.

◇ §5 Module Meta-primitives as Library Methods

The ideas learned from making the powerful `PackageFormer` prototype lead us to form the less-powerful `Context` framework, which has the orthogonal benefit of being an Agda library rather than an external pre-processing tool.

- Along the way, we solve the **unbundling problem**: Features of a structure may be exposed at the type level as-needed.

◇ **§5 Conclusion: The lingua franca dream as reality**

We compare the external `PackageFormer` tool with the `Context` library, and discuss how the latter has brought us closer to our original goal of having a single language for expressing values, types, and modules.

It has been an exciting journey, I hope you enjoy the ride!

Chapter 2

Motivating the problem — Examples from the Wild

[Editor Comment:

- ◇ the idea of the section is sound (but does not 'follow' from sections 1 and 2 as written), and fits
- ◇ you have the space here. Go for [Monoid](#), else you'll confuse the reader.
 - Musa: A [magma](#) suffices to express the problem; [monoid](#) may be more familiar but it only brings extra noise —extra symbols that do not contribute to the problem addressed.
- ◇ you're missing a "lessons learned" section where you summarize the problems that have been encountered that need a solution.

[*Tedium is for machines; interesting problems are for people.*

In this section, we showcase a number of problems that occur in developing libraries of code, with an eye to dependently-typed languages. We will refer back to these real-world examples later on when developing our frameworks for reducing their tedium and size.

The examples are extracted from Agda libraries focused on mathematical domains, such as algebra and category theory. It is not important to understand the application domains, but how modules are organised and used. The examples will focus on readability (§ 2.1, 2.2) and on mixing-in features to an existing module (§ 2.3, ??, 2.5). In order to make the core concepts acceptable, we will occasionally render examples using the simple algebraic structures: Magma, Semigroup, and Monoid¹.

¹A [magma](#) $(C, _;_)$ is a set C and a binary operation $_;_ : C \rightarrow C \rightarrow C$ on it; a [semigroup](#) is a magma

Incidentally, the common solutions to the problems presented may be construed as “design patterns for dependently-typed programming”. Design patterns are algorithms yearning to be formalised. The power of the host language dictates whether design patterns remain as informal directions to be implemented in an ad-hoc basis then checked by other humans, or as a library methods that are written once and may be freely applied by users. For instance, `Agda’s Algebra.Morphism` “library” presents *only* an example(!) of the homomorphism design pattern —which shows how to form operation-preserving functions for algebraic structures. The documentation reads: `An example showing how a morphism type can be defined`. An example, rather than a library method, is all that can be done since the current implementation of Agda does not have the necessary meta-programming utilities to construct new types in a practical way —at least, not out of the box.

2.1 Simplifying Programs by Exposing Invariants at the Type Level

In theory, lists and vectors are the same —where the latter are essentially lists indexed by their lengths. In practice, however, the additional length information stated up-front as an integral part of the data structure makes it not only easier to write programs that would otherwise be awkward or impossible in the latter case. For instance, below we demonstrate that the function `head`, which extracts the first element of a non-empty list, not only has a difficult type to read, but also requires an auxiliary relation in order to be expressed. In contrast, the vector variant has a much simpler type with the non-emptiness proviso expressed by requesting a positive length.

whose operation is associative, $\forall x, y, z \bullet (x ; y) ; z = x ; (y ; z)$; and a *monoid* is a semigroup that has a point `Id` : `C` acting as the identity of the binary operation: $\forall x \bullet x ; \text{Id} = x = \text{Id} ; x$.

```

data List (A : Set) : Set where
  [] : List A
  _::_ : A → List A → List A

data Vec (A : Set) : ℕ → Set where
  [] : Vec A 0
  _::_ : ∀ {n} → A → Vec A n → Vec A (suc n)

data not-null {A : Set} : List A → Set where
  indeed : ∀ {x xs} → not-null (x :: xs)

head : ∀ {A} → Σ xs : List A • not-null xs → A
head ([], ())
head (x :: xs, indeed) = x

head' : ∀ {A n} → Vec A (suc n) → A
head' (x :: xs) = x

```

In the definition of `head`, we pattern match on the possible ways to form a list —namely, `[]` and `_::_`. In the first case, we perform *case analysis* on the shape of the proof of `not-null []`, but there is no way to form such a proof and so we have “defined” the first clause of `head` using *a definition by zero-cases* on the `not-null` proof. The ‘absurd pattern’ `()` indicates the impossibility of a construction and is covered later in §4.3.8.

This phenomena applies not only to derived concepts such as non-emptiness, but also to explicit features of a datatype. A common scenario is when two instances of an algebraic structure share the same carrier and thus it is reasonable to connect the two somehow by a coherence axiom. Perhaps the most popular instance of this scenario is in the setting of rings: There is an additive `monoid` $(R, +, 1)$ and a multiplicative `monoid` $(R, \times, 0)$ on the same underlying set R , and their interaction is dictated by two distributivity axioms, such as $a \times (b + c) \approx (a \times b) + (a \times c)$. As with `head` above, depending on which features of a `monoid` are exposed upfront, such axioms may be either difficult to express or relatively easy.

For brevity, since our interest is in expressing the aforementioned distributivity axiom, we shall ignore all other features of a `monoid`, to obtain a `magma`. $\text{\#}+\text{\LaTeX}$:

```

record Magma0 : Set1 where
  field
    Carrier : Set
    _;-_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier

record Distributivity0 (Additive Multiplicative : Magma0) : Set1 where

  open Magma0 Additive      renaming (Carrier to R+; _;-_ to _+_ )
  open Magma0 Multiplicative renaming (Carrier to Rx; _;-_ to _*_ )

  field shared-carrier : R+ ≡ Rx

  coex : R+ → Rx
  coex = subst id shared-carrier

  coe+ : Rx → R+
  coe+ = subst id (sym shared-carrier)

  field distribute0 : ∀ {a : Rx} {b c : R+}
    → a × coex (b + c)
    ≡ coex (coe+ (a × coex b) + coe+ (a × coex c))

```

It is a bit of a challenge to understand the type of `distribute0`. Even though the carriers of the monoids are propositionally equal, $R_+ \equiv R_x$, they are not the same by definition — the notion of equality is defined in §4.3.3. As such, we are forced to “coe”rce back and forth; leaving the distributivity axiom as an exotic property of addition, multiplication, and coercions. Even worse, without the cleverness of declaring two coercion helpers, the typing of `distribute0` would have been so large and confusing that the concept would be rendered near useless.

In theory, parameterised structures are no different from their unparameterised, or “bundled”, counterparts. However, in practice, this is wholly untrue: Below we can phrase the distributivity axiom nearly as it was stated informally earlier since the shared carrier is declared upfront. $\# + \text{\LaTeX}$:

Distributivity is Expressed Easily with Unbundled Structures

```

record Magma1 (Carrier : Set) : Set1 where
  field
    _;_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier

record Distributivity1
  (R : Set) {- The shared carrier -}
  (Additive Multiplicative : Magma1 R) : Set1 where

  open Magma1 Additive      renaming (_;_ to _+_ )
  open Magma1 Multiplicative renaming (_;_ to _*_ )

  field distribute1 : ∀ {a b c : R} → a × (b + c) ≡ (a × b) + (a × c)

```

In contrast to the bundled definition of magmas, this form requires no cleverness to form coercion helpers, and is closer to the informal and usual distributivity statement.

By the same arguments above, the simple statement relating the two units of a ring $1 \times r + 0 \approx r$ —or any units of monoids sharing the same carrier—is easily phrased using an unbundled presentation and would require coercions otherwise. We invite the reader to pause at this moment to appreciate the difficulty in simply expressing this property.

Computing is filled with exciting problems; machines should help us reduce if not eliminate boring tasks.

Unbundling Design Pattern: If a feature of a class is shared among instances, then use an unbundled form of the class to avoid “coercion hell”.

Observe that we assigned superficial renamings, aliases, to the prototypical binary operation `_;_` so that we may phrase the distributivity axiom in its expected notational form. This leads us to our next topic of discussion.

2.2 Renaming

The use of an idea is generally accompanied with particular notation that is accepted by the community. Even though the choice of bound names is theoretically irrelevant, certain communities would consider it unacceptable to deviate from convention. Here are a few examples:

x(f) Using **x** as a *function* and **f** as an *argument*.; likewise $\frac{\partial x}{\partial f}$.

With the exception of people familiar with the Yoneda Lemma, or continuations, such a notation is simply “wrong”!

- $a \times a \approx a$ An idempotent operation denoted by multiplication; likewise for commutative operations. It is more common to use addition or join, \sqcup .
- $0 \times a \approx a$ The identity of “multiplicative symbols” should never resemble “0”; instead it should resemble “1” or, at least, “e” —the standard abbreviation of the influential algebraic works of German authors who used “Einheit” which means “identity”.
- $f + g$ Even if monoids are defined with the prototypical binary operation denoted “+”, it would be “wrong” to continue using it to denote functional composition. One would need to introduce the new name “o” or, at least, “.”.

From the few examples above, it is immediate that to even present a prototypical notation for an idea, one immediately needs auxiliary notation when specialising to a particular instance. For example, to use “additive symbols” such as $+$, \sqcup , \oplus to denote an arbitrary binary operation leads to trouble in the function composition instance above, whereas using “multiplicative symbols” such as \times , \cdot , $*$ leads to trouble in the idempotent case above.

Regardless of prototypical choices, there will always be a need to rename.

Renaming Design Pattern: Use superficial aliases to better communicate an idea; especially so, when the topic domain is specialised.

Let’s now turn to examples of renaming from three libraries:

1. Agda’s standard library,
2. The RATH-Agda library, and
3. A recent categories library.

Each will provide a workaround to the problem of renaming. In particular, the solutions are, respectively:

1. Rename as needed.
 - ◊ There is no systematic approach to account for the many common renamings.
 - ◊ Users are encouraged to do the same, since the standard library does it this way.
2. Pack-up the *common* renamings as modules, and invoke them when needed.
 - ◊ Which renamings are provided is left at the discretion of the designer —even “expected” renamings may not be there since, say, there are too many choices or insufficient man power to produce them.

- ◇ The pattern to pack-up renamings leads nicely to consistent naming.

3. Names don't matter.

- ◇ Users of the library need to be intimately connected with the Agda definitions and domain to use the library.
- ◇ Consequently, there are many inconsistencies in naming.

The `open ... public ... renaming ...` pattern shown below will be presented in a future section as a library method.

2.2.1 Renaming Problems from Agda's Standard Library

Here are four excerpts from Agda's standard library, notice how the prototypical notation for monoids is renamed repeatedly *as needed*. Sometimes it is relabelled with additive symbols, other times with multiplicative symbols.

Additive Renaming —IsNearSemiring

```
record IsNearSemiring {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (+ * : Op₂ A) (0# : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
  open FunctionProperties ≈
  field
    +-isMonoid      : IsMonoid ≈ + 0#
    *-isSemigroup   : IsSemigroup ≈ *
    distribʳ        : * DistributesOverʳ +
    zerol         : LeftZero 0# *

  open IsMonoid +-isMonoid public
    renaming ( assoc      to +-assoc
              ; --cong    to +-cong
              ; isSemigroup to +-isSemigroup
              ; identity   to +-identity
              )

  open IsSemigroup *-isSemigroup public
    using ()
    renaming ( assoc      to *-assoc
              ; --cong    to *-cong
              )
```

Additive Renaming Again — IsSemiringWithoutOne

```

record IsSemiringWithoutOne {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (+ * : Op2 A) (0# : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
  open FunctionProperties ≈
  field
    +-isCommutativeMonoid : IsCommutativeMonoid ≈ + 0#
    *-isSemigroup          : IsSemigroup ≈ *
    distrib                : * DistributesOver +
    zero                   : Zero 0# *

  open IsCommutativeMonoid +-isCommutativeMonoid public
    hiding (identityl)
    renaming ( assoc      to +-assoc
              ; ·-cong     to +-cong
              ; isSemigroup to +-isSemigroup
              ; identity   to +-identity
              ; isMonoid   to +-isMonoid
              ; comm       to +-comm
              )

  open IsSemigroup *-isSemigroup public
    using ()
    renaming ( assoc      to *-assoc
              ; ·-cong     to *-cong
              )

```

Additive Renaming a 3rd Time and Multiplicative Renaming —IsSemiringWithoutAnnihilatingZero

```

record IsSemiringWithoutAnnihilatingZero
  {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (+ * : Op2 A) (0# 1# : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
open FunctionProperties ≈
field
  +-isCommutativeMonoid : IsCommutativeMonoid ≈ + 0#
  *-isMonoid             : IsMonoid ≈ * 1#
  distrib                : * DistributesOver +

open IsCommutativeMonoid +-isCommutativeMonoid public
  hiding (identityl)
  renaming ( assoc      to +-assoc
            ; --cong     to +-cong
            ; isSemigroup to +-isSemigroup
            ; identity    to +-identity
            ; isMonoid    to +-isMonoid
            ; comm        to +-comm
            )

open IsMonoid *-isMonoid public
  using ()
  renaming ( assoc      to *-assoc
            ; --cong     to *-cong
            ; isSemigroup to *-isSemigroup
            ; identity    to *-identity
            )

```



```

record IsRing
  {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (+_ _*_ : Op2 A) (0# 1# : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
open FunctionProperties ≈
field
  +-isAbelianGroup : IsAbelianGroup ≈ _+_ 0# -_
  *-isMonoid       : IsMonoid ≈ *__ 1#
  distrib          : *__ DistributesOver _+_

open IsAbelianGroup +-isAbelianGroup public
  renaming ( assoc      to +-assoc
            ; ·-cong    to +-cong
            ; isSemigroup to +-isSemigroup
            ; identity   to +-identity
            ; isMonoid   to +-isMonoid
            ; inverse    to -CONVERSEinverse
            ; -1-cong  to -CONVERSEcong
            ; isGroup    to +-isGroup
            ; comm       to +-comm
            ; isCommutativeMonoid to +-isCommutativeMonoid
            )

open IsMonoid *-isMonoid public
  using ()
  renaming ( assoc      to *-assoc
            ; ·-cong    to *-cong
            ; isSemigroup to *-isSemigroup
            ; identity   to *-identity
            )

```

At first glance, one solution would be to package up these renamings into helper modules. For example, consider the setting of monoids.

```

record IsMonoid {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (· : Op2 A) (ε : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
  open FunctionProperties ≈
  field
    isSemigroup : IsSemigroup ≈ ·
    identity     : Identity ε ·

record IsCommutativeMonoid {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
  (· : Op2 A) (ε : A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
  open FunctionProperties ≈
  field
    isSemigroup : IsSemigroup ≈ ·
    identityl   : LeftIdentity ε ·
    comm        : Commutative ·

  :
isMonoid : IsMonoid ≈ · ε
isMonoid = record { ... }

```

```

module AdditiveIsMonoid {a ℓ} {A : Set a} {≈ : Rel A ℓ}
  {· : Op2 A} {ε : A} (+-isMonoid : IsMonoid ≈ · ε) where

  open IsMonoid +-isMonoid public
  renaming ( assoc      to +-assoc
            ; ·-cong     to +-cong
            ; isSemigroup to +-isSemigroup
            ; identity    to +-identity
            )

module AdditiveIsCommutativeMonoid {a ℓ} {A : Set a} {≈ : Rel A ℓ}
  {· : Op2 A} {ε : A} (+-isCommutativeMonoid : IsMonoid ≈ · ε) where

  open AdditiveIsMonoid (CommutativeMonoid.isMonoid +-isCommutativeMonoid) public
  open IsCommutativeMonoid +-isCommutativeMonoid public using ()
  renaming ( comm to +-comm
            ; isMonoid to +-isMonoid)

```

However, one then needs to make similar modules for *additive notation* for `IsAbelianGroup`, `IsRing`, `IsCommutativeRing`, Moreover, this still invites repetition: Additional notations, as used in `IsSemiring`, would require additional helper modules.

More Necessary Renaming Helper Modules

```
module MultiplicativeIsMonoid {a ℓ} {A : Set a} {≈ : Rel A ℓ}
  {·_·_ : Op2 A} {ε : A} (*-isMonoid : IsMonoid ≈ ·_·_ ε) where

  open IsMonoid *-isMonoid public
  renaming ( assoc      to *-assoc
            ; ·-cong    to *-cong
            ; isSemigroup to *-isSemigroup
            ; identity   to *-identity
            )
```

Unless carefully organised, such notational modules would bloat the standard library, resulting in difficulty when navigating the library. As it stands however, the new algebraic structures appear large and complex due to the “renaming hell” encountered to provide the expected conventional notation.

2.2.2 Renaming Problems from the RATH-Agda Library

The impressive [Relational Algebraic Theories in Agda](#) library takes a disciplined approach: Copy-paste notational modules, possibly using a find-replace mechanism to vary the notation. The use of a find-replace mechanism leads to consistent naming across different notations.

