

Circuits in Coq: a tale of encodings

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Inria

GT Théorie des types et réalisabilité

OUTLINE: FORMALIZE AND REASON ABOUT CIRCUITS

- ▶ First encoding: graphical (categorical) approach
- ▶ Second encoding: scaling up, handling variables properly
- ▶ (if time permits): encodings of BDD libraries

(Breadth-first talk!)

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Formalising circuits in proof assistants

(Circa 1985)

Representing circuits with predicates (or functions).

- ▶ Some definitions:

$$Xor(i_1, i_2, o) \triangleq (o = \neg(i_1 = i_2))$$

$$Not(i, o) \triangleq (o = \neg i)$$

- ▶ Adding structure:
- ▶ Correctness proof: entailment of a specification.

$$(\exists x, Xor(i_1, i_2, x) \wedge Not(x, o)) \implies (o = (i_1 = i_2))$$

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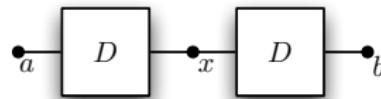
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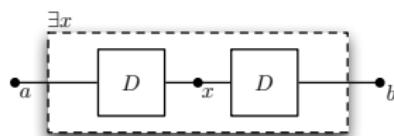
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Shallow-embeddings vs deep-embeddings

Using a shallow-embedding, there is no way to:

- ▶ restrict the quantification on **circuits**;
- ▶ reason on the structure of the circuit in the proof assistant.

Move to deep-embeddings:

- ▶ define a **data structure** for circuits;
- ▶ define what's a circuit semantics (via an interpretation function);
- ▶ prove that a device implements a given specification.

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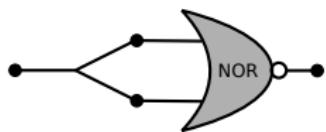
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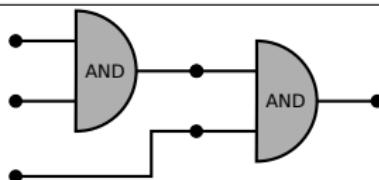
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The graphical approach

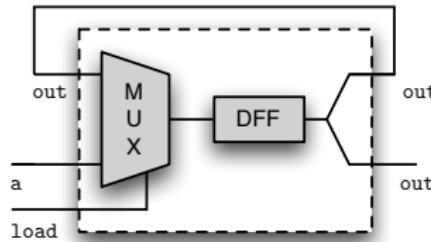


Fork 2 \triangleright NOR
Not : **circuit 1 1**



(AND & One 1) \triangleright AND
And3 : **circuit 3 1**

The graphical approach



A dependent type for circuits in Coq

- ▶ First version:

```
Inductive C : nat → nat → Type := ...
```

- ▶ Examples:

Not : C 1 1

And3 : C 3 1

Adder n : C (2n + 1) (n + 1)

- ▶ Does not give much structure!

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A better dependent type for circuits in Coq

- Let's use arbitrary types as **indexes** for the ports:

Inductive \mathbb{C} : Type \rightarrow Type \rightarrow Type := ...

- For instance (**1** is the unit type, and \oplus is disjoint-sum):

Not : $\mathbb{C} \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1}$

semantics($\mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$) \rightarrow ($\mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$)

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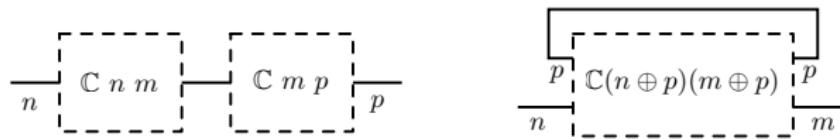
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Combinators

- ▶ Composition: $\mathbb{C} n m \rightarrow \mathbb{C} m p \rightarrow \mathbb{C} n p$
- ▶ Product: $\mathbb{C} n m \rightarrow \mathbb{C} p q \rightarrow \mathbb{C} (n \oplus p) (m \oplus q)$
- ▶ Trace: $\mathbb{C} (n \oplus p) (m \oplus p) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} n m$



