

Extending SortPoly with Elimination Constraints in Rocq

The Rocqshop 2025, Reykjavik, Iceland

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Éric Tanter¹ Théo Winterhalter⁴

September 27, 2025

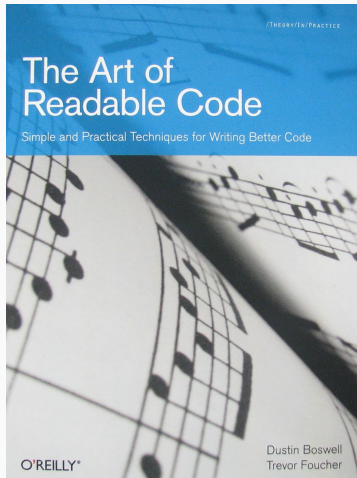
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When You Stare Into The Code, it Stares Back At You



When You Stare Into The Code, it Stares Back At You

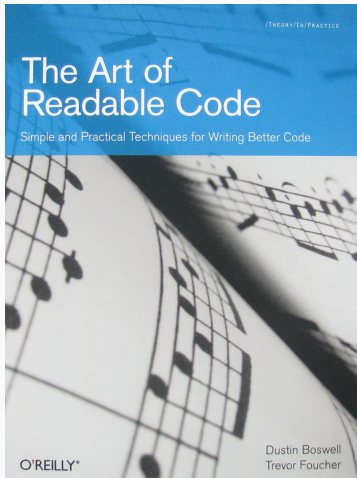
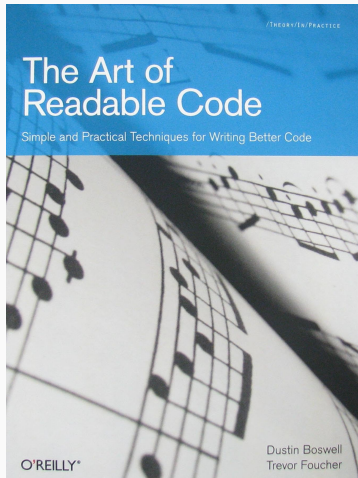


Figure 1. Book Rocq's developers forgot to read.

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Not a talk about Rocq's source code.

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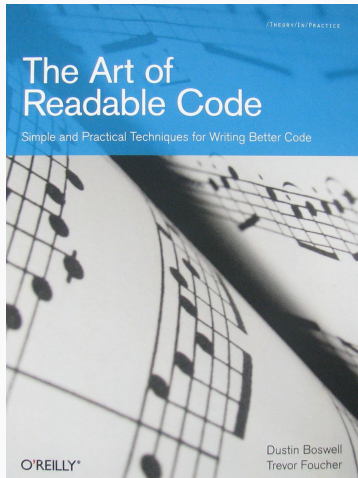


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Don't repeat yourself.

Guess what?

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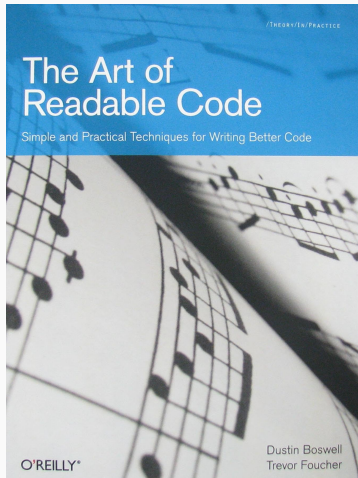


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Guess what? today's talk: duplications.

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Not All Heroes Wear Capes

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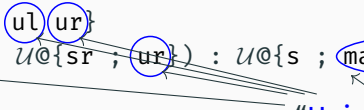
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“Universe Levels”



- **Universe level** polymorphism: Sozeau and Tabareau, 2014.