For contexts where calculation in different setoids is necessary, we provide “decorated” versions of the `Setoid'` and `SetoidCalc` interfaces:

```

module SetoidA {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) = Setoid' S renaming
  ( ℓ to ℓA ; Carrier to A0 ; _≈_ to _≈A_ ; ~-isEquivalence to ~A-isEquivalence
  ; ~-isPreorder to ~A-isPreorder ; ~-preorder to ~A-preorder
  ; ~-indexedSetoid to ~A-indexedSetoid
  ; ~-refl to ~A-refl ; ~-reflexive to ~A-reflexive ; ~-sym to ~A-sym
  ; ~-trans to ~A-trans ; ~-trans1 to ~A-trans1 ; ~-trans2 to ~A-trans2
  ; _⟨≈≈⟩_ to _⟨≈A≈⟩_ ; _⟨≈≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈A≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≈⟩_ to _⟨≈A~≈⟩_
  ; _⟨≈~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈A~≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈⟩_ to _⟨≡≈A⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡≈A~⟩_
  ; _⟨≡~≈⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈A⟩_ ; _⟨≡~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈A~⟩_ ; _⟨≈≡⟩_ to _⟨≈A≡⟩_
  ; _⟨≈≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈A≡~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡⟩_ to _⟨≈A~≡⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈A~≡~⟩_
  )

module SetoidB {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) = Setoid' S renaming
  ( ℓ to ℓB ; Carrier to B0 ; _≈_ to _≈B_ ; ~-isEquivalence to ~B-isEquivalence
  ; ~-isPreorder to ~B-isPreorder ; ~-preorder to ~B-preorder
  ; ~-indexedSetoid to ~B-indexedSetoid
  ; ~-refl to ~B-refl ; ~-reflexive to ~B-reflexive ; ~-sym to ~B-sym
  ; ~-trans to ~B-trans ; ~-trans1 to ~B-trans1 ; ~-trans2 to ~B-trans2
  ; _⟨≈≈⟩_ to _⟨≈B≈⟩_ ; _⟨≈≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈B≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≈⟩_ to _⟨≈B~≈⟩_
  ; _⟨≈~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈B~≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈⟩_ to _⟨≡≈B⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡≈B~⟩_
  ; _⟨≡~≈⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈B⟩_ ; _⟨≡~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈B~⟩_ ; _⟨≈≡⟩_ to _⟨≈B≡⟩_
  ; _⟨≈≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈B≡~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡⟩_ to _⟨≈B~≡⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈B~≡~⟩_
  )

module SetoidC {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) = Setoid' S renaming
  ( ℓ to ℓC ; Carrier to C0 ; _≈_ to _≈C_ ; ~-isEquivalence to ~C-isEquivalence
  ; ~-isPreorder to ~C-isPreorder ; ~-preorder to ~C-preorder
  ; ~-indexedSetoid to ~C-indexedSetoid
  ; ~-refl to ~C-refl ; ~-reflexive to ~C-reflexive ; ~-sym to ~C-sym
  ; ~-trans to ~C-trans ; ~-trans1 to ~C-trans1 ; ~-trans2 to ~C-trans2
  ; _⟨≈≈⟩_ to _⟨≈C≈⟩_ ; _⟨≈≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈C≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≈⟩_ to _⟨≈C~≈⟩_
  ; _⟨≈~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≈C~≈~⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈⟩_ to _⟨≡≈C⟩_ ; _⟨≡≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡≈C~⟩_
  ; _⟨≡~≈⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈C⟩_ ; _⟨≡~≈~⟩_ to _⟨≡~≈C~⟩_ ; _⟨≈≡⟩_ to _⟨≈C≡⟩_
  ; _⟨≈≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈C≡~⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡⟩_ to _⟨≈C~≡⟩_ ; _⟨≈~≡~⟩_ to _⟨≈C~≡~⟩_
  )

```

This keeps going to cover the alphabet SetoidD, SetoidE, SetoidF, ..., SetoidZ then we shift to subscripted versions Setoid₀, Setoid₁, ..., Setoid₄.

Next, RATH-Agda shifts to the need to calculate with setoids:

```

module SetoidCalcA {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) where
  open SetoidA S public
  open SetoidCalc S public renaming
    ( _QED to _QEDA
      ;  $\sim$ (_) to  $\sim$ A( )
      ;  $\sim^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ A $\sim^{\sim}$ ( )
      ;  $\sim\equiv$ (_) to  $\sim$ A $\sim\equiv$ ( )
      ;  $\sim$ ( ) to  $\sim$ A( )
      ;  $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ A $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ ( )
      ;  $\sim$ -begin_ to  $\sim$ A-begin_
    )
  module SetoidCalcB {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) where
    open SetoidB S public
    open SetoidCalc S public renaming
      ( _QED to _QEDB
        ;  $\sim$ (_) to  $\sim$ B( )
        ;  $\sim^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ B $\sim^{\sim}$ ( )
        ;  $\sim\equiv$ (_) to  $\sim$ B $\sim\equiv$ ( )
        ;  $\sim$ ( ) to  $\sim$ B( )
        ;  $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ B $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ ( )
        ;  $\sim$ -begin_ to  $\sim$ B-begin_
      )
    module SetoidCalcC {i j : Level} (S : Setoid i j) where
      open SetoidC S public
      open SetoidCalc S public renaming
        ( _QED to _QEDC
          ;  $\sim$ (_) to  $\sim$ C( )
          ;  $\sim^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ C $\sim^{\sim}$ ( )
          ;  $\sim\equiv$ (_) to  $\sim$ C $\sim\equiv$ ( )
          ;  $\sim$ ( ) to  $\sim$ C( )
          ;  $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ (_) to  $\sim$ C $\sim\equiv^{\sim}$ ( )
          ;  $\sim$ -begin_ to  $\sim$ C-begin_
        )

```

This keeps going to cover the alphabet SetoidCalcD, SetoidCalcE, SetoidCalcF, ..., SetoidCalcZ then we shift to subscripted versions SetoidCalc₀, SetoidCalc₁, ..., SetoidCalc₄. If we ever have more than 4 setoids in hand, or prefer other decorations, then we would need to produce similar helper modules.

Each Setoid $\mathcal{X}\mathcal{X}\mathcal{X}$ takes 10 lines, for a total of at-least 600 lines!

Indeed, such renamings bloat the library, but, unlike the Standard Library, they allow new records to be declared easily —“renaming hell” has been deferred from the user to the library designer. However, later on, in `Categoric.CompOp`, we see the variations `LocalEdgeSetoid \mathcal{D}` and `LocalSetoidCalc \mathcal{D}` where decoration \mathcal{D} ranges over 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, R. The inconsistency in not providing the other decorations used for Setoid \mathcal{D} earlier is understandable: These take time to write and maintain.

2.2.3 Renaming Problems from the Agda-categories Library

With RATH-Agda’s focus on notational modules at one end of the spectrum, and the Standard Library’s casual do-as-needed in the middle, it is inevitable that there are other equally popular libraries at the other end of the spectrum. The [Agda-categories](#) library seemingly ignored the need for meaningful names altogether! Below are a few notable instances.

- ◇ Functors have fields named F_0 , F_1 , $F\text{-resp-}\approx$,
 - This could be considered reasonable even if one has a functor named G .
 - This [leads to expressions](#) such as $\langle F.F_0, G.F_0 \rangle$.
 - Incidentally, and somewhat inconsistently, a `Pseudofunctor` has fields P_0 , P_1 , $P\text{-homomorphism}$ —where the latter is documented *P preserves \simeq* .

On the opposite extreme, RATH-Agda’s importance on naming has its functor record having fields named `obj`, `mor`, `mor-cong` instead of F_0 , F_1 , $F\text{-resp-}\approx$ —which refer to a functor’s “obj”ect map, “mor”phism map, and the fact that the “mor”phism map is a “cong”ruence.

- ◇ Such lack of concern for naming might be acceptable for well-known concepts such as functors, where some communities use F_i to denote the object/0-cells or morphism/1-cells operations. However, considering [subcategories](#) one sees field names `U`, `R`, `Rid`, `_oR_` which are wholly unhelpful. Instead, more meaningful names such as `embed`, `keep`, `id-kept`, `keep-resp-o` could have been used.
- ◇ The `Iso`, `Inverse`, and `NaturalIsomorphism` records have fields `to / from`, `f / f-1`, and `F \Rightarrow G / F \Leftarrow G`, respectively.

Even though some of these build on one another, with Agda’s namespacing features, all “forward” and “backward” morphism fields could have been named, say, `to` and `from`. The naming may not have propagated from `Iso` to other records possibly due to the low priority for names.

From a usability perspective, projections like `f` are reminiscent of the Ocaml community and may be more acceptable there. Since Agda is more likely to attract Haskell programmers than Ocaml ones, such a particular projection seems completely out of place. Likewise, the field name `F \Rightarrow G` seems only appropriate if the functors involved happen to be named `F` and `G`.

These unexpected deviations are not too surprising since the [Agda-categories](#) library seems to give names no priority at all. Field projections are treated little more than classic array indexing with numbers.

By largely avoiding renaming, [Agda-categories](#) has no “renaming hell” anywhere at the heavy price of being difficult to read: Any attempt to read code requires one to “squint away” the numerous projections to “see” the concepts of relevance. Consider the [following excerpt](#).

```

helper : ∀ {F : Functor (Category.op C) (Setoids ℓ e)}
  {A B : Obj} (f : B ⇒ A)
  (β γ : NaturalTransformation Hom[ C ][-, A ] F) →
  Setoid._≈_ (F₀ Nat[Hom[C] [-,c],F] (F , A)) β γ →
  Setoid._≈_ (F₀ F B) (η β B ⟨$⟩ f ∘ id) (F₁ F f ⟨$⟩ (η γ A ⟨$⟩ id))
helper {F} {A} {B} f β γ β≈γ = S.begin
  η β B ⟨$⟩ f ∘ id      S.<≈ ( cong (η β B) (id-comm ∘ ( ⇐⇒ identity' )) )
  η β B ⟨$⟩ id ∘ id ∘ f  S.<≈ ( commute β f CE.refl )
  F₁ F f ⟨$⟩ (η β A ⟨$⟩ id) S.<≈ ( cong (F₁ F f) (β≈γ CE.refl) )
  F₁ F f ⟨$⟩ (η γ A ⟨$⟩ id) S.QED
  where module S where
    open Setoid (F₀ F B) public
    open SetoidR (F₀ F B) public

```

Here are a few downsides of not renaming:

1. The type of the function is difficult to comprehend; though it need not be.
 - ◇ Take $_ \approx_0 _ = \text{Setoid}._ \approx _ (F_0 \text{ Nat}[\text{Hom}[C] [-,c],F] (F , A))$, and
 - ◇ Take $_ \approx_1 _ = \text{Setoid}._ \approx _ (F_0 F B)$,
 - ◇ Then the type says: If $\beta \approx_0 \gamma$ then
 $\eta \beta B \langle \$ \rangle f \circ \text{id} \approx_1 F_1 F f \langle \$ \rangle (\eta \gamma A \langle \$ \rangle \text{id})$ —a naturality condition!
2. The short proof is difficult to read!
 - ◇ The repeated terms such as $\eta \beta B$ and $\eta \beta A$ could have been renamed with mnemonic-names such as η_1 , η_2 or η_s , η_t for ‘source/1 and ‘target/2.
 - ◇ Recall that functors F have projections F_i , so the “mor”phism map on a given morphism f becomes $F_1 F f$, as in the excerpt above; however, using RATH-Agda’s naming it would have been $\text{mor } F f$.

Since names are given a lower priority, one no longer needs to perform renaming. Instead, one is content with projections. The downside is now there are too many projections, leaving code difficult to comprehend. Moreover, this leads to inconsistent renaming.

2.3 From $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ to \mathcal{X} —Packing away components

The distributivity axiom from earlier required an unbundled structure *after* a completely bundled structure was initially presented. Usually structures are rather large and have libraries built around them, so building and using an alternate form is not practical. However, multiple forms are usually desirable.

To accommodate the need for both forms of structure, Agda’s Standard Library begins with a *type-level predicate* such as `IsSemigroup` below, then *packs that up into a record*. Here is an instance, along with comments from the library.

From $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ to \mathcal{X} —where \mathcal{X} is Semigroup

```

-- Some algebraic structures (not packed up with sets, operations, etc.
record IsSemigroup {a ℓ} {A : Set a} (≈ : Rel A ℓ)
    (· : Op2 A) : Set (a ⊔ ℓ) where
  open FunctionProperties ≈
  field
    isEquivalence : IsEquivalence ≈
    assoc          : Associative ·
    --cong         : · Preserves2 ≈ → ≈ → ≈

-- Definitions of algebraic structures like monoids and rings (packed in records
-- together with sets, operations, etc.)
record Semigroup c ℓ : Set (suc (c ⊔ ℓ)) where
  infixl 7 _·_
  infix  4 _≈_
  field
    Carrier      : Set c
    _≈_          : Rel Carrier ℓ
    _·_          : Op2 Carrier
    isSemigroup : IsSemigroup _≈_ _·_

```

Listing 1: From the *Agda Standard Library on Algebra*

If we refer to the former as $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ and the latter as \mathcal{X} , then we can see similar instances in the standard library for \mathcal{X} being: `Monoid`, `Group`, `AbelianGroup`, `CommutativeMonoid`, `SemigroupWithoutOne`, `NearSemiring`, `Semiring`, `CommutativeSemiringWithoutOne`, `CommutativeSemiring`, `CommutativeRing`.

It thus seems that to present an idea \mathcal{X} , we require the same amount of space to present it unpacked or packed, and so doing both duplicates the process and only hints at the underlying principle: From $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ we pack away the carriers and function symbols to obtain \mathcal{X} . The converse approach, starting from \mathcal{X} and going to $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ is not practical, as it leads to numerous unhelpful reflexivity proofs.

Predicate Design Pattern: Present a concept \mathcal{X} first as a predicate $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ on types and function symbols, then as a type \mathcal{X} consisting of types, function symbols, and a proof that together they satisfy the $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ predicate.

Σ Padding Anti-Pattern: Starting from a bundled up type \mathcal{X} consisting of types, function symbols, and how they interact, one may form the type $\Sigma X : \mathcal{X} \bullet \mathcal{X}.f \ X \equiv f$ to specialise the feature $\mathcal{X}.f$ to the particular choice f . However, nearly all uses of this type will be of the form $(X \text{ , refl})$ where the proof is unhelpful noise.

Since the standard library uses the predicate pattern, $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$, which requires all sets and function symbols, the Σ -padding anti-pattern becomes a necessary evil. Instead, it would be preferable to have the family \mathcal{X}_i which is the same as $\text{Is}\mathcal{X}$ but only takes i -many elements —c.f., Magma_0 and Magma_1 above. However, writing these variations and functions to move between them is not only tedious but also error prone. Later on, also demonstrated in [GPCE19], we shall show how the bundled form \mathcal{X} acts as *the* definition, with other forms being derived-as-needed.

Incidentally, the particular choice \mathcal{X}_1 , a predicate on one carrier, deserves special attention. In Haskell, instances of such a type are generally known as *typeclass instances* and \mathcal{X}_1 is known as a *typeclass*. As discussed earlier, in Agda, we may mark such implementations for instance search using the keyword `instance`.

Typeclass Design Pattern: Present a concept \mathcal{X} as a unary predicate \mathcal{X}_1 that associates functions and properties with a given type. Then, mark all implementations with `instance` so that arbitrary \mathcal{X} -terms may be written without having to specify the particular instance.

When there are multiple instance of an \mathcal{X} -structure on a particular type, only one of them may be marked for instance search in a given scope.

2.4 Redundancy, Derived Features, and Feature Exclusion

A tenet of software development is not to over-engineer solutions; e.g., we need a notion of untyped composition, and so use `Monoid`. However, at a later stage, we may realise that units are inappropriate and so we need to drop them to obtain the weaker notion of `Semigroup` —for instance, if we wish to model finite functions as hashmaps, we need to omit the identity functions since they may have infinite domains; and we cannot simply enforce a convention, say, to treat empty hashmaps as the identities since then we would lose the empty functions. Incidentally, this example, among others, led to dropping the identity features from `Categories` to obtain so-called `Semigroupoids`.

In weaker languages, we could continue to use the `monoid` interface at the cost of “throwing an exception” whenever the identity is used. However, this breaks the Interface Segregation Principle: Users should not be forced to bother with features they are not interested in. A prototypical scenario is exposing an expressive interface, possibly with redundancies, to users, but providing a minimal self-contained counterpart by dropping some features for the sake of efficiency or to act as a “smart constructor” that takes the least amount of data to reconstruct the rich interface.

For example, in the Agda-categories library one finds concepts with expressive interfaces, with redundant features, prototypically named \mathcal{X} , along with their minimal self-contained

versions, prototypically named `XHelper`. In particular, the `Category` type and the `natural isomorphism` type are instances of such a pattern. The redundant features are there to make the lives of users easier; e.g., `Agda-categories` states the following.

We add a symmetric proof of associativity so that the opposite category of the opposite category is definitionally equal to the original category.

To underscore the intent, we present below a minimal setup needed to express the issue. The `semigroup` definition contains a redundant associativity axiom —which can be obtained from the first one by applying symmetry of equality. This is done purposefully so that the “opposite, or dual, transformer” `_~` is self-inverse on-the-nose; i.e., definitionally rather than propositionally. Definitionally equality does not need to be ‘invoked’, it is used silently when needed, thereby making the redundant setup worth it.

Redundancy can lead to silently used equalities

```

record Semigroup : Set1 where
  constructor S
  field
    Carrier : Set
    _;-_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier
    assocr : ∀ {x y z} → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z)
    assocl : ∀ {x y z} → x ; (y ; z) ≡ (x ; y) ; z

    -- Notice: assocl ≈ sym assocr

_~ : Semigroup → Semigroup
(S Carrier _;-_ assocr assocl)~ = S Carrier (λ b a → a ; b) assocl assocr

~~≈id : ∀ {S} → (S~)~ ≡ S
~~≈id = refl

```

On-the-nose Redundancy Design Pattern [Agda-Categories]: Include redundant features if they allow certain common constructions to be definitionally equal, thereby requiring no overhead to use such an equality. Then, provide a smart constructor so users are not forced to produce the redundant features manually.

Incidentally, since this is not a library method, inconsistencies are bound to arise; in particular, in the `X` and `XHelper` naming scheme: The `NaturalIsomorphism` type has `NIHelper` as its minimised version, and the type of `symmetric monoidal categories` is oddly called `Symmetric'` with its helper named `Symmetric`. Such issues could be reduced, if not avoided, if library methods could have been used instead.

It is interesting to note that duality forming operators, such as `_~` above, are a design pattern themselves. How? In the setting of algebraic structures, one picks an operation to

have its arguments flipped, then systematically ‘flips’ all proof obligations via a user-provided symmetry operator. We shall return to this as a library method in a future section.

Another example of purposefully keeping redundant features is for the sake of efficiency.

For division semi-allegories, even though right residuals, restricted residuals, and symmetric quotients all can be derived from left residuals, we still assume them all as primitive here, since this produces more readable goals, and also makes connecting to optimised implementations easier. —RATH-Agda §15.13

For instance, the above `semigroup` type could have been augmented with an ordering if we view `_;` as a meet-operation. Instead, we lift such a derived operation as a primitive field, in case the user has a better implementation.