Wiring

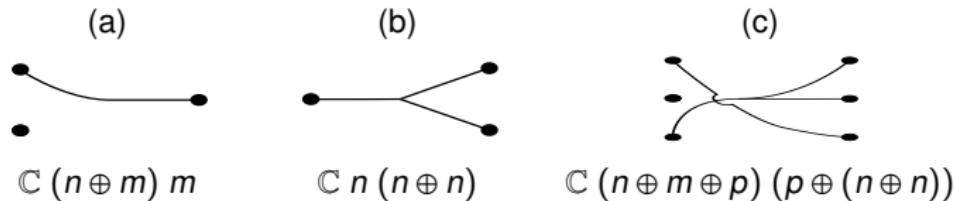
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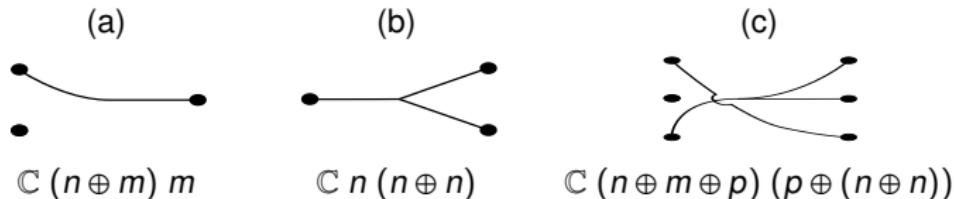
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types must be read bottom-up

- a) `fun (x : m) => inr n x`
- b) `fun (x : n ⊕ n) => match x with inl e => e | inr e => e end.`
- c) `fun (x : p ⊕ (n ⊕ n)) => match x with`
 - | inl ep => inr (n ⊕ m) ep
 - | inr (inl en) => inl p (inl m en)
 - | inr (inr en) => inl p (inl m en)

by **proof-search**

So far, so good

- ▶ Strongly typed syntax (also, intrinsic approach)

```
Inductive C : Type → Type → Type :=  
| Atom : ∀ (n m : Type), atom n m → C n m  
| Plug : ∀ (n m : Type) (f : m → n), C n m  
| Ser  : ∀ (n m p : Type), C n m → C m p → C n p  
| Par  : ∀ (n m p q : Type), C n p → C m q → C (n ⊕ m) (p ⊕ q)  
| Loop : ∀ (n m p : Type), C (n ⊕ p) (m ⊕ p) → C n m.
```

- ▶ Semantics of a circuit of type $C n m$ induces a relation between $n \rightarrow T$ and $m \rightarrow T$.

```
Inductive sem : ∀ (n m : Type) (c : C n m) → (n → T) → (m → T) → Prop := ...
```

Using isomorphisms

- ▶ The semantics relates **valuations** (e.g.: $\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$).
- ▶ We need to reason **up-to** type isomorphisms
- ▶ Examples:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} A \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \cong \sigma \\[1ex] B \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \cong \tau \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \cong \mathbb{T} \\[1ex] A \oplus B \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \cong (\sigma \times \tau) \end{array}} \qquad \qquad \qquad \frac{}{\mathbf{0} \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \cong \mathbf{1}}$$

- ▶ Use it to define specifications.

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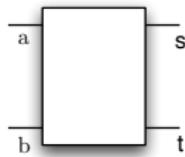
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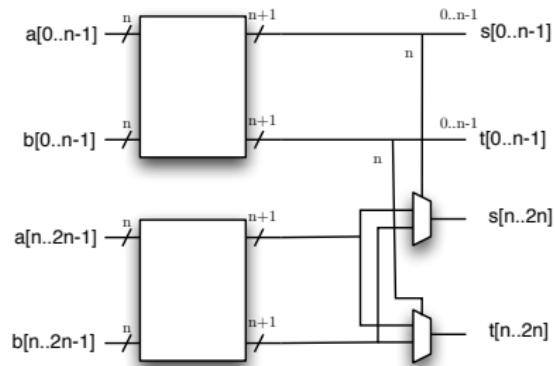
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An adder



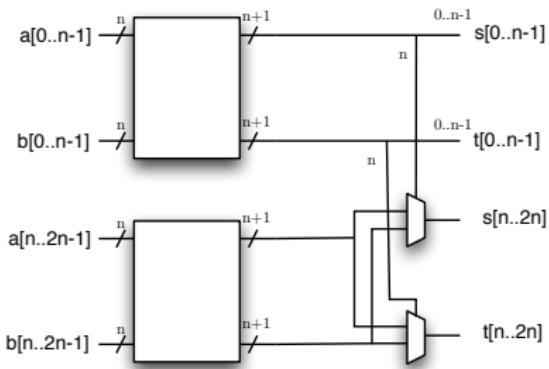
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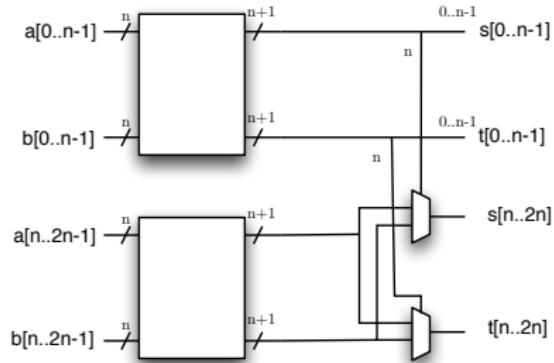
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Up-to isomorphisms, this circuit implements the addition of bitvectors of size n