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Inductive $\text{sum} : \{s : \text{Sort}\} \rightarrow \{u : \text{Universe Level}\} \rightarrow \text{Type}$

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Inductive $\text{sum} : \mathcal{U}(\text{sl}, \text{sr}, \text{s}; \text{ul}, \text{ur})$
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- **Universe level** polymorphism: Sozeau and Tabareau, 2014.
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But this is not enough to avoid duplication!

Arguably Worse Situation

With unbounded sort polymorphism: cannot define *e.g.*, a generic eliminator:

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Definition sum_elim@{sl sr s s'}  
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Still need to declare the different eliminators “by hand”.

Shackling The Old Rooster

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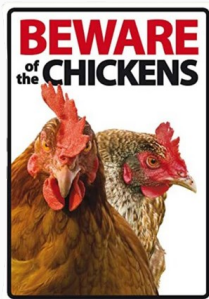
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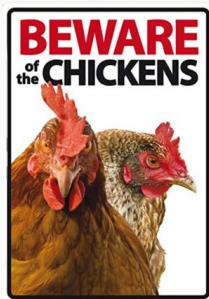
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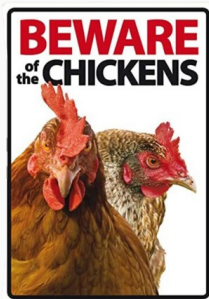
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This is the job of elimination constraints in $\text{SortPoly}^{\rightsquigarrow}$.

No Regression

For s, s' two *sorts*:

$s \rightsquigarrow s' \iff$ values in s' can be produced by ones in s

(via pattern-matching).

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Study of the metatheory gives:

- ▶ consistency (under small condition), and
- ▶ transitivity.

Everything You Never Wanted To Know About Domination

Definition $\text{foo} @ \{s \mid \text{SProp} \rightsquigarrow s\} \{A : \mathcal{U} @ \{s\}\}$
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If unrestricted, undecidability is close (Exc exceptional sort, what happens with $\text{Exc} \rightsquigarrow s$ and $\text{SProp} \rightsquigarrow s$)?

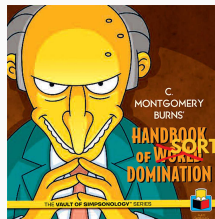
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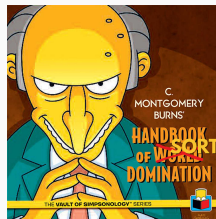
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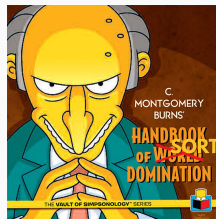
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Good news: in Rocq, Type is initial.

\implies only need to ensure domination.

It's Even Getting User-Friendly

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Does not catch everything, *e.g.*, inconsistent sort eliminating to Type .

Good But Not Great

Can write the generic eliminator:

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Solution: one elaboration procedure to infer them all.

But Here, There *is* a Catharsis

2 good news:

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Concretely, for the user:

Set Universe Polymorphism.

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Phew, we won't have to
go insane over that

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There is Even Actual Work Done

Implementation of elimination constraints in Rocq:

- ▶ reuse of the universe level graph for transitive closure,
- ▶ ad-hoc checks for dominant sorts (amortized constant complexity),
- ▶ ad-hoc checks to avoid introducing unwanted constraints,
- ▶ manual prohibition of `SProp` \rightsquigarrow `s`.

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Expect some performance regressions in the monomorphic case:

- ▶ eliminability check through a graph,
- ▶ bigger structures at elaboration.

Rough Planning (There is a Strange Theme in These Titles, no?)

Current phase:

- ▶ Develop the constraint graph, and plug it at the right places.
- ▶ Parsing with annotations.



Check out the RFC!

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- ▶ Automatic generation of generic induction scheme.



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Near future:

- ▶ Make use of dominant sorts in conversion tests.



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Real conclusion:

Embrace SortPoly[→], it is painless for users.*

*Except for mad people annotating stuff.

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Any question(s)?