Simulating Default Implementations with Smart Constructors

```
record Order (S : Semigroup) : Set1 where
  open Semigroup S public
  field
    _⊆_      : Carrier → Carrier → Set
    ⊆-def    : ∀ {x y} → (x ⊆ y) ≡ (x ; y ≡ x)

    {- Results about _;_ and _⊆_ here ... -}

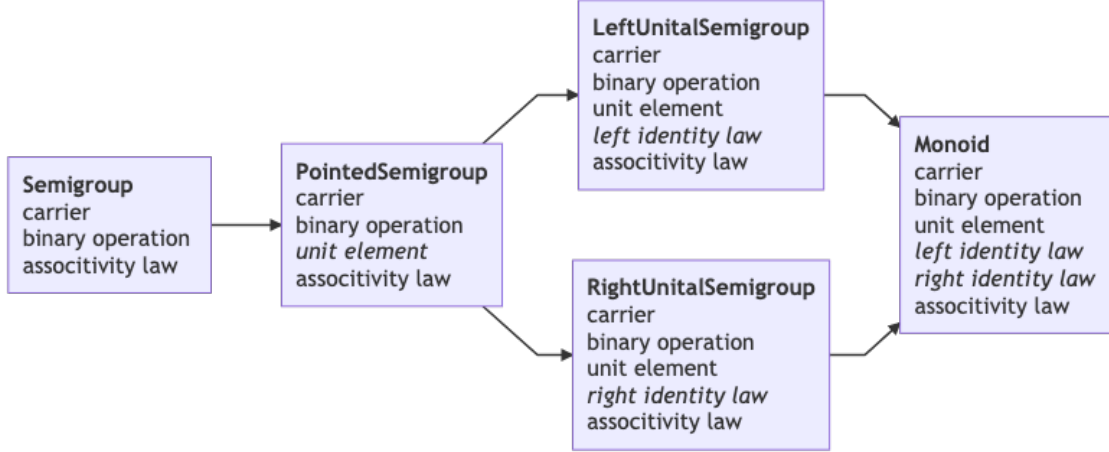
defaultOrder : ∀ S → Order S
defaultOrder S = let open Semigroup S
  in record { _⊆_ = λ x y → x ; y ≡ x ; ⊆-def = refl }
```

Efficient Redundancy Design Pattern [RATH-Agda, §17.1]: To enable efficient implementations, replace derived operators with additional fields for them and for the equalities that would otherwise be used as their definitions. Then, provide instances of these fields as derived operators, so that in the absence of more efficient implementations, these default implementations can be used with negligible penalty over a development that defines these operators as derived in the first place.

2.5 Extensions

In our previous discussion, we needed to drop features from `Monoid` to get `Semigroup`. However, excluding the unit element from the `monoid` also required excluding the identity laws. More generally, all features reachable, via occurrence relationships, must be dropped when a particular feature is dropped. In some sense, a generated graph of features needs to be “ripped out” from the starting type, and the generated graph may be the whole type. As such, in general, we do not know if the resulting type even has any features.

Instead, in an ideal world, it is preferable to begin with a minimal interface then *extend* it with features as necessary. E.g., begin with **Semigroup** then add orthogonal features until **Monoid** is reached. Extensions are also known by *subclassing* or *inheritance*.



The libraries mentioned thus far generally implement extensions in this way. By way of example, here is how monoids could be built directly from semigroups in one step.

Extending Semigroup to Obtain Monoid

```

record Semigroup : Set1 where
  field
    Carrier : Set
    _;_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier
    assoc   : ∀ {x y z} → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z)

record Monoid : Set1 where
  field
    semigroup : Semigroup

  open Semigroup semigroup public {- (0) -}

  field
    Id      : Carrier
    leftId  : ∀ {x} → Id ; x ≡ x
    rightId : ∀ {x} → x ; Id ≡ x

  open Monoid

neato : ∀ {M} → Carrier M → Carrier M → Carrier M
neato {M} = _;_ M    {- Possible due to (0) above -}
  
```

Extension Design Pattern: To extend a structure \mathcal{X} by new features f_0, \dots, f_n which may mention features of \mathcal{X} , make a new structure \mathcal{Y} with fields for \mathcal{X} ,

f_0, \dots, f_n . Then publicly open \mathcal{X} in this new structure so that the features of \mathcal{X} are visible directly from \mathcal{Y} to all users.

Notice how we accessed the binary operation `_;` feature from `Semigroup` as if it were a native feature of `Monoid`. Unfortunately, `_;` is only superficially native to `Monoid`—any actual instance, such as `woah` below, needs to define the binary operation in a `Semigroup` instance first.

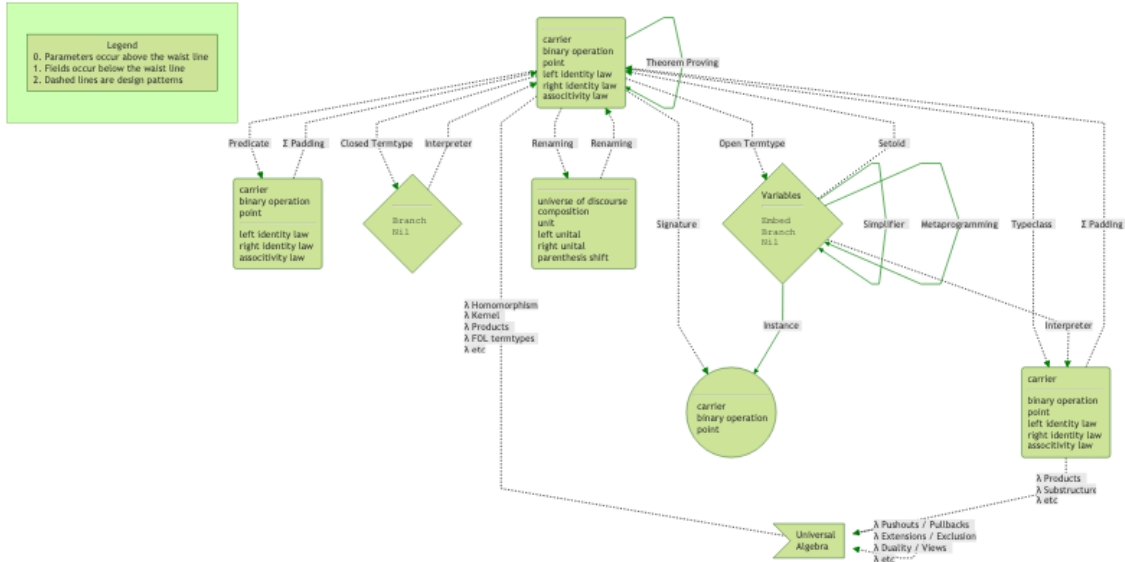
Extensions are not flattened inheritance

```
woah : Monoid
woah = record { semigroup = record { Carrier = {!!}
                                   ; _;-   = {!!}
                                   ; assoc  = {!!}
                                   }
               ; Id      = {!!}
               ; leftId  = {!!}
               ; rightId = {!!}
               }
```

While library designers may be content to build `Monoid` out of `Semigroup`, users should not be forced to learn about how the hierarchy was built. Even worse, when the library designers decide to incorporate, say, `LeftUnitalSemigroup` then all users' code would break. Instead, it would be preferable to have a 'flattened' presentation for the users that "does not leak out implementation details". We shall return to this in a future section.

2.6 Summary of Some Design Patterns in Dependently-Typed Programming

Below is a summary of the design patterns mentioned above, using monoids as the prototypical structure. Some patterns we did not cover, as they will be covered in future sections.



Remarks:

1. It is important to note that the `termttype` constructions could also be co-inductive, thereby yielding possibly infinitely branching syntax-trees.
 - ◊ In the “simplify” pattern, one could use axioms as rewrite rules.
2. It is more convenient to restrict a carrier or to form products along carriers using the `typeclass` version.
3. As discussed earlier, the name *typeclass* is justified not only by the fact that this is the shape used by typeclasses in Haskell and Coq, but also that instance search for such records is supported in Agda by using the `instance` keyword.

There are many more design patterns in dependently-typed programming. Since grouping mechanisms are our topic, we have only presented those involving organising data.

Chapter 3

Current Approaches

[Editor Comment:

- ◇ this clearly heavily borrows from your proposal (good), but it's also not clear anymore that this material 'fits' what you ended up doing. This is why having a very crisp "What problem am I solving", and then "Contributions" is so important. That will tell you what material in later sections is crucial / can be dumped.
- ◇ for example, the whole subsection on JSON feels like it brings nothing. I would delete it completely.

I Structuring mechanisms for proof assistants are seen as tools providing administrative support for large mechanisation developments [RS09a], with support for them usually being conservative: Support for structuring-mechanisms elaborates, or rewrites, into the language of the ambient system's logic. Conservative extensions are reasonable to avoid bootstrapping new foundations altogether but they come at the cost of limiting expressiveness to the existing foundations; thereby possibly producing awkward or unusual uses of linguistic phrases of the ambient language.

We may use the term 'module' below due to its familiarity, however some of the issues addressed also apply to other instances of grouping mechanisms —such as records, code blocks, methods, files, families of files, and namespaces.

In section 3.1 we define modularisation; in section 3.2 we discuss how to simulate it, and in section 4.2 we review what current systems can and cannot do; later on, in section 4.4 we provide legitimate examples of the interdefinability of different grouping mechanisms within Agda. We conclude in section 3.3 by taking a look at an implementation-agnostic representation of grouping mechanisms that is sufficiently abstract to ignore any differences between a record and an interface but is otherwise sufficiently useful to encapsulate what

is expected of module systems. Moreover, besides looking at the current solutions, we also briefly discuss their shortcomings.

The *purpose* of this section is to establish a working definition of “grouping mechanism”, how it can be simulated when it is not a primitive construct, and a brief theory of their foundations which are exemplified using JavaScript.

JavaScript will be the language of choice to demonstrate these ideas since it has a primitive notion of module: Every notion of grouping mechanism boils down to begin a list of “key:value” pairs, a so-called JSON object.

3.1 Expectations of Module Systems

Packaging systems are not so esoteric that we need to dwell on their uses; yet we recall primary use cases to set the stage for the rest of our discussions.

Namespacing Modules provide new unique local scopes for identifiers thereby permitting de-coupling —possibly via multiple files contributing to the same namespace, which necessitates an independence of module names from the names of physical files; in turn, such de-conflation permits recursive modules.

Information Hiding Modules ought to provide the ability to enforce content *not* to be accessible, or alterable, from outside of the module to enforce that users cannot depend on implementation design decisions.

Citizenship Grouping mechanisms need not be treated any more special than record types. As such, one ought to be able to operate on them and manipulate them like any first-class citizen.

In particular, packages themselves have types which happen to be packages. Besides being the JavaScript approach, this is also the case with universal algebra, and Ocaml, where ‘structures’ are typed by ‘signatures’. Incidentally, Ocaml and JavaScript use the same language for modules and for their *types*, whereas, for example, Haskell’s recent retrofitting [Kil+14], of its weak module system to allow such interfacing, is not entirely in the core language since, for example, instantiating happens by the package manager rather than by a core language declaration.

Polymorphism Grouping mechanisms should group all kinds of things without prejudice.

This includes ‘nested datatypes’: Local types introduced for implementation purposes, where only certain functionality is exposed. E.g., in an Agda record declaration, it may be nice to declare a local type where the record fields refer to it. This approach naturally leads into hierarchical modules as well.

Interestingly, such nesting is expressible in [Cayenne](#), a long-gone predecessor of Agda. The language lived for about 7 years and it is unclear why it is no longer maintained. Speculation would be that dependent types were poorly understood by the academics let alone the coders —moreover, it had essentially one maintainer who has since moved on to other projects.

With the metaprogramming inspired approach we are proposing, it is only reasonable that, for example, one be able to mechanically transform a package with a local type declaration into a package with the local declaration removed and a new component added to abstract it. That is, a particular implementation is no longer static, but dynamic. Real world uses cases of this idea can be found in the earlier section 2.4.

It would not be unreasonable to consider adding to this enumeration:

Sharing The computation performed for a module parameter should be shared across its constituents, rather than inefficiently being recomputed for each constituent —as is the case in the current implementation of Agda.

It is however debatable whether the following is the ‘right’ way to incorporate object-oriented notions of encapsulation.

Generative modules A module, rather than being pure like a function, may have some local state or initial setup that is unique to each ‘instantiation’ of the module —rather than purely applying a module to parameters.

SML supports such features. Whereas Haskell, for example, has its typeclass system essentially behave like an implicitly type-indexed record for the ‘unnamed instance record’ declarations; thereby rendering useless the interfaces supporting, say, only an integer constant.

Subtyping This gives rise to ‘heterogeneous equality’ where altering type annotations can suddenly make a well-typed expression ill-typed. E.g., any two record values are equal *at* the subtype of the empty record, but may be unequal at any other type annotation.

Since a package could contain anything, such as notational declarations, it is unclear how even homogeneous equality should be defined —assuming notations are not part of a package’s type.

Below is a table briefly summarising the above module features for popular languages like C and JavaScript, and less popular languages Agda and Ocaml.

There are many other concerns regarding packages —such as deriving excerpts, decoration with higher-order utilities, literate programming support, and matters of compilation along altered constituents— but they serve to distract from our core discussions and are thus omitted.

Table 3.1: How languages support module uses

| Concept / Language | C | JavaScript | Agda | Ocaml |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Namespacing | file dependent | functions and class | record | Signatures |
| Encapsulation | No | JSON objects | record | Modules |
| First-class modules | No | JSON objects | No | Functors |
| Polymorphism | Void Pointers | Dynamic | DTL | Strongly typed |
| Sharing | #define | Function args | No | Function args |
| Generative modules | malloc | Constructors, new | No | Yes |
| Subtyping | No | JSON inheritance | No | Yes |

3.2 Ad hoc Grouping Mechanisms

Many popular coding languages do not provide top-level modularisation mechanisms, yet users have found ways to emulate some or all of their *requirements*. We shall emphasise a record-like embedding in this section, then illustrate it in Agda in the next section. We shall number the required features then illustrate their simulation in JavaScript.

[0] **Namespacing:** Ubiquitous languages, such as C, Shell, and JavaScript, that do not have built-in support for namespaces mimic it by a consistent naming discipline as in `theModule_theComponent`. This way, it is clear where `theComponent` comes from; namely, the ‘module’ `theModule` which may have its interface expressed as a C header file or as a JSON literal. This is a variation of Hungarian Notation [18c].

Incidentally, a Racket source file, module, and ‘language’ declaration are precisely the same. Consequently, Racket modules, like Ocaml’s, may contain top-level effectful expressions. In a similar fashion, Python packages are directories containing an `__init__.py` file which is used for the the same purpose as Scala’s `package object`’s —for package-wide definitions.

[1] **Objects:** An object can be simulated by having a record structure contain the properties of the class which are then instantiated by record instances. Public class methods are then normal methods whose first argument is a reference to the structure that contains the properties. The relationship between an object instance and its class prototype can be viewed across a number of domains, as illustrated in the following table.

Multiple Forms of the Template-Instantiation Duality

| Template | <i>has a</i> | Instance |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| ≈ class | | ≈ object |
| ≈ type | | ≈ value |
| ≈ theorem statement | | ≈ witnessing proof |
| ≈ specification | | ≈ implementation |
| ≈ interface | | ≈ implementation |
| ≈ signature | | ≈ algebra |
| ≈ logic | | ≈ theory |
| ≈ metamodel | | ≈ model |

[2] **Modules:** Languages that do not support a module may mimic it by placing “module contents” within a record. Keeping all contents within one massive record also solves the namespacing issue.

In older versions of JavaScript, for example, a module is a **JSON object** literal —i.e., a comma separated list of key-value pairs. Moreover, encapsulation is simulated by having the module be encoded as a function that yields a record which acts as the public contents of the module, while the non-returned matter is considered private. Due to JavaScript’s dynamic nature we can easily adjoin functionality to such ‘modules’ at any later point; however, we cannot access any private members of the module. This inflexibility of private data is both a heavy burden as well as a championed merit of the Object Oriented Paradigm.

[3] **Sub-Modules:** If a module is encoded as a record, then a sub-module is a field in the record which itself happens to be a module encoding.

[4] **Parameterised Modules:** If a module can be considered as encoded as the returned record from a function, then the arguments to such a function are the parameters to the module.

[5] **Mixins:** A *Mixin* is the ability to extend a datatype X with functionality Y long after, and far from, its definition. Mixins ‘mix in’ new functionality by permitting X obtains traits Y —unlike inheritance which declares X is a Y . Examples of this include Scala’s traits, Java’s inheritance, Haskell’s typeclasses, and C#’s extension methods.

Let us see a concrete realisation of such a simulation of module features in JavaScript.

```

// [2] A simple unparameterised module with no private information
// [0] The field “name” is not global, but lives in a dedicated namespace
function Person (nom, age) { this.name = nom; this.age = age; }

// [1] An object instance;
// i.e., the dictionary literal {name: "Goedel", age: 12}
goedel = new Person("Goedel", 12)

// [5] Let’s mixin new functionality, say, a new method
goedel.prove = () => console.log("I have an incomplete proof...")

// [2, 4] A module parameterised by another module
// that is a “submodule” of “Person”.
// [3] The non-Person parts of the parameter are in module “P”.
function alter_module({name, age, ...P}) {

    // “Private” fields
    information = `I am ${name}! I am ${age} years of age!`
    function speak() { console.log(information) }

    // The return value; fields that are promoted to “public”
    return {name, speak}
}

// Invoking the function-on-modules “alter_module”
// which mixes-in the “speak” method but drops the “age” field
kurt = alter_module(goedel)
kurt.speak() // => I am Goedel! I am 12 years of age!

// [0] Notice that the “goedel” module ‘lost’ the “age” field
// when it was transformed into the “kurt” module.
console.log(kurt) // => { name: 'Goedel', speak: [Function: speak] }

```

Typescript [BAT14] occupies an interesting position with regards to mixins: It is one of the few languages to provide union and intersection combinators for its `interface` grouping mechanism, thereby most easily supporting the Little Theories [FGJ92] method and making theories a true lattice. Interestingly, intersection of interfaces results in a type that contains the declarations of its arguments and if a field name has conflicting types then it is, recursively, assigned the intersection of the distinct types —the base cases of this recursive definition are primitive types, for which distinct types yield an empty intersection. In contrast, its union types are disjoint sums.

In the dependently-typed setting, one also obtains so-called ‘canonical structures’ [Gon+13b],

which not only generalise the previously mentioned mixins but also facilitate a flexible style of logic programming by having user-defined algorithms executed during unification; thereby permitting one to *omit many details [MT13] and have them inferred*. As mentioned earlier regarding objects, we could simulate mixins by encoding a class as a record and a mixin as a record-consuming method. Incidentally languages admitting mixins give rise to an alternate method of module encoding: A ‘module of type M ’ is encoded as an instantiation of the mixin trait M .