An adder



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Problem: there is too much entanglement

- ▶ spend lots of time on wiring
- ▶ spend lots of time on basic stuff (reordering the **context**)

DIAGRAMATIC REASONING

- ▶ is appealing
- ▶ yet, is not suited for “real” verification efforts
- ▶ requires much boiler-plate

variables are just too important

LET'S TAKE BINDERS SERIOUSLY

Many ways to deal with nested binders

- ▶ Named variables
- ▶ (Dependently typed) De Bruijn indices;
- ▶ Locally nameless;
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- ▶ Locally nameless;
- ▶ ...
- ▶ Parametric Higher-Order Abstract Syntax (PHOAS)



A PHOAS primer

- ▶ Use Coq bindings to represent the bindings of the object language.

Section t.

Variable var: T \rightarrow Type.

```
Inductive term : T  $\rightarrow$  Type :=  
| Var:  $\forall$  t, var t  $\rightarrow$  term t  
| Abs:  $\forall \alpha \beta, (\text{var } \alpha \rightarrow \text{term } \beta) \rightarrow \text{term } (\alpha \vdash \beta)$   
| App:  $\forall \alpha \beta, \text{term } (\alpha \vdash \beta) \rightarrow \text{term } \alpha \rightarrow \text{term } \beta$ 
```

End t.

Definition Term := \forall (var: T \rightarrow Type), term var.

- ▶ Example: K.

```
Definition K  $\alpha \beta$  : Term  $(\alpha \vdash \beta \vdash \alpha)$  := fun var  $\Rightarrow$   
Abs (fun x  $\Rightarrow$  Abs (fun y  $\Rightarrow$  Var x)).
```

A PHOAS primer (cont.)

- ▶ First example: count the size of a term.

```
Fixpoint size t (e : term (fun _ => unit) t) : nat :=
  match e with
  | Var t v => 1
  | Abs alpha beta e => 1 + size (e tt)
  | App _ _ e f => 1 + size e + size f
  end.
```

- ▶ Second example: compute the denotation of a term.

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Fixpoint denote t (e : term [[·]] t) : [[t]] :=
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```

- ▶ An *intrinsic approach* (strongly typed syntax vs. syntax + typing judgement)
- ▶ Program transformations are easier to implement (and prove!)

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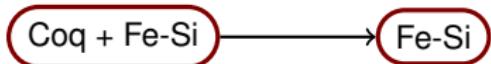
BACK TO CIRCUIT GENERATORS

with PHOAS

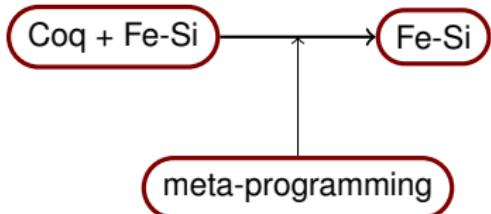
Fe-Si (Featherweight synthesis)

- ▶ an **E**mbedded **D**omain **S**pecific **L**anguage in Coq
- ▶ an idealized subset of the Bluespec hardware description language (MIT, industrial)
- ▶ describe circuits in “term rewriting systems” style
- ▶ semantics based on guarded atomic actions
- ▶ a “surface” language for circuit generators;
- ▶ with a compiler to a more “primitive” one (RTL)

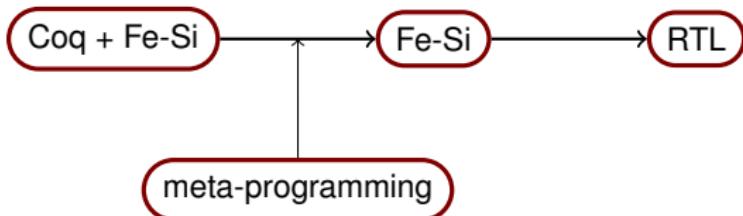
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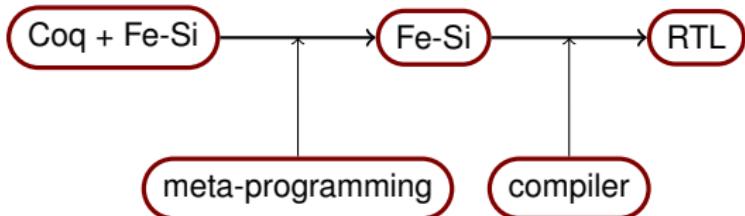
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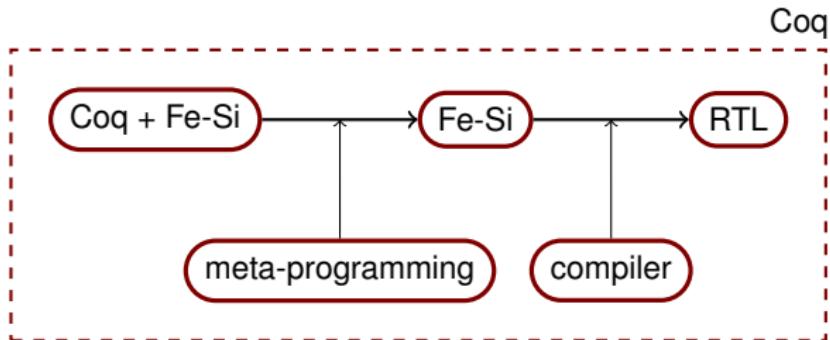