These natural encodings only reinforce our idea that there is no real essential difference between grouping mechanisms: Whether one uses a closure, record, or module is a matter of preference the usage of which communicates particular intent, as summarised briefly in the table below.

Table 3.2: Choice of grouping mechanisms communicate intent

| Concept | Possible Intent |
|-----------------------|---|
| module | Namespacing; organise related utilities under the same name |
| record | Bundle up related features into one ‘coherent’ unit |
| tuple | Quickly return multiple items from a function |
| function | An indexed value |
| parameterised modules | Namespaced utilities abstracted over other utilities |
| parameterised record | A semantic unit that ‘build upon’ another coherent unit |

3.3 Theory Presentations: A Structuring Mechanism

What of the most closely related theoretical work?

Our envisioned effort would support a “write one, obtain many” approach to package formation. In order to get there, we must first understand what is currently possible. As such, we investigate how package formers are currently treated formally under the name of ‘Theory Presentations’. It is the aim of this section to attest that the introduction’s story is not completely on shaky foundations, thereby asserting that the aforementioned goals of the introduction are not unachievable—and the problems that will be posed in 5 are not trivial.

As discussed, languages are usually designed with a bit more thought given to a first-class citizen notion of grouping than is given to second-class notions of packaging-up defined content. Object-oriented languages, for example, comprise features of both views by treating classes as external structuring mechanisms even though they are normal types of the type system. This internalising of external grouping features has not received much attention with the notable mentions being [MRK18; DP15]. It is unclear whether there is any real distinction between these ‘internal, integrated’ and ‘external, stratified’ forms of grouping, besides intended use. The two approaches to [Module Systems](#) have different advantages. Both approaches permit separation of concerns: The external point of view provides a high-level structuring of a development, the internal point of view provides essentially another

type which can be the subject of the language’s operations —e.g., quantification or tactics— thereby being more amicable to computing transformations. Essentially it comes down to whether we want a ‘module parameter’ or a ‘record field’ —why not write it the way you like and get the other form for free.

For example, a function $f : X \rightarrow Y \times Z$ is externally *an indexed value*, a way to structure data — $Y \times Z$ pairs— according to some **parameters** — X . By a slight change of perspective, the *type* $X \rightarrow Y \times Z$ treated internally consists of *values* that have **field projections** eval_x : For any $x : X$ and $f : X \rightarrow Y \times Z$, we have $\text{eval}_x f : Y \times Z$.

Since external grouping mechanisms tend to allow for intra-language features —e.g., imports, definitions, notation, extra-logical declarations such as pragmas— their systematic internalisation necessitates expressive record types. As such, a labelled product type or *Context* —being a list of name-type declarations with optional definitions— is a sufficiently generic rendition of what it means to group matter together.

Below is a grammar, from [MRK18], for a simple yet powerful module system based on theory (presentations) and *Theory Morphisms* —which are merely named contexts and named substitutions between contexts, respectively. Both may be formed modularly by using includes to copy over declarations of previously named objects. Unlike theories which may include arbitrary declarations, theory morphisms $(V : P \rightarrow Q) \doteq \delta$ are well-defined if for every P -declaration $x : T$, δ contains a declaration $x \doteq t$ where t may refer to all names declared in Q .

Syntax for Dependently Typed λ -calculus with Theories

```
-- Contexts
 $\Gamma ::= \emptyset$                                 -- empty context
      |  $x : \tau \text{ } [ := \tau' ], \Gamma$         -- context with declaration, optional definition
      | Includes  $X, \Gamma$                   -- theory inclusion

-- Terms
 $\tau ::= x$  |  $\tau_1 \tau_2$  |  $\lambda x : \tau' . \tau$  -- variables, application, lambdas
      |  $\Pi x : \tau' . \tau$                   -- dependent product
      |  $[ \Gamma ]$  |  $\langle \Gamma \rangle$  |  $\tau.x$         -- record “[type]” and “⟨element⟩” formers, projections
      | Mod  $X$                           -- contravariant “theory to record” internalisation

-- Theory, external grouping, level
 $\Theta ::= \emptyset$                             -- empty theory
      |  $X := \Gamma, \Theta$                   -- a theory can contain named contexts
      |  $(X : (X_1 \rightarrow X_2)) := \Gamma$  -- a theory can be a first-class theory morphism

-- Proviso: In record formers,  $\Gamma$  must be flat; i.e., does not contain includes.
```

This concept of packaging indeed captures much of what’s expected of grouping mechanisms; e.g.,

- ◊ Grouping mechanism should group all kinds of things and indeed there is no constraint

on what a theory presentation may contain.

- ◊ Namespacing: Every module context can be construed as a record whose contents can then be accessed by record field projection.

Theories as Types [MRK18] presents the first formal approach that systematically internalises theories into record types. Their central idea is to introduce a new operator **Mod** —read “models of”— that turns a theory T into a type **Mod** T which *behaves* like a record type.

- ◊ Operations on grouping mechanisms [CO12].

Observe that a context is, up to syntactical differences, essentially a JavaScript object notation literal. Consequently, the notion of a mixin as described for JSON literals is here rendered as a theory morphism.

Table 3.3: Theory presentations in practice

| Theory Presentations | JavaScript |
|----------------------|--|
| Context / Record | JSON object: $\{\text{key}_0: \text{value}_0, \dots, \text{key}_n: \text{value}_n\}$ |
| Empty context | Empty dictionary: $\{\}$ |
| Inclusion | In-place syntactic unpacking: $\{\dots\Gamma, \text{k}_0: \text{v}_0, \dots, \text{k}_n: \text{v}_n\}$ |
| Theory | A file or a JSON object or an object-returning function |
| Translation | Function from JSON objects to JSON objects |
| View | Specification preserving translation |

For example, with the abbreviation $(\Pi \text{ x} : \text{A} \bullet \text{B}) = (\text{A} \rightarrow \text{B})$, we may form a small *theory* hierarchy of signatures —which is a just list of *named* contexts.

Example Theory Presentation —Informal Notation

```

MagmaSig  $\equiv$  Carrier : Set,  $\_;$  : Carrier  $\rightarrow$  Carrier  $\rightarrow$  Carrier,  $\emptyset$ 
, MonSig    $\equiv$  Includes MagmaSig, Id : Carrier,  $\emptyset$ 
, Forget : MagmaSig  $\rightarrow$  MonSig  $\equiv$  (Carrier  $\equiv$  Carrier, Id  $\equiv$  Id,  $\emptyset$ )
,  $\emptyset$ 

```

This theory is then realised as follows in JavaScript —ignoring the types.

Example Theory Presentation —Executable JavaScript

```

let MagmaSig = {Carrier: undefined, op: undefined}
let MonSig   = {...MagmaSig, id: undefined}
let Forget   = (Mon) => ({Carrier: Mon.Carrier, op: Mon.op})

```

In practice, an object’s features behave, to some degree, in a *known* fashion; e.g., what operators may be applied or how the object’s features interact with one another. For instance,

a *monoid* is an object consisting of a set `Carrier`, a value `Id` of that set, and a binary operation `_;` on the set; moreover, the interaction of the latter two is specified by requesting that the operation is associative and `Id` is the identity element for the binary operation. In contrast, a *magma* is simply a set along with a binary operation. As such, the translation `Forget`, above, not only gives us a translation of features, but it also satisfies all zero coherence laws of a *magma*.

As mentioned earlier, a theory morphism, also known as a *view*, or `Substitution`, is a map between contexts that implements the interface of the source using utilities of the target; whence results about specific structures can be constructed by transport along views [FGJ92]: A view $V : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ gives rise to a term homomorphism \mathcal{V} from \mathcal{P} -terms to \mathcal{Q} -terms that is type-preserving in that whenever $\Theta, \mathcal{S} \vdash e : \tau$ then $\Theta, \mathcal{T} \vdash \mathcal{V} e : \mathcal{V} \tau$. Thus, views preserve judgements and, via the propositions-as-types representations, also preserve truth.

More concretely, a view $V = (U, \beta) : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ is essentially a predicate U , of the target theory, denoting a *universe of discourse* along with an arity-preserving mapping β of \mathcal{S} -symbols, or declarations, to \mathcal{T} -expressions —by itself, β is called a *translation*. It is lifted to terms as follows —notice that the translated variable-binders are relativised to the new domain.

| \mathcal{V} Extended to Terms | |
|---|---|
| $\mathcal{V} x \approx x$ | If x is an \mathcal{S} -variable symbol |
| $\mathcal{V}(f\ e_1 \dots e_n) \approx (\beta\ f)\ (\mathcal{V}\ e_1) \dots (\mathcal{V}\ e_n)$ | If f is an n -ary \mathcal{S} -function symbol |
| $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{Q}\ x \bullet P) \approx (\mathcal{Q}\ x \mid U\ x \bullet \mathcal{V}\ P)$ | If \mathcal{Q} is a variable-binder $\forall, \exists, \lambda$ |

The *Standard Interpretation Theorem* [Far93] provides sufficient conditions for a translation to be an ‘`Interpretation`’ which transports results between formalisations. It states: A translation is an interpretation provided \mathcal{S} -axioms P are lifted to theorems $\mathcal{V} P$, the universe of discourse is non-empty $\exists x \bullet U\ x$, and the interpretation of the universe contains the interpretations of the symbols; i.e., for each \mathcal{S} -symbol f of arity n , $\mathcal{V}(\forall x_1, \dots, x_n \bullet \exists y \bullet f\ x_1 \dots x_n = y)$ holds.

By virtue of being a validity preserving homomorphism, a standard interpretation syntactically and semantically embeds its source theory in its target theory. The most important consequence of interpretability is the *Standard Relative Satisfiability* [Far93] which says that a theory which is interpretable in a satisfiable theory is itself satisfiable; in programming terms this amount to: *If X is an implementation of **interface** \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{S} is interpretable in \mathcal{T} then X can be transformed into an implementation of \mathcal{S} .* Interestingly such ‘subtyping’ can be derived in a mechanical fashion, but it can force the subtype relation to be cyclic. However, it is unclear under which conditions translations automatically give rise to interpretations: Can the issue be relegated to syntactic manipulation only?

Theory interpretation has been studied for first-order predicate logic then extended to higher-order logic [Far93]. The advent of dependent-types, in particular the blurring of

operations and formulae [18a], means that propositions of a language can be encoded into it as other sorts, dependent on existing sorts, thereby questioning *what it means to have a validity-preserving morphism* when the axioms can be encoded as operations? As far as we can tell, it seems very little work regarding theory interpretations has been conducted in dependently-typed settings [PS90; BL16; FM93; Lip92].

In subsequent sections, ?? and 5, we shall identify a number of views that are formed *syntactically* and the fact that they are indeed views then becomes the need to mechanically provide certain values —which by the propositions-as-types view means we mechanically provide certain “proofs of propositions”. Incidentally, moving forward, we shall consider an essentially untyped setting in which to perform such syntax shuffling —that is, even though we are tackling DTLs, we shall follow a JavaScript-like approach with essentially *one* notion of grouping rather than a theory presentation approach with two notions.

3.4 “JSON is Foundational”: From Prototypes to Classes

In the previous section, we indicated that going forward, we will be taking a JSON-like approach to working with modules. JavaScript has the reputation of being non-academic, along with its dynamically type-checked nature it is not surprising that the reader may take pause to consider whether our inclination is, plainly put, ‘wrong’. To reassure the reader, we will show how JSON objects are a foundational way to group data by deriving the notion of a `class` from object-oriented programming. In fact, recent implementations of JavaScript have a `class` keyword which, for the most part, is syntactic sugar for JSON objects.

We shall arrive at the `class` keyword as a means of moving away from design patterns and going to mechanical constructs.

3.4.1 Prototypical Concepts

In English, *prototype* means a preliminary model of something from which other forms are developed or *copied*. As such, a *prototypical* object is an object denoting the original or typical form of something.

In addition to their properties, JavaScript objects also have a prototype —i.e., another object that is used as a source of additional properties. When an object gets a request for a property that it does not have, its prototype will be searched for the property, then the prototype’s prototype, and so on.

A *prototype* is another object that is used as a fallback source of properties.

Adding new features or overriding methods are another primary use for prototypes. E.g.,

to attach a new property to a ‘kind’ of object, we simply need to attach it to the prototype—since all those ‘kinds’ of objects use the prototype’s properties. In this way, we overload a method by attaching it to prototypes. If, instead, we add the property to an object, rather than to its prototype, then the property is attached directly to the object and possibly shadowing the property of the same name that the prototype has, whence overriding.

3.4.2 ⟨1⟩ Prototype Example

Prototypes let us define properties that are the same for all instances, but properties that differ per instance are stored directly in the objects themselves. E.g., the prototypical person acts as a container for the properties that are shared by all people. An individual person object, like `kathy` below, contains properties that apply only to itself, such as its name, and derives shared properties from its prototype.

Painfully Initialising the Infrastructure of an Instance

```
// An example object prototype
let prototypicalPerson = {};
prototypicalPerson._world = 0;
prototypicalPerson.speak = function () {
  console.log('I am ${this.name}, a ${this.job}, in a world of '
    + `${prototypicalPerson._world} people.') }
prototypicalPerson.job = 'farmer';

// Example use: Manually ensure the necessary properties are setup
// and then manually increment the number of people in the world.
let person = Object.create(prototypicalPerson);
person.name = 'jasim';
prototypicalPerson._world++;
person.speak() // ⇒ I am jasim, a farmer, in a world of 1 people.

// Another person requires just as much setup
let kathy = { ...prototypicalPerson }; // Same as "Object.create(...)"
kathy.name = 'kathy';
prototypicalPerson._world++;
kathy.speak() // ⇒ I am kathy, a farmer, in a world of 2 people.
```

You can use `Object.create` to create an object with a specific prototype. The default prototype is `Object.prototype`. For the most part, `Object.create(someObject) ≈ { ...someObject }`; i.e., we *copy* the properties of `someObject` into an empty object, thereby treating `someObject` as a prototype from which we will build more sophisticated objects.

Notice that we have to manually update the ‘class variable’ `_world` each time a new

person instance is created.

3.4.3 ‹2› Manual Constructor Functions

Classes are prototypes along with constructor functions!

A *class* defines the shape of a kind of object; i.e., what properties it has; e.g., a Person can **speak**, as all people can, but should have its own **name** property to speak of. This idea is realised as a prototype along with a *constructor* function that ensures an instance object not only derives from the proper prototype but also ensures it, itself, has the properties that instances of the class are supposed to have.

Using a Function to Initialise the Infrastructure of an Instance

```
let prototypicalPerson = {};  
prototypicalPerson._world = 0;  
prototypicalPerson.speak = function () {  
  console.log('I am ${this.name}, a ${this.job}, in a world of '  
    + `${prototypicalPerson._world} people.') }  
  
function makePerson(name, job = 'farmer') {  
  let person = Object.create(prototypicalPerson);  
  person.name = name;  
  person.job = job;  
  prototypicalPerson._world++;  
  return person;  
}  
  
// Example use  
let jasim = makePerson('jasim');  
jasim.speak() // ⇒ I am jasim, a farmer, in a world of 1 people.  
  
makePerson('kathy').speak()  
// ⇒ I am kathy, a farmer, in a world of 2 people.
```

Notice that we did not have to manually update the `_world` variable each time a new person instance is created.

3.4.4 ‹3› Constructor Functions with new

We can fuse the previous two approaches under one name by making the prototype a part of the constructor.

```
function Person(name, job = 'farmer') {
  this.name = name;
  this.job = job;
  Person.prototype._world++;
}

Person.prototype._world = 0;
Person.prototype.speak = function () {
  console.log('I am ${this.name}, a ${this.job}, in a world of '
    + `${Person.prototype._world} people.') }

// Example use
let jasim = Object.create(Person.prototype)
Person.call(jasim, 'jasim')
jasim.speak() // => I am jasim, a farmer, in a world of 1 people.

// Example using shorthand
let kasim = new Person ('kathy')
kasim.speak() // => I am kathy, a farmer, in a world of 2 people.
```

If you put the keyword `new` in front of a function call, the function is treated as a constructor. This means that an object with the right prototype is automatically created, bound to `this` in the function, and returned at the end of the function.

```
new f(args)
≈ (_ => let THIS = Object.create(f.prototype);
  f.call(THIS, args); return THIS;) ()
```

All functions automatically get a property named `prototype`, which by default holds a plain, empty object that derives from `Object.prototype`. You can overwrite it with a new object if you want. Or you can add properties to the existing object, as the example does.

Notice that the `Person` object *derives* from `Function.prototype`, but also has a *property* named `prototype` which is used for instances created through it.

```
console.log( Object.getPrototypeOf(Person) == Function.prototype
  , Person instanceof Function
  , jasim instanceof Person
  , Object.getPrototypeOf(jasim) == Person.prototype)
```

Hence, we can update our motto:

Classes are constructor functions with a prototype property!

3.4.5 <4> class Notation

Rather than declaring a constructor, *then* attaching properties to its prototype, we may perform both steps together using `class` notation shorthand.

```
class Person {
  static #world = 0
  constructor(name, job = 'farmer') {
    this.name = name;
    this.job = job;
    Person.#world++;
  }
  speak() {
    console.log('I am ${this.name}, a ${this.job}, in a world of '
      + `${Person.#world} people.')
  }
}

// Example use

let jasim = new Person('jasim')
jasim.speak()
// ⇒ I am jasim, a farmer, in a world of 1 people.

new Person('kathy').speak()
// ⇒ I am kathy, a farmer, in a world of 2 people.
```

Notice that there is a special function named `constructor` which is bound to the class name, `Person`, outside the class. The remainder of the class declarations are bound to the

constructor's prototype. Thus, the earlier class declaration is equivalent to the constructor definition from the previous section. It just looks nicer.

- ◇ Actually, this is even better: The `static #world = 0` declaration makes the property `world` *private*, completely inaccessible from the outside the class. The `static` keyword attaches the name not to particular instances (`this`) but rather to the constructor/class name (`Person`).
- ◇ Indeed, in the previous examples we could have accidentally messed-up our world count. Now, we get an error if we write `Person.#world` outside of the class.

3.4.6 Conclusion

Historically, physicists believed that matter was built from indivisible building blocks called *atoms*, then some hundred years later it was discovered that atoms are in-fact not atomic but are built from *neutrons*, *protons*, and *electrons*, then some fifty years later it was discovered that neutrons and protons are built from so called *quarks*. Similarly, albeit ironically, early versions of JavaScript were considered incomplete from an object-oriented perspective since they did not have a primitive, atomic, `class` construct. Akin to physicists, we have seen how JavaScript indeed has classes and is thus a full-fledged object-oriented language, only unlike other languages, they are not a primitive but a derived construct.

Unsurprisingly, other features of object-oriented programming can also be derived —and possibly more flexibly than their counterparts in languages that take them as primitive. For example, it can be useful to know whether an object x was derived from a specific class y and so there is the abbreviation:

$x \text{ instanceof } y \approx \text{Object.getPrototypeOf}(x) == y.\text{prototype}$. Inheritance is then an abbreviation for using the previously discussed `Object.create(parentPrototype)` method. Finally, It can be pragmatic to have a few technical methods show up in all objects, such as `toString`, which converts an object to a string representation. To accomplish this, JavaScript's *standard library* objects have `Object.prototype` as their great ancestral prototype. In languages where classes are primitive, `Object` is the top of the class hierarchy.

```
// "Object" is maximal
console.log(Object.getPrototypeOf(Object.prototype)); // => null

// Empty object that *does* derive from "Object"
let basic = {}
console.log( basic instanceof Object // => true
             , "toString" in basic)   // => true

// Empty object that does not derive from "Object"
let maximal = Object.create(null);
console.log( maximal instanceof Object // => false
             , "toString" in maximal)   // => false
```

However, since JavaScript's classes are a derived concept, `Object` is not the *maximum* class but rather a *maximal* class: It has no parent class, but is not necessarily the parent of all other classes. Indeed, a declaration `let basic = {}`, by default, creates an empty object whose parent is `Object`—so as to have the aforementioned useful technical methods. If you pass `null` to `Object.create`, as shown above, the resulting object will not derive from `Object`. This is exhilarating.

So objects do more than just hold their own properties. They have prototypes, which are other objects. They'll act as if they have properties they don't have as long as their prototype has that property.

Chapter 4

The First Choice — Why DTLs, Why Agda?

[Editor Comment:

Most of this section is a highly opinionated survey of why DTLs are good things in general. It does not, in fact, talk at all why your thesis should be built on top of a DTL. There is room for a survey of current DTLs (and of their module systems!), as well as perhaps some mildly opinionated parting words. I Programming language communities whose language has a powerful type system, such as Haskell’s, have proverbs such as “if it typechecks, ship it!” Such phrases are mostly in praise of the language’s impressive type system. However, the motto is not flawless; e.g., consider [McB04] the Haskell term `if null xs then tail xs else xs` —it typechecks, but crashes at run time since empty lists have no (strictly smaller) tail. Dependently typed languages (DTLs) provide a static means of expressing the significance of particular values in legitimising some computations rather than others.

Dependent-types provide an immense level of expressivity thereby allowing varying degrees of precision to be embedded, or omitted, from the type of a declaration. This overwhelming degree of freedom comes at the cost of common albeit non-orthogonal styles of coding and compilation, which remain as open problems that are only mitigated by awkward workarounds such as Coq’s distinction of types and propositions for compilation efficiency. The difficulties presented by DTLs are outweighed by the opportunities they provide [AMM05] —of central importance is that they blur distinctions between usual programming constructs [Mac86], which is in alignment with our thesis.

The *purpose* of this section is to establish the necessary foundational aspects of dependently-typed languages (DTLs) by reviewing the existing DTLs and narrowing on Agda in particular.

Rather than dictatorially declare that Agda is the ideal setting for our research, we

shall consider the possible candidates —only after arguing that dependently-typed languages provide power, and complexity, for our tasks. Having decided to use Agda, we provide a quick tutorial on the language and on dependent types. Finally, we conclude with demonstrating our observation of “all packaging mechanisms are essentially the same” formally through Agda examples by simulating different grouping constructs in the language.

4.1 Why DTLs?

In this section, we argue that dependently-typed languages constitute a poorly understood domain in comparison to their more popular counterparts, such as the functional language Haskell and the imperative language JavaScript. To keep the discussion self-contained, we first provide a quick, informal, overview of the power allotted by dependent types —a more formal introduction, backed by typechecked code, is presented later in §4.3.

Dependent-types allow us to encode properties of data *within the structure* of the data itself, and so all the data we consider is necessarily ‘well-formed’. In contrast, without dependent types, one would (1) declare a data structure, *then* (2) define the subclass of such data that is ‘well-formed’ in some sense; *then*, (3) to work with this data, one provides an interface that only produces well-formed data, a so-called ‘smart constructor’, *finally*, one needs to test that their smart constructor actually only forms well-defined data elements. For instance, raw untyped λ -terms are not all sensible, and so one introduces types to organise them into sensible classes, then introduces inference rules that ensure only sensible terms are constructed.

DTLs flatten the conventional four-stage process of declaring raw data, selecting a coherent subclass, providing a smart constructor, and proving the constructor is valid.

We shall explain this idea more concretely via two examples, in the following two sections. The Agda fragments presented will be explained in the accompanying text —an introduction to Agda is given in §4.3. Afterword, we conclude by briefly mentioning theoretical concerns when working with DTLs and, more importantly for topic on modularisation, issues of a more practical nature involving library development.

4.1.1 Example 1: Sanitising raw data

When interacting with users, a system receives raw data then ‘sanitises’ it, or ensures it is ‘sanitised’. For instance, to subscribe to a mailing list, a user provides a string of symbols which the program then ensures it is a well-formatted email address. Below is a possible implementation of the email address portion within Haskell —the comments are a designers thought process as *allowed* by the coding language.

Traditional Four Stages to Structuring Data

```

{- (1) An email address is just a raw string -}
data Email = MkEmail String deriving Show

{- (2) Actually, it has some structure -}
isValid :: Email -> Bool
isValid (MkEmail s) = let pre_rest = splitOn "@" s
                        in length pre_rest == 2
                        && length (splitOn ".com" (pre_rest !! 1)) == 1

{- (3) Given two strings, we can form an email address -}
mkEmail :: String -> String -> Email
mkEmail pre post = MkEmail (pre ++ "@" ++ post ++ ".com")

{- (4) Also, mkEmail is a smart constructor for Email -}
{-  $\forall$  pre post • isValid (mkEmail pre post) -}

```

With dependent types, we can *encode* structural¹ properties: We can declare a type of strings necessarily of the form $\langle \text{string} \rangle @ \langle \text{string} \rangle . \text{com}$, thereby dispensing with any sanitation phase. In particular, in this style, a parser is essentially a type-checker. Moreover such checks happen at compile time since these are just like any other type.

Parsing \approx Typechecking

```

data Email : String  $\rightarrow$  Set where
  MkEmail : (pre post : String)  $\rightarrow$  Email (pre ++ "@" ++ post ++ ".com")

```

The above declaration defines a new type `Email s` with values `MkEmail pre post` *precisely when* $s \approx \text{pre} ++ "@" ++ \text{post} ++ ".com"$. Hence, any value of `Email s` is, by its very construction, a pair of strings, say, `pre` and `post` that compose to give the original address `s`. The above four steps in Haskell have been reduced to a single declaration in Agda.

What happened exactly? Where are the dependent-types? Let X denote the type of strings, Y the type of pairs of strings, P the property “ x is composed of the pair y ”, and the lower-case p is the proviso in the Haskell code above. Let \mathcal{Y} absorb the proviso property p —in the Agda code, this amounts to “building p into the type”—so that $y \in \mathcal{Y}(x) \equiv p(x, y)$. Then the transition from specification, to Haskell implementation, to Agda code can be summarised in the following chain of equalities.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Every email address decomposes into a pair of strings} \\
 \approx & \quad \forall x : X \bullet \exists y : Y \bullet p(x, y) \wedge P(x, y) \\
 \approx & \quad \forall x : X \bullet \exists y : \mathcal{Y}(x) \bullet P(x, y)
 \end{aligned}$$

¹Arbitrary, semantic, properties can be attached to data constructors. However, properties encoded via syntactic structure can be mechanically checked via typechecking. Whereas needing *a proof of a property* may require human intervention.

The type \mathcal{Y} is a dependent type: It is a type that *depends* on a term; namely, \mathbf{x} .

When claims only hold under certain expected premises, it would be easier to reason and state the claims if such preconditions were incorporated into the types. This is common practice in mathematics —e.g., “the maximum operation over real numbers has a least element when *only considering* non-negative whole numbers” versus “the maximum operation *on naturals* has a least element”; i.e., mathematicians *declare a new set* $\mathbb{N} = \{r : \mathbb{R} \mid r \geq 0 \wedge \lceil r \rceil = r\}$. However, in conventional programming, there is no way to *form such a new type* denoting “the values of type A that satisfy property B ”; unless you have access to dependent types, which call this type $\Sigma \mathbf{a} : \mathbf{A} \bullet \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{a})$.

4.1.2 Example 2: Correct-by-Construction Programming

Program verification is an ‘after the fact’ activity, like documentation; yet when a project behaves as desired, programmers seldom willingly go back to clean up and instead prefer a new project. This dissociation of concerns is remedied by enabling program verification to proceed side-by-side with development [Gri81; Coh90; Dij76]: Each proof of a program property acts as exhaustive test cases for that property.

With a careful specification of the type, there is only one program!

For example, suppose we want an implementation of a function f specified by the property $\mathbf{f} \ 0 = 1 \wedge \mathbf{f} \ (\mathbf{n} + 1) = \mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{f} \ \mathbf{n}$, for any \mathbf{n} . The first conjunct completely determines \mathbf{f} on input 0, however an inattentive implementer may decide to define $\mathbf{f} \ \mathbf{n} := \mathbf{f} \ (\mathbf{n} + 1) / \mathbf{n}$. The resulting ‘definition’ clearly satisfies the specification, but it does not terminate on any positive input since it recursively calls itself on ever increasing arguments!

In comparison, since Agda requires all its functions to be terminating, after insisting the specification obligations hold by definition, `refl`, we turn to defining \mathbf{f} by pattern matching and its implementation from there is fully forced: There are no more choices in implementation! Then, Agda’s Emacs ‘proof finder’ Agsy automates the definition of \mathbf{f} : There is only one road to defining \mathbf{f} so that the constraints hold by ‘refl’exivity —i.e., by definition.

Correct-by-Construction Programming

```
factorial :  $\Sigma \mathbf{f} : (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}) \bullet \mathbf{f} \ 0 \equiv 1 \times (\forall \{\mathbf{n}\} \rightarrow \mathbf{f} \ (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{n}) \equiv \mathbf{n} * \mathbf{f} \ \mathbf{n})$ 
factorial =  $\mathbf{f}$  , refl , refl
  where  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ 
         $\mathbf{f} \ \mathbf{zero} = 1$ 
         $\mathbf{f} \ (\mathbf{suc} \ \mathbf{n}) = \mathbf{n} * \mathbf{f} \ \mathbf{n}$ 
```

By utilising dependent types, run time errors —failures occurring during program execution, such as non-emptiness or well-formedness conditions— are transported to compile

time, which are errors caught during typechecking. This is in itself a tremendously amazing feature.

Dependent types enable all errors, including logical errors, to become type checking errors!

Regarding the middle clause, *including logical errors*, suppose we are interested in a utility function whose inputs must be even numbers, or rather any commutable precondition p . In simpler type systems, such as JavaScript’s, we could throw an exception if the input does not satisfy it or simply return a `null`, which need then needs to be handled at the call site by using conditionals or try-catch blocks. Instead of all of this explicit plumbing, DTLs allow us to define types and let the compiler handle the grunt work. That is, in a DTL we could encode the precondition directly into the function’s type.

4.1.3 The Curry-Howard Correspondence —“Propositions as Types”

The **Curry-Howard Correspondence** makes a dependently-typed programming language a also a proof assistant: A proposition is proved by writing a program of the corresponding type.

| Logic | Programming | Example Use in Programming |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| proof / proposition | element / type | “ p is a proof of P ” \approx “ p is of type P ” |
| <i>true</i> | singleton type | return type of side-effect only methods |
| <i>false</i> | empty type | return type for non-terminating methods |
| \Rightarrow | function type | \rightarrow methods with an input and output type |
| \wedge | product type | \times simple records of data and methods |
| \vee | sum type | $+$ enumerations or tagged unions |
| \forall | dependent function type Π | return type varies according to input <i>value</i> |
| \exists | dependent product type Σ | record fields depend on each other’s <i>values</i> |
| natural deduction | type system | ensuring only “meaningful” programs |
| hypothesis | free variable | global variables, closures |
| modus ponens | function application | executing methods on arguments |
| \Rightarrow -introduction | λ -abstraction | parameters acting as local variables to method definitions |
| induction; elimination rules | Structural recursion | for -loops are precisely N-induction |

Let’s augment the table a bit to relate concepts that we shall refer to in later sections.

| Logic | Programming |
|-------------------------|--|
| Signature, term | Syntax; interface, record type, <code>class</code> |
| Algebra, Interpretation | Semantics; implementation, instance, object |
| Free Theory | Data structure |
| Inference rule | Algebraic datatype constructor |
| Monoid | Untyped programming / composition |
| Category | Typed programming / composition |

4.1.4 The trials and tribulations of working with dependent types

Since a *dependently-typed language* is a typed language —i.e., a formal syntactic grammar and associated type system— where we can write *types* that depend on *terms*; consequently types may require non-trivial term calculation in order to be determined [McK06]. A glaring drawback is that types now depend on term calculations thereby rendering type checking, and type inference, to be difficult if not impossible [Dow93]. E.g., later we shall define the type `Vec A n` of lists of elements of `A` having length `n`, then, for instance, `Vec String` (factorial 100) is the type of really long lists of strings —the length will take some time to calculate.

Unsurprisingly, “doing” dependent typing “right” is still an open issue [Bra05; Bla10; LMS10; Bra; Wei]. In particular, after more than 30 years after Martin-Löf’s work on the type theory [Mar85; MS84], it is still unclear how such typing should be implemented so that the result is usable and well-founded. Of interest is Agda which claims to have achieved this desired ground but, in reality, it is seldom used as a programming language due to efficiency issues; in contrast, Idris aims at efficiency but its use as a proof assistant is somewhat lacking in comparison to Agda. Below are a few other issues that demonstrate the non-triviality of problems in dependently-typed languages.

1. Should programs be total for the sake of consistency or can they be partially defined?
2. Do we allow the “Type in Type” axiom [Rus; Alt; Car; Luo90]?
3. What about “Axiom K” expressing *almost* the recursion scheme of identity types [Str93; McB00a; CDP14; GMM06; McB00b; HS94; Wer08]}?
4. Should dependent pattern matching give us more information about a type? How does this interact with side effects?
5. Should unification be proof-relevant; i.e., to consider the *ways* in which terms can be made equal [CD18]?
6. How do subtypes, which classically require proof irrelevance, tie into the paradigm?
7. How does proof-term erasure work [TB; BMM03; MS08; Has15]}?
8. When are two values, or programs, or types equal: When they have the same type?

9. Should a language permit non-termination or require explicit co-data?

Besides technical concerns, there are also pressing practical concerns. Since dependent types blur the distinction between value and type —thereby conflating many traditional programming concepts— library design becomes pretty delicate.

- ◇ For example, the method that extracts the first element of a list can in traditional languages be assigned usually two types —one with an explicit exception decoration such as Haskell’s `Maybe` or C#’s `Nullable`, or without this and instead throwing an (implicit) exception. In addition, in a DTL, we can instead decorate the list with a positive length to avoid exceptions altogether, or request a non-emptiness proof, or output a dependent pair consisting of a proof that the input list is non-empty and, if so, an element of that list, or do we request as input a dependent pair consisting of a list and a non-emptiness proof —note that this is a Σ -type, in contrast to the curried form from earlier—, or \dots .
- ◇ Moreover, when a function is written *which* properties should be attached to the resulting type and which should be stated separately?

For example, if we write an append function for lists, do we separately prove that the length of an append is the sum of the lengths of its arguments, or do we encode that information into the return type by means of a dependent pair?

Hence programming style becomes vastly more important in DTLs since simple functions can have a diverse set of typings. In particular, this can lead to ‘duplication’ of code: Dependently-typed and simply typed variants of the ‘same’ concept, as well as the methods & proofs that operate on them; e.g., \mathbb{N} -indexed vectors vs. lists, [KG13; BG13; McB]. So much for the DRY² Principle. Since in a DTL records and modules are conflated, perhaps the structuring-mechanism combinators resulting from this research could reduce some of the ‘duplication’.

We, as a community, are decidedly still learning about the role of dependent types in programming!

4.2 DTLs Today, a précis

We want to implement solutions in a dependently typed language. Let us discuss which are active and their capabilities.

To the best of our knowledge, as confirmed by Wikipedia [18d; 18b], there are currently less than 15 *actively developed* dependently-typed languages in-use *that are also used* as proof-assistants —which are interesting to us since we aim to mechanise all of our results:

²Don’t Repeat Yourself

Algorithms as well as theorems. Below is a quick summary of our stance on the primary candidates.

| Language | Primary reason it is not used in-place of Agda |
|------------|--|
| Coq | Tactics reinforce a fictitious divide between propositions and types |
| Idris | Records can be parameterised but not indexed |
| Lean | Rapid development of Lean has left it backward incompatible and unstable |
| ATS | Weak module system |
| F*, Beluga | The language is immature; it has little support |

4.2.1 Agda —“Haskell on steroids”

Agda [BDN09; Nor07] is one of the more popular proof assistants around; possibly due to its syntactic inheritance from Haskell —as is the case with Idris. Its Unicode mixfix lexemes permit somewhat faithful renditions of informal mathematics; e.g., calculational proofs can be encoded in seemingly informal style that they can be easily read by those unfamiliar with the system. It also allows traditional functional programming with the ability to ‘escape under the hood’ and write Haskell code. The language has not been designed solely with theorem proving in mind, as is the case for Coq, but rather has been designed with dependently-typed programming in mind [Jef13; WK18].

The current implementation of the Agda language has a notion of second-class modules which may contain sub-modules along with declarations and definitions of first-class citizens. The intimate relationship between records and modules is perhaps best exemplified here since the current implementation provides a declaration to construe a record as if it were a module. This change in perspective allows Agda records to act as Haskell typeclasses. However, the relationship with Haskell is only superficial: Agda’s current implementation does not support sharing. In particular, a parameterised module is only syntactic sugar such that each member of the module actually obtains a new functional parameter; as such, a computationally expensive parameter provided to a module invocation may be intended to be computed only once, but is actually computed at each call site.