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Our flavor of RTL is defined in terms of combinational logic and registers

To sum up

- ▶ High-level languages have more structure.
easier for verification.
- ▶ Certified compilers are semantics preserving.
transport verification to low-level languages.
- ▶ Extra difficulty in our case: nested binders.
solved using PHOAS.

Fe-Si, informally

- ▶ Based on a monad
- ▶ Base constructs: bind and return

```
Definition hadd (a b: Var B) : action [] (B ⊗ B) :=  
  do carry ← ret (andb a b);  
  do sum  ← ret (xorb a b);  
  ret (carry, sum).
```

- ▶ Set of memory elements to hold mutable state

```
Definition count n : action [Reg (Int n)] (Int n) :=  
  do x ← lmember_0;  
  do _ ← member_0 ::= x + 1;  
  ret x.
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- ▶ Control-flow constructions

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Fe-Si programs:

- ▶ update a set of **memory elements** Φ ;

registers, register files, inputs, ...

- ▶ are based on **guarded atomic actions**

```
do n ← !x + 1; (y ::= 1; assert (n = 0)) orElse (y ::= 2)
```

- ▶ are endowed with a (simple) **synchronous semantics**

```
do n ← !x; x ::= n + 1; do m ← !x; assert (n = m)
```

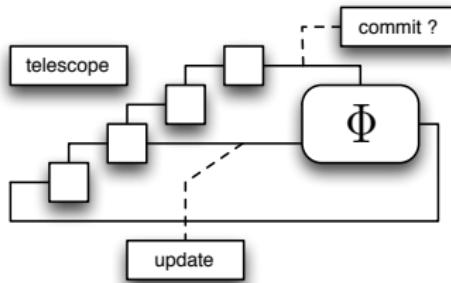
```
Variable var: ty → Type.  
Inductive expr: ty → Type := ...  
  
Inductive action: ty → Type:=  
| Return: ∀ t, expr t → action t  
| Bind: ∀ t u, action t → (var t → action u) → action u  
(** control-flow **)  
| OrElse: ∀ t, action t → action t → action t  
| Assert: expr B → action unit  
(** memory operations on registers **)  
| Read: ∀ t, (Reg t) ∈ Φ → action t  
| Writ: ∀ t, (Reg t) ∈ Φ → expr t → action unit  
| ...
```

- ▶ Expressions are side-effects free.
- ▶ **Definition** $\text{Eval } \Phi \text{ t } (\text{a: } \forall V, \text{action } V \text{ t}): \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket \rightarrow \text{option}(\llbracket t \rrbracket * \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket)$.

RTL abreviated

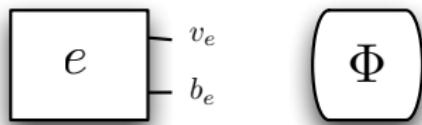
An RTL circuit is abstracted as:

- ▶ a set of memory elements Φ ;
- ▶ a combinational next-state function.



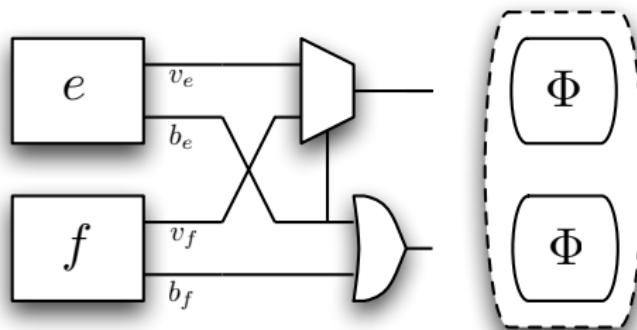
A glimpse of the first pass

- ▶ Transform control-flow into data-flow.



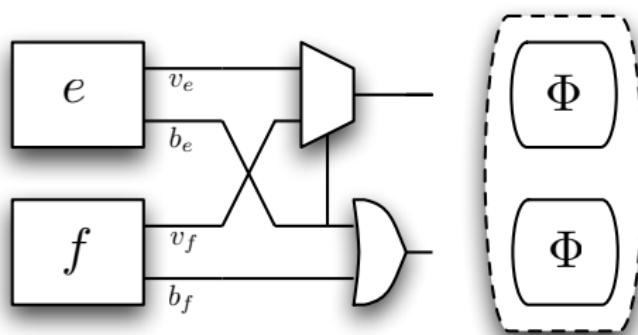
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- ▶ The Φ blocks are trees of effects on memory elements, that must be flattened.

What does it look like in practice?