4.2.2 Coq —“The standard proof assistant”

Coq [Pau; GCS14] is unquestionably one of, if not, the most popular proof assistant around. It has been used to produce mechanised proofs of the infamous Four Colour Theorem [Gon], the Feit-Thompson Theorem [Gon+13a], and an optimising compiler for the C language: CompCert [Com18; K LW14].

Unlike Agda, Coq supports tactics [Asp+] —a brute force approach that renders (hundredfold) case analysis as child’s play: Just refine your tactics till all the subgoals are achieved. Ultimately the cost of utilising tactics is that a tactical proof can only be understood with

the aid of the system, and may otherwise be un-insightful and so failing to meet most of the purposes of proof [Far18] —which may well be a large barrier for mathematicians who value insightful proofs.

The current implementation of Coq provides the base features expected of any module system. A notable difference from Agda is that it allows to “copy and paste” contents of modules using the `include` keyword. Consequently it provides a number of module combinators, such as `<+` which is the infix form of module inclusion [Coq18]. Since Coq module types are essentially contexts, the module type `X <+ Y <+ Z` is really the catenation of contexts, where later items may depend on former items. The Maude [Cla+07; DM07] framework contains a similar yet more comprehensive algebra of modules and how they work with Maude theories.

As the oldest proof assistant, in a later section we shall compare and contrast its module system with Agda’s to some depth.

4.2.3 Idris —“Agda with tactics”

Idris [Bra11] is a general purpose, functional, programming language with dependent types. Alongside ATS, below, it is perhaps the only language in our list that can truthfully boast to being general purpose and to have dependent types. It supports both equational and tactic based proof styles, like Agda and Coq respectively; unlike these two however, Idris erases unused proof-terms automatically rather than forcing the user to declare this far in advance as is the case with Agda and Coq. The only (negligible) downside, for us, is that the use of tactics creates a sort of distinction between the activities of proving and programming, which is mostly fictitious.

Intended to be a more accessible and practical version of Agda, Idris implements the base module system features and includes interesting new ones. Until [recently](#), in Agda, one would write `module _ (x : N) where ...` to parameterise every declaration in the block `1...j` by the name `x`; whereas in Idris, one writes `parameters (x : N) ...` to obtain the [same behaviour](#) —which Agda has since improved upon it via ‘generalisation’: A declaration’s type gets only the variables it actually uses, not every declared parameter.

Other than such pleasantries, Idris does not add anything of note. However, it does provide new constraints. As noted earlier, the current implementation of Idris attempts to erase implicits aggressively therefore providing speedup over Agda. In particular, Idris modules and records can be parameterised but not indexed —a limitation not in Agda.

Unlike Coq, Idris has been designed to “emphasise general purpose programming rather than theorem proving” [Idr18; Bra16]. However, like Coq, Idris provides a Haskell-looking typeclasses mechanism; but unlike Coq, it allows named instances. In contrast to Agda’s record-instances, typeclasses result in backtracking to resolve operator overloading thereby having a slower type checker.

4.2.4 Lean —“Proofs for metaprogramming”

Lean [Mou+15; Mou16] is both a theorem prover and programming language; moreover it permits quotient types and so the usually-desired notion of extensional equality. It is primarily tactics-based, also permitting a `calc`-ulational proof format not too dissimilar with the standard equational proof format utilised in Agda.

Lean is based on a version of the Calculus of Inductive Constructions, like Coq. It is heavily aimed at metaprogramming for formal verification, thereby bridging the gap between interactive and automated theorem proving. Unfortunately, inspecting the language shows that its rapid development is not backwards-compatible —Lean 2 standard libraries have yet to be ported to Lean 3—, and unlike, for example, Coq and Isabelle which are backed by other complete languages, Lean is backed by Lean, which is unfortunately too young to program various tactics, for example.

4.2.5 ATS —“Dependent types for systems programming”

ATS, the Applied Type System [ATS18; CX05], is a language that combines programming and proving, but is aimed at unifying programming with formal specification. With the focus being more on programming than on proving.

ATS is intended as an approach to practical programming with theorem proving. Its module system is largely influenced by that of Modula-3, providing what would today be considered the bare bones of a module system. Advocating a programmer-centric approach to program verification that syntactically intertwines programming and theorem proving, ATS is a more mature relative of Idris —whereas Idris is Haskell-based, ATS is OCaml-based.

ATS is remarkable in that its performance is comparable to that of the C language, and it supports secure memory management by permitting type safe pointer arithmetic. In some regard, ATS is the fusions of Ocaml, C, and dependent types. Its module system has less to offer than Coq’s.

4.2.6 F* —“The immature adult”

The F* [F T18] language supports dependent types, refinement types, and a weakest precondition calculus. However it is primarily aimed at program verification rather than general proof. Even though this language is roughly nine years in the making, it is not mature —one encounters great difficult in doing anything past the initial language tutorial.

The module system of F* is rather uninteresting, predominately acting as namespace management. It has very little to offer in comparison to Agda; e.g., within the last three years, it obtained a typeclass mechanism —regardless, typeclasses can be simulated as dependent

records.

4.2.7 Beluga —“Context notation”

The distinctive feature and sole reason that we mention this language is its direct support for first-class contexts [Pie10]. A term $t(x)$ may have free variables and so whether it is well-formed, or what its type could be, depends on the types of its free variables, necessitating one to either declare them before hand or to write, in Beluga,

$[x : T \vdash t(x)]$ for example. As we have mentioned, and will reiterate a few times, contexts are behaviourally indistinguishable from dependent sums.

A displeasure of Beluga is that, while embracing the Curry-Howard Correspondence, it insists on two syntactic categories: Data and computation. This is similar to Coq’s distinction of **Prop** and **Type**. Another issue is that to a large degree the terms one uses in their type declarations are closed and so have an empty context therefore one sees expressions of the form $[\vdash t]$ since t is a closed term needing only the empty context. At a first glance, this is only a minor aesthetic concern; yet after inspection of the language’s webpage, tutorials, and publication matter, it is concerning that nearly all code makes use of empty contexts—which are easily spotted visually. The tremendous amount of empty contexts suggests that the language is not actually making substantial use of the concept, or it is yet unclear what pragmatic utility is provided by contexts, and, in either way, they might as well be relegated to a less intrusive notation. Finally, the language lacks any substantial standard libraries thereby rendering it more as a proof of concept rather than a serious system for considerable work.

4.2.8 Notable Mentions

The following are not actively being developed, as far we can tell from their websites or source repositories, but are interesting or have made useful contributions.

- ◊ In contrast to Beluga, Isabelle is a full-featured language and logical framework that also provides support for named contexts in the form of ‘locales’ [Bal03; KWP99]; unfortunately it is not a dependently-typed language—though DTLs can be implemented in it.
- ◊ Mizar, unlike the above, is based on (untyped) Tarski–Grothendieck set theory which in some-sense has a hierarchy of sets. Like Coq, it has a large library of formalised mathematics [Miz18; NK09; Ban+18].
- ◊ Developed in the early 1980s, Nuprl [PRL14] is constructive with a refinement-style logic; besides being a mature language, it has been used to provide proofs of problems related to Girard’s Paradox [Coq86].

- ◊ PVS, Prototype Verification System [Sha+01], differs from other DTLs in its support for subset types; however, the language seems to be unmaintained as of 2014.
- ◊ Twelf [PT15] is a logic programming language implementing Edinburgh’s Logical Framework [UCB08; Rab10; SD02] and has been used to prove safety properties of ‘real languages’ such as SML. A notable practical module system [RS09b] for Twelf has been implemented using signatures and signature morphisms.
- ◊ Matita [Asp+06; Mat16] is a Coq-like system that is much lighter [Asp+09]; it is been used for the verification of a complexity-preserving C compiler.

Dependent types are mostly visible within the functional community, however this is a matter of taste and culture as they can also be found in imperative settings, [Nan+08], albeit less prominently.

4.3 A Whirlwind Tour of Agda

Agda [McK06; McB00a; BD08; WK18] is based on Martin-Löf’s intuitionistic type theory. By identifying types with terms, the type of small types is a larger type; e.g., $\mathbb{N} : \mathbf{Set}_0$ and $\mathbf{Set}_i : \mathbf{Set}_{i+1}$ —the indices i are called *levels* and the small type \mathbf{Set}_0 is abbreviated as \mathbf{Set} . In some regard, Agda adds *harmonious* support for dependent types to Haskell.

Unlike most languages, Agda not only allows arbitrary mixfix Unicode lexemes, identifiers, but their use is encouraged by the community as a whole. Almost anything can be a valid name; e.g., `[]` and `_::_` to denote list constructors —underscores are used to indicate argument positions. Hence it is important to be liberal with whitespace; e.g., `e:τ` is a valid identifier, whereas `e : τ` declares term `e` to be of type τ . Agda’s Emacs interface allows entering Unicode symbols in traditional L^AT_EX-style; e.g., `\McN`, `_7`, `\::`, `\to` are replaced by \mathcal{N} , $_7$, $::$, \rightarrow . Moreover, the Emacs interface allows programming by gradual refinement of incomplete type-correct terms. One uses the “hole” marker `?` as a placeholder that is used to stepwise write a program.

4.3.1 Dependent Functions

A *Dependent Function type* has those functions whose result *type* depends on the *value* of the argument. If B is a type depending on a type A , then $(a : A) \rightarrow B\ a$ is the type of functions f mapping arguments $a : A$ to values $f\ a : B\ a$. Vectors, matrices, sorted lists, and trees of a particular height are all examples of dependent types. One also sees the notations $\forall (a : A) \rightarrow B\ a$ and $\prod a : A \bullet B\ a$ to denote dependent types.

For example, *the* generic identity function takes as *input* a type X and returns as *output* a function $X \rightarrow X$. Here are a number of ways to write it in Agda.

The Identity Function

```

id0 : (X : Set) → X → X
id0 X x = x

id1 id2 id3 : (X : Set) → X → X

id1 X = λ x → x
id2   = λ X x → x
id3   = λ (X : Set) (x : X) → x

```

All these functions explicitly require the type X when we use them, which is silly since it can be inferred from the element x . Curly braces make an argument *implicitly inferred* and so it may be omitted. E.g., the $\{X : \text{Set}\} \rightarrow \dots$ below lets us make a polymorphic function since X can be inferred by inspecting the given arguments. This is akin to informally writing id_X versus id .

Inferring Arguments...

```

id : {X : Set} → X → X
id x = x

sad : ℕ
sad = id0 ℕ 3

nice : ℕ
nice = id 3

```

...and Explicitly Passing Implicits

```

explicit : ℕ
explicit = id {ℕ} 3

explicit' : ℕ
explicit' = id0 _ 3

.

```

Notice that we may provide an implicit argument *explicitly* by enclosing the value in braces in its expected position. Values can also be inferred when the `_` pattern is supplied in a value position. Essentially wherever the typechecker can figure out a value—or a type—we may use `_`. In type declarations, we have a contracted form via \forall —which is **not** recommended since it slows down typechecking and, more importantly, types *document* our understanding and it's useful to have them explicitly.

In a type, $(a : A)$ is called a *telescope* and they can be combined for convenience.

$$\begin{array}{l|l}
 \{x : _ \} \{y : _ \} (z : _) \rightarrow \dots & (a_1 : A) \rightarrow (a_2 : A) \rightarrow (b : B) \rightarrow \dots \\
 \approx \forall \{x\} \{y\} z \rightarrow \dots & \approx (a_1 \ a_2 : A) (b : B) \rightarrow \dots
 \end{array}$$

4.3.2 Dependent Datatypes

Algebraic datatypes are introduced with a **data** declaration, giving the name, arguments, and type of the datatype as well as the constructors and their types. Below we define the datatype of lists of a particular length.

```
data Vec {ℓ : Level} (A : Set ℓ) : ℕ → Set ℓ where
  [] : Vec A 0
  _::_ : {n : ℕ} → A → Vec A n → Vec A (1 + n)
```

Notice that, for a given type A , the type of $\text{Vec } A$ is $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Set}$. This means that $\text{Vec } A$ is a family of types indexed by natural numbers: For each number n , we have a type $\text{Vec } A \ n$. One says Vec is *parameterised* by A (and ℓ), and *indexed* by n . They have different roles: A is the type of elements in the vectors, whereas n determines the ‘shape’ —length— of the vectors and so needs to be more ‘flexible’ than a parameter.

Notice that the indices say that the only way to make an element of $\text{Vec } A \ 0$ is to use $[]$ and the only way to make an element of $\text{Vec } A \ (1 + n)$ is to use $_{::}$. Whence, we can write the following safe function since $\text{Vec } A \ (1 + n)$ denotes non-empty lists and so the pattern $[]$ is impossible.

Safe Head

```
head : {A : Set} {n : ℕ} → Vec A (1 + n) → A
head (x :: xs) = x
```

The ℓ argument means the Vec type operator is *universe polymorphic*: We can make vectors of, say, numbers but also vectors of types. Levels are essentially natural numbers: We have `lzero` and `lsuc` for making them, and `_⊔_` for taking the maximum of two levels. *There is no universe of all universes*: Set_n has type Set_{n+1} for any n , however the type $(n : \text{Level}) \rightarrow \text{Set } n$ is *not* itself typeable —i.e., is not in Set_l for any l — and Agda errors saying it is a value of $\text{Set } \omega$.

Functions are defined by pattern matching, and must cover all possible cases. Moreover, they must be terminating and so recursive calls must be made on structurally smaller arguments; e.g., xs is a sub-term of $x :: xs$ below and catenation is defined recursively on the first argument. Firstly, we declare a *precedence rule* so we may omit parenthesis in seemingly ambiguous expressions.

 Catenation is a $++ \rightarrow +$ Homomorphism

```
infixr 40 _++_

_++_ : {A : Set} {n m : ℕ} → Vec A n → Vec A m → Vec A (n + m)
[]      ++ ys = ys
(x :: xs) ++ ys = x :: (xs ++ ys)
```

Notice that the **type encodes a useful property**: The length of the catenation is the sum of the lengths of the arguments.

4.3.3 Propositional Equality

An example of propositions-as-types is a definition of the identity relation —the least reflexive relation. For a type A and an element x of A , we define the family of proofs of “being equal to x ” by declaring only one inhabitant at index x .

```
Propositional Equality
data _≡_ {A : Set} : A → A → Set
where
  refl : {x : A} → x ≡ x
```

This states that `refl {x}` is a proof of $l \equiv r$ whenever l and r simplify, by definition chasing only, to x —i.e., both l and r have x as their normal form.

This definition makes it easy to prove [Leibniz’s substitutivity rule](#), “equals for equals”:

```
Transport along proofs
subst : {A : Set} {P : A → Set} {l r : A} → l ≡ r → P l → P r
subst refl it = it
```

Why does this work? An element of $l \equiv r$ must be of the form `refl {x}` for some canonical form x ; but if l and r are both x , then $P\ l$ and $P\ r$ are the *same type*. Pattern matching on a proof of $l \equiv r$ gave us information about the rest of the program’s type.

One says $l \equiv r$ is *definitionally equal* when both sides are indistinguishable after all possible definitions in the terms l and r have been used. In contrast, the equality is *propositionally equal* when one must perform actual work, such as using inductive reasoning. In general, if there are no variables in $l \equiv r$ then we have definitional equality —i.e., simplify as much as possible then compare— otherwise we have propositional equality —real work to do. Below is an example about the types of vectors.

```
Examples of Propositional and Definitional Equality
definitional : ∀ {A} → Vec A 5 ≡ Vec A (2 + 3)
definitional = refl

propositional : ∀ {A m n} → Vec A (m + n) ≡ Vec A (n + m)
propositional = {!!}
```

4.3.4 Calculational Proofs —Making Use of Unicode Mixfix Lexemes

School math classes show calculations as follows.

$$\begin{array}{l}
p \\
\equiv \langle \text{reason why } p \equiv q \rangle \\
q \\
\equiv \langle \text{reason why } q \equiv r \rangle \\
r \\
QED
\end{array}$$

Calculational Proof Syntax Embedded As Proof Forming Functions

```

infixr 5 _≡⟨_⟩_
infix 6 _QED

_QED : {A : Set} (a : A) → a ≡ a
_QED = refl

_≡⟨_⟩_ : {A : Set} (p {q r} : A)
        → p ≡ q → q ≡ r → p ≡ r
_ ≡⟨ refl ⟩ refl = refl

```

We can treat these pieces as Agda *mixfix* identifiers and associate to the right to obtain: $p \equiv \langle \text{reason}_1 \rangle (q \equiv \langle \text{reason}_2 \rangle (r \text{ QED}))$. We can code this up, as show above on the right.

4.3.5 Modules —Namespace Management

Agda modules are not a first-class construct, yet.

- ◇ Within a module, we may have nested module declarations.
- ◇ All names in a module are public, unless declared `private`.

| A Simple Module | Using It | Parameterised Modules | Using Them |
|--|---|---|--|
| <pre> module M where ℕ : Set ℕ = ℕ private x : ℕ x = 3 y : ℕ y = x + 1 </pre> | <pre> use₀ : M.ℕ use₀ = M.y use₁ : ℕ use₁ = y where open M open M use₂ : ℕ use₂ = y </pre> | <pre> module M' (x : ℕ) where y : ℕ y = x + 1 </pre> | <pre> use'₀ : ℕ use'₀ = M'.y 3 module M'' = M' 3 use'' : ℕ use'' = M''.y use'₁ : ℕ use'₁ = y where open M' 3 </pre> |
| | | <pre> Names=Functions exposed : (x : ℕ) → ℕ exposed = M'.y </pre> | |

- ◇ Public names may be accessed by qualification or by opening them locally or globally.
- ◇ Modules may be parameterised by arbitrarily many values and types—but not by other modules.

Modules are essentially implemented as syntactic sugar: Their declarations are treated as top-level functions that take the parameters of the module as extra arguments. In particular, it may appear that module arguments are ‘shared’ among their declarations, but this is not so.

“Using Them”:

- ◊ This explains how names in parameterised modules are used: They are treated as functions.
- ◊ We may prefer to instantiate some parameters and name the resulting module.
- ◊ However, we can still `open` them as usual.

When opening a module, we can control which names are brought into scope with the `using`, `hiding`, and `renaming` keywords.

| | |
|--|---|
| <code>open M hiding (n₀; ...; n_k)</code> | Essentially treat n_i as private |
| <code>open M using (n₀; ...; n_k)</code> | Essentially treat <i>only</i> n_i as public |
| <code>open M renaming (n₀ to m₀; ...; n_k to m_k)</code> | Use names m_i instead of n_i |

Splitting a program over several files will improve type checking performance, since when you are making changes the type checker only has to check the files that are influenced by the change.

- ◊ `import X.Y.Z`: Use the definitions of module `Z` which lives in file `./X/Y/Z.agda`.
- ◊ `open M public`: Treat the contents of `M` as if they were public contents of the current module.

So much for Agda modules.

4.3.6 Records

A record type is declared much like a datatype where the fields are indicated by the `field` keyword. The nature of records is summarised by the following equation.

$$\text{record} \approx \text{module} + \text{data with one constructor}$$

The class of types along with a value picked out

```
record PointedSet : Set1 where
  constructor MkIt  {- Optional -}
  field
    Carrier : Set
    point    : Carrier

  {- It's like a module,
     we can add derived definitions -}
  blind : {A : Set} → A → Carrier
  blind = λ a → point
```

Defining Instances

```
ex0 : PointedSet
ex0 = record {Carrier = ℕ; point = 3}

ex1 : PointedSet
ex1 = MkIt ℕ 3

open PointedSet

ex2 : PointedSet
Carrier ex2 = ℕ
point    ex2 = 3
```

Within the Emacs interface, start with `ex2 = ?`, then in the hole enter `C-c C-c RET` to obtain the *co-pattern* setup. Two tuples are the same when they have the same components, likewise a record is defined by its projections, whence *co-patterns*. If you are using many local definitions, you likely want to use co-patterns.

To allow projection of the fields from a record, each record type comes with a module of the same name. This module is parameterised by an element of the record type and contains projection functions for the fields.

Simple Uses

```
use0 : ℕ
use0 = PointedSet.point ex0

use1 : ℕ
use1 = point where open PointedSet ex0

open PointedSet

use2 : ℕ
use2 = blind ex0 true
```

You can even pattern match on records —they're just data after all!

Pattern Matching on Records

```
use3 : (P : PointedSet) → Carrier P
use3 record {Carrier = C; point = x}
  = x

use4 : (P : PointedSet) → Carrier P
use4 (MkIt C x)
  = x
```

So much for records.

4.3.7 Interacting with the real world —Compilation, Haskell, and IO

In order to be useful, a program must interact with the real world. Agda relegates the work to Haskell. The only concept here that is used in later sections will be Agda's *Do-Notation*, and so the purpose of this section is to demonstrate how to use it in a real scenario.

An Agda program module containing a `main` function is compiled into a standalone executable with `agda --compile myfile.agda`. If the module has no main file, use the flag `--no-main`. If you only want the resulting Haskell, not necessarily an executable program, then use the flag `--ghc-dont-call-ghc`.

The type of `main` should be `Agda.Builtin.IO.IO A`, for some `A`; this is just a proxy to Haskell’s `IO`. We may `open import IO.Primitive` to get *this* `IO`, but this one works with `costrings`, which are a bit awkward. Instead, we use the standard library’s wrapper type, also named `IO`. Then we use `run` to move from `IO` to `Primitive.IO`; conversely one uses `lift`.

Necessary Imports

```

open import Data.Nat          using (N; suc)
open import Data.Nat.Show    using (show)
open import Data.Char        using (Char)
open import Data.List as L    using (map; sum; upTo)
open import Function         using (_, $; const; _o_)
open import Data.String as S  using (String; _+_; fromList)
open import Agda.Builtin.Unit using (⊤)
open import Codata.Musical.Colist using (take)
open import Codata.Musical.Costring using (Costring)
open import Data.BoundedVec.Inefficient as B using (toList)
open import Agda.Builtin.Coinduction using (SHARP_)
open import IO as IO         using (run ; putStrLn ; IO)
import IO.Primitive as Primitive

```

*Agda has **no** primitives for side-effects, instead it allows arbitrary Haskell functions to be imported as axioms, whose definitions are only used at run-time.*

Agda lets us use `do`-notation as in Haskell. To do so, methods named `_>=_` and `_>>=_` need to be in scope—that is all. The type of `IO.>=_` takes two “lazy” `IO` actions and yield a non-lazy `IO` action. The one below is a homogeneously typed version.

Non-lazy Do-combinators

```

infixr 1 _>>=_ _>>_

_>>=_ : ∀ {ℓ} {α β : Set ℓ} → IO α → (α → IO β) → IO β
this >>= f = SHARP this IO.>>= λ x → SHARP f x

_>>_ : ∀ {ℓ} {α β : Set ℓ} → IO α → IO β → IO β
x >> y = x >>= const y

```

Oddly, Agda’s standard library comes with `readFile` and `writeFile`, but the symmetry ends there since it provides `putStrLn` but not `getLine`. Mimicking the `IO.Primitive` module, we define *two* versions ourselves as proxies for Haskell’s `getLine`—the second one below is bounded by 100 characters, whereas the first is not.

Postulating Foreign Haskell Functions

```
postulate
  getLine $\infty$  : Primitive.IO Costring

{-# FOREIGN GHC
  toColist :: [a] -> MALonzo.Code.Codata.Musical.Colist.AgdaColist a
  toColist []      = MALonzo.Code.Codata.Musical.Colist.Nil
  toColist (x : xs) =
    MALonzo.Code.Codata.Musical.Colist.Cons x (MALonzo.RTE.Sharp (toColist xs))
  #-}

{- Haskell's prelude is implicitly available; this is for demonstration. -}
{-# FOREIGN GHC import Prelude as Haskell #-}
{-# COMPILER GHC getLine $\infty$  = fmap toColist Haskell.getLine #-}

-- (1)
-- getLine : IO Costring
-- getLine = IO.lift getLine $\infty$ 

getLine : IO String
getLine = IO.lift
  $ getLine $\infty$  Primitive.>>= (Primitive.return  $\circ$  S.fromList  $\circ$  B.toList  $\circ$  take 100)
```

We obtain MALonzo strings, then convert those to colists, then eventually lift those to the wrapper IO type.

Let's also give ourselves Haskell's `read` method.

Postulating Haskell's 'read'

```
postulate readInt : L.List Char  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{N}$ 
{-# COMPILER GHC readInt = \x -> read x :: Integer #-}
```

Now we write our main method.

An Agda Program: Triangle Numbers with IO

```
main : Primitive.IO T
main = run do putStrLn "Hello, world! I'm a compiled Agda program!"

      putStrLn "What is your name?"
      name ← getLine

      putStrLn "Please enter a number."
      num ← getLine
      let tri = show $ sum $ upTo $ suc $ readInt $ S.toList num
      putStrLn $ "The triangle number of " ++ num ++ " is " ++ tri

      putStrLn "Bye, "
      -- IO.putStrLn∞ name {- If we use approach (1) above. -}
      putStrLn $ "\t" ++ name
```

For example, the 12th triangle number is $\sum_{i=0}^{12} i = 78$. Interestingly, when an integer parse fails, the program just crashes.

Calling this file `CompilingAgda.agda`, we may compile then run it with:

Compiling The Program

```
NAME=CompilingAgda; time agda --compile $NAME.agda; ./$NAME
```

The very first time you compile may take ~80 seconds since some prerequisites need to be compiled, but future compilations are within ~10 seconds. The generated Haskell source lives under the newly created `MAlonzo` directory; namely `./MAlonzo/Code/CompilingAgda.hs`.

4.3.8 Absurd Patterns

When there are no possible constructor patterns, we may match on the pattern `()` and provide no right hand side —since there is no way anyone could provide an argument to the function. For example, here we define the datatype family of numbers smaller than a given natural number: `fzero` is smaller than `suc n` for any `n`, and if `i` is smaller than `n` then `fsuc i` is smaller than `suc n`.

Finite Types

```
{- Fin n ≅ numbers i with i < n -}
data Fin : N → Set where
  fzero : {n : N} → Fin (suc n)
  fsuc   : {n : N}
    → Fin n → Fin (suc n)
```

For each n , the type `Fin n` contains n elements; e.g., `Fin 2` has elements `fsuc fzero` and `fzero`, whereas `Fin 0` has no elements at all.

Using this type, we can write a safe indexing function that never “goes out of bounds”.

Safe Indexing

```
-- : {A : Set} {n : ℕ} → Vec A n → Fin n → A
[] ()
(x :: xs) fzero = x
(x :: xs) fsuc i = xs i
```

When we are given the empty list, `[]`, then `n` is necessarily 0, but there is no way to make an element of type `Fin 0` and so we have the absurd pattern. That is, since the empty type `Fin 0` has no elements there is nothing to define —we have a definition by *no cases*.

Logically “anything follows from false” becomes the following program:

Ex Falso Quod Libet

```
data False : Set where

magic : {Anything-you-want : Set} → False → Anything-you-want
magic ()
```

Starting with `magic x = ?` then casing on `x` yields the program above since there is no way to make an element of `False` —we needn’t bother with a result(ing right side), since there’s no way to make an element of an empty type.

4.4 Facets of Structuring Mechanisms: An Agda Rendition

In this section we provide a demonstration that with dependent-types we can show records, direct dependent types, and contexts —which in Agda may be thought of as parameters to a module— are interdefinable. Consequently, we observe that the structuring mechanisms provided by the current implementation of Agda —and other DTLs— have no real differences aside from those imposed by the language and how they are generally utilised. More importantly, this demonstration indicates our proposed direction of identifying notions of packages is on the right track.

Our example will be implementing a monoidal interface in each format, then presenting *views* between each format and that of the `record` format. Furthermore, we shall also construe each as a typeclass, thereby demonstrating that typeclasses are, essentially, not only a selected record but also a selected *value* of a dependent type —incidentally this follows from the previous claim that records and direct dependent types are essentially the same.

4.4.1 Three Ways to Define Monoids

Recall that the signature of a `monoid` consists of a type `Carrier` with a method `_;` that composes values and an `Id`-entity value. With Agda’s lack of type-proof discrimination, i.e., its support for the Curry-Howard Correspondence, the “propositions as types” interpretation, we can encode the signature as well as the axioms of monoids to yield their theory presentation in the following two ways. Additionally, we have the derived result: `Id`-entity can be popped-in and out as desired.

The following code blocks contain essentially the same content, but presented using different notions of packaging. Even though both use the `record` keyword, the latter is treated as a typeclass since the carrier of the `monoid` is given ‘statically’ and instance search is used to invoke such instances.

Monoids as Agda Records

```
record Monoid-Record : Set1 where
  infixl 5 _;_
  field
    -- Interface
    Carrier : Set
    Id       : Carrier
    _;_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier

    -- Constraints
    lid : ∀ {x} → (Id ; x) ≡ x
    rid : ∀ {x} → (x ; Id) ≡ x
    assoc : ∀ x y z → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z)

    -- derived result
    pop-Idr : ∀ x y → x ; Id ; y ≡ x ; y
    pop-Idr x y = cong (_; y) rid

open Monoid-Record {!!..!!} using (pop-Idr)
```

```

record HasMonoid (Carrier : Set) : Set1 where
  infixl 5 _;-
  field
    Id      : Carrier
    _;-     : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier
    lid     : ∀{x} → (Id ; x) ≡ x
    rid     : ∀{x} → (x ; Id) ≡ x
    assoc   : ∀ x y z → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z)

  pop-Id-tc : ∀ x y → x ; Id ; y ≡ x ; y
  pop-Id-tc x y = cong (_; y) rid

open HasMonoid {{...}} using (pop-Id-tc)

```

The double curly-braces `{{...}}` serve to indicate that the given argument is to be found by instance resolution: The derived results for `Monoid-Record` and `HasMonoid` can be invoked without having to mention a `monoid` on a particular carrier, provided there exists one unique record value having it as carrier —otherwise one must use named instances [KS01]. Notice that the carrier argument in the typeclasses approach, “structure on a carrier”, is an (undeclared) implicit argument to the `pop-Id-tc` operation.

Alternatively, in a DTL we may encode the monoidal interface using dependent products **directly** rather than use the syntactic sugar of records. The notation $\Sigma x : A \bullet B x$ denotes the type of pairs (x, pf) where $x : A$ and $\text{pf} : B x$ —i.e., a record consisting of two fields. It may be thought of as a constructive analogue to the classical set comprehension $\{x : A \mid B x\}$.

```

-- Type alias
Monoid-Σ : Set1
Monoid-Σ = Σ Carrier : Set
  • Σ Id : Carrier
  • Σ _;- : (Carrier → Carrier → Carrier)
  • Σ lid : (∀{x} → Id ; x ≡ x)
  • Σ rid : (∀{x} → x ; Id ≡ x)
  • (∀ x y z → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z))

pop-Id-Σ : ∀ {{M : Monoid-Σ}}
  (let Id = proj1 (proj2 M))
  (let _;- = proj1 (proj2 (proj2 M)))
  → ∀ (x y : proj1 M) → (x ; Id) ; y ≡ x ; y
pop-Id-Σ {{M}} x y = cong (_; y) (rid {x})
  where
    _;- = proj1 (proj2 (proj2 M))
    rid = proj1 (proj2 (proj2 (proj2 (proj2 M))))

```

Observe the lack of informational difference between the presentations, yet there is a

Utility Difference: Records give us the power to name our projections directly with possibly meaningful names. Of course this could be achieved indirectly by declaring extra functions; e.g.,

Agda

```
Carriert : Monoid-Σ → Set
Carriert = proj1
```

We will refrain from creating such boiler plate —that is, *records allow us to omit such mechanical boilerplate*.

Of the renditions thus far, the Σ rendering makes it clear that a `monoid` could have any subpart as a record with the rest being dependent upon said record. For example, if we had a `semigroup` type, we could have declared

$$\text{Monoid-}\Sigma = \Sigma S : \text{Semigroup} \bullet \Sigma \text{Id} : \text{Semigroup.Carrier } S \bullet \dots$$

There are a large number of such hyper-graphs, we have only presented a stratified view for brevity. In particular, `Monoid-Σ` is the extreme unbundled version, whereas `Monoid-Record` is the other extreme, and there is a large spectrum in between —all of which are somehow isomorphic; e.g., `Monoid-Record` $\cong \Sigma C : \text{Set} \bullet \text{HasMonoid } C$. Our envisioned system would be able to derive any such view at will [Ast+02] and so programs may be written according to one view, but easily repurposed for other view with little human intervention.

4.4.2 Instances and Their Use

Instances of the `monoid` types are declared by providing implementations for the necessary fields. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, to support instance search, we place the declarations in an `instance` clause. $\# + \text{\LaTeX}$:

Instance Declarations

```
instance
  N-record = record { Carrier = ℕ ; Id = 0 ; _+_ = _+_
                    ; lid = +-identityl _ ; rid = +-identityr _ ; assoc = +-assoc }

  N-tc : HasMonoid ℕ
  N-tc = record { Id = 0 ; _+_ = _+_
                ; lid = +-identityl _ ; rid = +-identityr _ ; assoc = +-assoc }

  N-Σ : Monoid-Σ
  N-Σ = ℕ , 0 , _+_ , +-identityl _ , +-identityr _ , +-assoc
```


Interestingly, notice that the grouping in $\mathbb{N}\text{-}\Sigma$ is just an unlabelled (dependent) product, and so when it is used below in $\text{pop-Id-}\Sigma$ we project to the desired components. Whereas in the Monoid-Record case we could have projected the carrier by $\text{Carrier } M$, now we would write $\text{proj}_1 M$.

No Monoids Mentioned at Use Sites

```

 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0}_r : \forall (x\ y : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow x + 0 + y \equiv x + y$ 
 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0}_r = \text{pop-Id}_r$ 

 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0-tc} : \forall (x\ y : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow x + 0 + y \equiv x + y$ 
 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0-tc} = \text{pop-Id-tc}$ 

 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0}_t : \forall (x\ y : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow x + 0 + y \equiv x + y$ 
 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop-0}_t = \text{pop-Id-}\Sigma$ 

```

One may realise that pop-0 proofs as a form of polymorphism —the result is independent of the particular packaging mechanism; record, typeclass, Σ , it does not matter.

Finally, let us exhibit views between the Σ form and the `record` form.

Agda

```

{- Essentially moved from record{...} to product listing -}
from-record-to-usual-type : Monoid-Record → Monoid-Σ
from-record-to-usual-type M = Carrier , Id , _;- , lid , rid , assoc
                           where open Monoid-Record M

{- Organise a tuple componenets as implementing named fields -}
to-record-from-usual-type : Monoid-Σ → Monoid-Record
to-record-from-usual-type (c , id , op , lid , rid , assoc)
  = record { Carrier = c
           ; Id      = id
           ; _;-     = op
           ; lid     = lid
           ; rid     = rid
           ; assoc   = assoc
           } -- Term construed by 'Agsy',
           -- Agda's mechanical proof search.

```

Furthermore, by definition chasing, `refl-exivity`, these operations are seen to be inverse of each other. Hence we have two faithful non-lossy protocols for reshaping our grouped data.

4.4.3 A Fourth Definition —Contexts

In our final presentation, we construe the grouping of the monoidal interface as a sequence of *variable : type* declarations —i.e., a `Context` or ‘telescope’. Since these are not top level items

by themselves, in Agda, we take a purely syntactic route by positioning them in a module declaration as follows.

Monoids as Telescopes

```
module Monoid-Telescope-User
  (Carrier : Set)
  (Id       : Carrier)
  (_;_      : Carrier → Carrier → Carrier)
  (lid      : ∀{x} → Id ; x ≡ x)
  (rid      : ∀{x} → x ; Id ≡ x)
  (assoc    : ∀ x y z → (x ; y) ; z ≡ x ; (y ; z))
  where

  pop-Idm : ∀(x y : Carrier) → (x ; Id) ; y ≡ x ; y
  pop-Idm x y = cong (_; y) (rid {x})
```

Notice that this is nothing more than the named fields of `Monoid-Record` but not³ bundled. Additionally, if we insert a Σ before each name we essentially regain the `Monoid- Σ` formulation. It seems contexts, at least superficially, are a nice middle ground between the previous two formulations. For instance, if we *syntactically*, visually, move the `Carrier : Set` declaration one line above, the resulting setup looks eerily similar to the typeclass formulation of records.