```
Variable var: ty → Type.
```

```
Inductive tele (A : Type): Type :=  
| tend : A → tele A  
| tbind : ∀ arg, expr arg →  
  (var arg → tele A) → tele A.
```

```
Fixpoint compose {A B}  
  (tA : tele A)  
  (f : A → tele B) : tele B :=
```

```
match tA with  
| tend e ⇒ f e  
| tbind body cont ⇒  
  tbind body (fun x ⇒ compose (cont x) f)  
end.
```

```
fix compile {t} (a: action var ...): tele ... :=  
match a with  
| Return _ exp ⇒  
  x ← ... exp;  
  & (x, #b true, nil)  
| Bind _ _ e f ⇒  
  compose (compile e) (fun (ve, be, Φ_e) ⇒  
    compile (f ve) (fun (vf, bf, Φ_f) ⇒  
      & (vf, andb be bf, [...])))  
| OrElse _ e f ⇒  
  compose (compile e) (fun (ve, be, Φ_e) ⇒  
    compose (compile f) (fun (vf, bf, Φ_f) ⇒  
      r ← ... (vf ? ve : vf);  
      & (r, (orb be bf), [...])))
```

This is just moving binders around

Program transformations

We implement two flavors of common sub-expression elimination.

here, we focus on boolean expressions

- ▶ Incrementally build a BDD that abstracts the runtime values of variables.
- ▶ That is, we **tag** program variables with their abstraction.

Variable Var : type \rightarrow Type.

Definition sval := option BDD.expr.

Notation V := (fun t \Rightarrow Var t * sval).

- ▶ Then, the main compilation function has type

Fixpoint cse {A} (Gamma: Env) (T : tele V A) : tele Var A := ...

- ▶ In short (plenty of details omitted):

- ▶ For each (boolean) expression, build a (syntactic) boolean formula;
- ▶ Add this formula to the global BDD pool;
- ▶ Test whether an equivalent formula was already bound
 - ▶ if it is the case, reuse the old binder
 - ▶ if it is not the case, build a fresh binder

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Proving program transformations correct

- ▶ Implementing transformations in PHOAS is smooth;
- ▶ But proving them correct, we need a well-formedness property on term.
- ▶ Coming back on STLC:

$$\frac{}{(x, \tau_1, \tau_2) \in \Gamma \vdash \text{Var } \tau_1 \equiv \text{Var } \tau_2} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \equiv e'_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 \equiv e'_1}{\Gamma \vdash \text{App } e_1 e_2 \equiv \text{App } e'_1 e'_2}$$
$$\frac{(x, \tau_1, \tau_2) :: \Gamma \vdash e_1 \tau_1 \equiv e_2 \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{Abs } e_1 \equiv \text{Abs } e_2}$$

- ▶ In Coq,

```
Variables var1 var2: T → Type.
```

```
Definition Γ := list ({t: T & (var1 t * var2 t)}).
```

```
Inductive (⊦) : Γ → term var1 t → term var2 t → Prop := ...
```

Proving program transformations correct

The proof of correctness of (most) of our transformations applies only to well-formed terms.

Problem:

- ▶ For each program, it is easy to prove it WF (using tactics).
- ▶ But, we cannot prove that all programs are WF (meta-theoretical result)

Solutions:

- ▶ Either assume this parametricity property as an axiom;
- ▶ or prove that all source programs are WF (and that transformations preserve WF);
- ▶ or generate proof obligations for all intermediate programs (and discharge them using tactics).

WRAPPING-UP

- ▶ Using PHOAS, it is easy to formalize EDSL in Coq.
- ▶ In this project, we use Coq's extraction to generate VHDL code from our back-end
- ▶ Proof of (intricate) circuit generators is (relatively) smooth.