As promised earlier, we can regard the above telescope as a record:

Agda

```
{- No more running around with things in our hands. -}
{- Place the telescope parameters into a nice bag to hold. -}
record-from-telescope : Monoid-Record
record-from-telescope
  = record { Carrier = Carrier
            ; Id      = Id
            ; _;_     = _;_
            ; lid     = lid
            ; rid     = rid
            ; assoc   = assoc
            }
```

The structuring mechanism `module` is not a first class citizen in Agda. As such, to obtain the converse view, we work in a parameterised module.

³Records let us put things in a bag and run around with them, whereas telescopes amount to us running around with all of our things in our hands —hoping we don't drop (forget) any of them.

```

module record-to-telescope (M : Monoid-Record) where

  open Monoid-Record M
  -- Treat record type as if it were a parameterised module type,
  -- instantiated with M.

  open Monoid-Telescope-User Carrier Id _;_ lid rid assoc

```

Notice that we just listed the components out —rather reminiscent of the formulation $\text{Monoid-}\Sigma$. This observation only increases confidence in our thesis that there is no real distinctions of packaging mechanisms in DTLs.

Undeniably instantiating the telescope approach to monoids for the natural number is nothing more than listing the required components.

```

open Monoid-Telescope-User  $\mathbb{N}$  0 _+_ (+-identityl _) (+-identityr _) +-assoc

```

C.f., the definition of $\mathbb{N}\text{-}\Sigma$: This is nearly the same instantiation with the primary syntactical difference being that this form had its arguments separated by spaces rather than commas!

```

 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop}_m$  :  $\forall (x\ y : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow x + 0 + y \equiv x + y$ 
 $\mathbb{N}\text{-pop}_m$  = pop-Idm

```

Notice how this presentation makes it explicitly clear why we cannot have multiple instances: There would be name clashes. Even if the data we used had distinct names, the derived result may utilise data having the same name thereby admitting name clashes elsewhere. —This could be avoided in Agda by qualifying names and/or renaming.

It is interesting to note that this presentation is akin to that of `class`-es in C#/Java languages: The interface is declared in one place, monolithically, as well as all derived operations there; if we want additional operations, we create another module that takes that given module as an argument in the same way we create a class that inherits from that given class.

Demonstrating the interdefinability of different notions of packaging cements our thesis that it is essentially *utility* that distinguishes packages more than anything else. In particular, explicit distinctions have lead to a duplication of work where the same structure is formalised using different notions of packaging. In chapter 5 we will show how to avoid duplication by coding against a particular ‘package former’ rather than a particular variation thereof —this is akin to a type former.

4.5 Comparing Modules in Coq then in Agda

`Module Systems` parameterise programs, proofs, and tactics over structures. In the first section below, we shall form a library simple graphs and show how to work with it in both Coq and Agda. In order to demonstrate that *all packaging concepts essentially coincide in a DTL*, we shall only use the `record` construct in Agda —completely ignoring the `data` and `module` forms which would otherwise be more natural in certain scenarios below. In the second section below, we look at a few technical aspects of Coq modules.

Along the way, we shall flesh out our concerns regarding using Coq:

1. Modules and their types are explicitly given their own language.
 - ◊ They have their own syntax.
2. Tactics hide any insight in proofs, and decrease readability.

Agda packaging mechanisms will be given less attention, since they were covered in previous sections.

4.5.1 A Brief Overview of Coq Modules, Part 1

In Coq, a `Module Type` contains the signature of the abstract structure to work from; it lists the `Parameter` and `Axiom` values we want to use, possibly along with notation declaration to make the syntax easier.

```
Graphs —Coq

Module Type Graph.
  Parameter Vertex : Type.
  Parameter Edges : Vertex -> Vertex -> Prop.

  Infix "<=" := Edges : order_scope.
  Open Scope order_scope.

  Axiom loops : forall e, e <= e.
  Parameter decidable : forall x y, {x <= y} + {not (x <= y)}.
  Parameter connected : forall x y, {x <= y} + {y <= x}.
End Graph.
```

```

record Graph : Set1 where
  field
    Vertex : Set
    _→_ : Vertex → Vertex → Set
    loops : ∀ {e} → e → e
    decidable : ∀ x y → Dec (x → y)
    connected : ∀ x y → (x → y) ⊔ (y → x)
    
```

Notice that due to Agda’s support for mixfix Unicode lexemes, we are able to use the evocative arrow notation `_→_` for edges directly. In contrast, Coq uses ASCII order notation *after* the type of edges is declared. *Even worse, Coq distinguishes between value parameters and proofs, whereas Agda does not.*

In Coq, to form an instance of the graph module type, we define a module that satisfies the module type signature. The `_<:_` declaration requires us to have definitions and theorems with the same names and types as those listed in the module type’s signature. In contrast, the Agda form below explicitly ties the signature’s named fields with their implementations, rather than inferring it.

```

Module BoolGraph <: Graph.
  Definition Vertex := bool.
  Definition Edges  := fun x => fun y => leb x y.

  Infix "<=" := Edges : order_scope.
  Open Scope order_scope.

  Theorem loops: forall x : Vertex, x <= x.
  Proof.
    intros; unfold Edges, leb; destruct x; tauto.
  Qed.

  Theorem decidable: forall x y, {Edges x y} + {not (Edges x y)}.
  Proof.
    intros; unfold Edges, leb; destruct x, y.
    all: (right; discriminate) || (left; trivial).
  Qed.

  Theorem connected: forall x y, {Edges x y} + {Edges y x}.
  Proof.
    intros; unfold Edges, leb. destruct x, y.
    all: (right; trivial; fail) || left; trivial.
  Qed.
End BoolGraph.

```

Let go through the proof of `decidable`.

1. λ -introduce the quantified variables `x`, `y` with `intros`.
2. We rewrite the definition of `Edges` into the Boolean valued order on Booleans, then rewrite that definition as well.
3. We perform case analysis on `x` and on `y` with `destruct`.
4. There are now a number of subgoals —to find out which, one must interact with the system— and so we use the `all:` tactic to provide a recipe to handle them.
 - (a) Try to prove the `right` part of the sum $\{x \leq y\} + \{\text{not } (x \leq y)\}$;
 - (b) Otherwise, if we explicitly `fail`, try to prove the `left` part.

In contrast, in Agda, we explicitly λ -introduce the variables and immediately perform case analysis; then use `C-c C-a` to have the cases automatically filled it.

```

BoolGraph : Graph
BoolGraph = record
  { Vertex = Bool
  ; _→_ = leb
  ; loops = b≤b
  {- I only did the case analysis, the rest was “auto”. -}
  ; decidable = λ{ true true → yes b≤b
                  ; true false → no (λ ())
                  ; false true → yes f≤t
                  ; false false → yes b≤b }
  {- I only did the case analysis, the rest was “auto”. -}
  ; connected = λ{ true true → inj1 b≤b
                  ; true false → inj2 f≤t
                  ; false true → inj1 f≤t
                  ; false false → inj1 b≤b }
  }

```

We are now in a position to write a “module functor”: A module that takes some `Module` Type parameters and results in a module that is inferred from the definitions and parameters in the new module; i.e., a parameterised module. E.g., here is a module that define a minimum function.

```

Module Min (G : Graph).
  Import G. (* I.e., open it so we can use names in unquantified form. *)
  Definition min a b : Vertex := if (decidable a b) then a else b.
  Theorem case_analysis: forall P : Vertex -> Type, forall x y,
    (x <= y -> P x) -> (y <= x -> P y) -> P (min x y).
  Proof.
    intros. (* P, x, y, and hypotheses H0, H1 now in scope *)
    (* Goal: P (min x y) *)
    unfold min. (* Rewrite “min” according to its definition. *)
    (* Goal: P (if decidable x y then x else y) *)
    destruct (decidable x y). (* Case on the result of decidable *)
    (* Subgoal 1: P x ---along with new hypothesis H3 : x ≤ y *)
    tauto. (* i.e., modus ponens using H1 and H3 *)
    (* Subgoal 2: P y ---along with new hypothesis H3 : ¬ x ≤ y *)
    destruct (connected x y).
    (* Subgoal 2.1: P y ---along with new hypothesis H4 : x ≤ y *)
    absurd (x <= y); assumption.
    (* Subgoal 2.2: P y ---along with new hypothesis H4 : y ≤ x *)
    tauto. (* i.e., modus ponens using H2 and H4 *)
  Qed.
End Min.

```

Min is a function-on-modules; the input type is a `Graph` value and the output module's type is inferred to be `Sig Definition min : Parameter case_analysis: End`. This is similar to JavaScript's approach. In contrast, Agda has no notion of signature, and so the declaration below only serves as a *namespacing* mechanism that has a parameter over-which new programs and proofs are abstracted —the primary purpose of module systems mentioned earlier.

Minimisation as a function on modules —Agda

```
record Min (G : Graph) : Set where
  open Graph G

  min : Vertex → Vertex → Vertex
  min x y with decidable x y
  ... | yes _ = x
  ... | no _ = y

  case-analysis : ∀ {P : Vertex → Set} {x y}
    → (x → y → P x)
    → (y → x → P y)
    → P (min x y)
  case-analysis {P} {x} {y} H0 H1 with decidable x y | connected x y
  ... | yes x→y | _ = H0 x→y
  ... | no ¬x→y | inj1 x→y = ⊥-elim (¬x→y x→y)
  ... | no ¬x→y | inj2 y→x = H1 y→x

  open Min
```

Let's apply the so called module functor. The `min` function, as shown in the comment below, now specialises to the carrier of the Boolean graph.

Applying module-to-module functions

```
Module Conjunction := Min BoolGraph.
Export Conjunction.
Print min.
(*
min =
fun a b : BoolGraph.Vertex => if BoolGraph.decidable a b then a else b
  : BoolGraph.Vertex -> BoolGraph.Vertex -> BoolGraph.Vertex
*)
```

In the Agda setting, we can prove the aforementioned observation: The module is for namespacing *only* and so it has no non-trivial implementations.

Applying module-to-module functions

```
Conjunction = Min BoolGraph

uep : ∀ (p q : Conjunction) → p ≡ q
uep record {} record {} = refl

{- “min I” is the specialisation of “min” to the Boolean graph -}
_ : Bool → Bool → Bool
_ = min I where I : Conjunction; I = record {}
```

Unlike the previous functor, which had its return type inferred, we may explicitly declare a return type. E.g., the following functor is a `Graph → Graph` function.

A module-to-module function —Coq

```
Module Dual (G : Graph) <: Graph.
  Definition Vertex := G.Vertex.
  Definition Edges x y : Prop := G.Edges y x.
  Definition loops := G.loops.
  Infix "<=" := Edges : order_scope.
  Open Scope order_scope.
  Theorem decidable: forall x y, {x <= y} + {not (x <= y)}.
    Proof.
      unfold Edges. pose (H := G.decidable). auto.
    Qed.
  Theorem connected: forall x y, {Edges x y} + {Edges y x}.
    Proof.
      unfold Edges. pose (H := G.connected). auto.
    Qed.
End Dual.
```

Agda makes it clearer that this is a module-to-module function.

A module-to-module function —Agda

```
Dual : Graph → Graph
Dual G = let open Graph G in record
  { Vertex      = Vertex
  ; _→_         = λ x y → y → x
  ; loops       = loops
  ; decidable    = λ x y → decidable y x
  ; connected    = λ x y → connected y x
  }
```

An example use would be renaming “min \mapsto max” —e.g., to obtain meets from joins.

Applying module-to-module functions

```

Module Max (G : Graph).
  (* Module applications cannot be chained;
     intermediate modules must be named. *)
  Module DualG := Dual G.
  Module Flipped := Min DualG.
  Import G.
  Definition max := Flipped.min.
  Definition max_case_analysis:
    forall P : Vertex -> Type, forall x y,
      (y <= x -> P x) -> (x <= y -> P y) -> P (max x y)
    := Flipped.case_analysis.
End Max.

```

Applying module-to-module functions

```

record Max (G : Graph) : Set where
  open Graph G
  private
    Flipped = Min (Dual G)
    I : Flipped
    I = record {}

  max : Vertex → Vertex → Vertex
  max = min I

  max-case-analysis : ∀ {P : Vertex → Set} {x y}
    → (y → x → P x)
    → (x → y → P y)
    → P (max x y)
  max-case-analysis = case-analysis I

```

Here is a table summarising the two languages' features, along with JavaScript as a position of reference.

| | Signature | Structure |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Coq | \approx module type | \approx module |
| Agda | \approx record type | \approx record value |
| JavaScript | \approx prototype | \approx JSON object |

It is perhaps seen most easily in the last entry in the table, that modules and modules types are essentially the same thing: They are just partially defined record types. Again there is a difference in the usage intent:

| Concept | Intent |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Module types | Any name may be opaque, undefined. |
| Modules | All names must be fully defined. |

4.5.2 A Brief Overview of Coq Modules, Part 2

Coq modules are essentially Agda records —which is unsurprising since our thesis states packaging containers are all essentially the same. In more detail, both notions coincide with that of a [Signature](#) —a sequence of pairs of name-type declarations. Where Agda users would speak of a *record instance*, Coq users would speak of a *module implementation*. To make matters worse, Coq has a notion of records which are far weaker than Agda’s; e.g., by default all record field names are globally exposed and records are non-recursive.

Coq’s module system extends that of Ocaml; a notable divergence is that Coq permits parameterised module types —i.e., parameterised record types, in Agda parlance. Such module types are also known as ‘functors’ by Coq and Ocaml users; which are “generative”: Invocations generate new datatypes. Perhaps an example will make this rather strange concept more apparent.

| Example of Generative Functors | Corresponding Agda Code |
|---|---|
| <pre> Module Type Unit. End Unit. Module TT <: Unit. End TT. Module F (X : Unit). Inductive t : Type := MakeT. End F. Module A := F TT. Module B := F TT. Fail Check eq_refl : A.t = B.t. </pre> | <pre> record Unit : Set where tt : Unit; tt = record {} module F (X : Unit) where data t : Set where MakeT : t module A = F tt module B = F tt eq : A.t ≡ B.t eq = refl </pre> |

As seen, in Coq the inductive types are different yet in Agda they are the same. This is because Agda treats such parameterised records, or functors, as ‘applicative’: They can only be applied, like functions. Coq’s modules η -expand and so aliasing does nothing, but functors do not η -reduce, and as such one cannot expect them to be applicative, and so are generative. For simplicity, we may think of generative functor applications $F\ X$ as actually $F\ X\ \mathbf{t}$ where \mathbf{t} is an implicit tag such as textual position or clock time. From an object-oriented programming perspective, $F\ X$ for a generative functor F is like the `new` keyword in Java/C#: A new instance is created which is distinct from all other instances even though the same class is utilised. So much for the esotericity of generative functors.

Unlike Agda, which uses records to provide traditional record types, Haskell-like type-classes, and even a module perspective of both, Coq utilises distinct mechanisms for type-

classes and canonical structures. In contrast, Agda allows named instances since all instances are named and can be provided where an implicit failed to be found. Moreover, Coq's approach demands greater familiarity with the unifer than Agda's approach.

Chapter 5

TODO Sections not yet written

```
#+latex_header_extra: \newglossaryentry{module-systems}{name={Module Systems}, descripti  
= t$ where $t$ may refer to all names declared in $Q$. That is, a substitution is a map of
```

Glossary

Context A sequence of “variable : type [= definition]” declarations; a dictionary associating variables to types and, optionally, a definition; c.f., record-type and object-oriented class; see ‘JSON Object’. 33, 74

Curry-Howard Correspondence Programming and proving are essentially the same idea. 14

Dependent Function A function whose result type depends on the value of the argument. 21

Do-Notation Syntactic abbreviation that renders purely functional code as if it were sequential and imperative.. 27

Homoiconic The lack of distinction between ‘data’ and ‘method’. E.g., ‘(+ 1 2)’ is considered a list of symbols, whereas the *unquoted* term (+ 1 2) is considered a function call that reduces to 3. 2

Interpretation See ‘Substitution’. 76

JSON object A comma-separated list of key-value pairs; an alias for ‘dictionary’, ‘hashmap’, and ‘object’. 70

Little Theories The discipline of building a library by adding one new orthogonal feature at each stage of the hierarchy; c.f., the Interface Segregation Principle. 72

Mixin The ability to extend a datatype with additional functionality long after, and far from, its definition. See also `typeclass`. Mixins could be simulated as module-to-module functions, which give rise to ‘a module of type M’ as an instance of the mixin M; e.g., a type of type `Show` is an instance of the `typeclass Show`. 71

Module Systems Module systems parameterise programs, proofs, and tactics over structures. They come in many flavours that each communicate a utility difference; e.g., tuples for quickly returning multiple values from a function, a record to treat pieces as a coherent whole, a function as an indexed value, and parameterised modules which ‘build upon’ other coherent units. 36, 73

Record Rather than holding a bunch of items in our hands and running around with them, we can put them in a bag and run around with it. That is, a record type bundles up related concepts so that may be treated as one coherent entity. If record types can ‘inherit’ from one another, then we have the notion of an ‘object’. 2

Signature A sequence of pairs of name-type declarations; an alias for ‘context’ and ‘telescope’; see also JSON Object and Theory Presentation. 43

Substitution A typed-substitution of kind $P \rightarrow Q$, also known as a ‘view’ or ‘theory morphism’, is a context δ such that every P -declaration $x : \tau$ has an associated δ -declaration $x \doteq t$ where t may refer to all names declared in Q . That is, a substitution is a map of contexts that implements the interface of the source using utilities of the target; whence it gives rise to a type-preserving homomorphism on terms which —using the propositions-as-types correspondence— preserves truthhood of results. For instance if I implements ‘interface’ (context) P which can be viewed as Q , then I can be viewed as an implementation of Q . 76

Theory Morphism See ‘Substitution’. 74

Theory Presentation A (named) list of name-type declarations, where the type may be a formulae that governs how earlier declared names are intended to interact. Essentially, it is a signature in a DTL. 73

Typeclass Essentially a dictionary that associates types with a particular list of methods which define the typeclass. Whenever such a method is invoked, the dictionary is accessed for the inferred type and the appropriate definition is used, if possible. This provides a form of ad-hoc polymorphism: We have a list of methods that appear polymorphic, but in-fact their definitions depend on a particular parent type. 2

View See ‘Substitution’. 75

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