

THEORIES WITH JUDGEMENT

JONATHAN STERLING

A *Theory* is given by a language \mathcal{L} , an inductively defined set of judgements \mathcal{J} , and an explanation of their meaning $\llbracket - \rrbracket : \mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{J}}$. One such theory is the theory \mathbf{Nat} of the natural numbers, whose terms are the numerals:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nat}} & ::= & \text{zero} \\ & | & \text{succ } \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nat}} \rangle \end{array}$$

The theory \mathbf{Nat} has only a single form of judgement, which asserts that a term is a natural number.

$$\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Nat}} = \{n \text{ nat} \mid n : \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nat}}\}$$

The judgement is then interpreted over the syntax recursively:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{zero nat} \rrbracket_{\mathbf{Nat}} &= \top \\ \llbracket \text{succ } n \text{ nat} \rrbracket_{\mathbf{Nat}} &= \llbracket n \text{ nat} \rrbracket_{\mathbf{Nat}} \end{aligned}$$

Going forward, we'll equivalently present the judgements and their interpretations in terms of “canonical constructors” in the ambient metalanguage, as follows:

$$(- \text{ nat}) : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Nat}}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nat}}}$$

$$\frac{}{\text{zero nat}} \quad \frac{n \text{ nat}}{\text{succ } n \text{ nat}}$$

Now, this is not a particularly interesting theory, since its single form of judgement is true at all instantiations, but it served to illustrate the construction of a theory with judgement.

A more interesting theory is that of names, \mathbf{Nm} ; we take $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}$ to be the countably infinite set of strings of letters $abc\dots$. Then, the judgements are given as follows:

$$(\text{Apartness}) \quad (- \# -) : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Nm}}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}} \times \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}}$$

We can take the interpretation of the apartness judgement as primitive.

Now we can define the theory of contexts of assumptions over some other theory \mathbf{T} , which we will call $\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]$; we introduce the following syntax and judgements:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]} & ::= & \cdot \\ & | & \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]} \rangle, \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}} \rangle : \langle \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{T}} \rangle \end{array}$$

$$(- \text{ ctx}) : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]}}$$

$$(- \notin -) : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}} \times \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]}}$$

$$(- \ni - : -) : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Ctx}[\mathbf{T}]} \times \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}} \times \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{T}}}$$

And the meanings of these judgements are given inductive-recursively in terms of the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\cdot \text{ ctx}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \text{ ctx} \quad x \notin \Gamma}{\Gamma, x : J \text{ ctx}} (x \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}) \\
\\
\frac{}{x \notin \cdot} (x \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}) \quad \frac{x \notin \Gamma \quad x \# y}{x \notin (\Gamma, y : J)} (x, y \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}) \\
\\
\frac{}{\Gamma, x : J \ni x : J} (x \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \ni y : J'}{\Gamma, x : J \ni y : J'} (x, y \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Nm}})
\end{array}$$

Finally, we can iterate the process in order to get a theory **IPC** of intuitionistic propositional logic, which introduces a notion of hypothetical judgement: but note that we did not need to include that as part of the general framework, since we have defined it internally in the theory of contexts above.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} ::= \perp \\
\quad | \top \\
\quad | \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle \wedge \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle \\
\quad | \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle \vee \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle \\
\quad | \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle \supset \langle \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \rangle
\end{array}$$

The theory has a single form of judgement,

$$- \text{ true } [-] : \mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{IPC}}^{\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{IPC}} \times \mathcal{L}_{\text{Ctx}[\mathbf{IPC}]}}$$

The definition of the theory **IPC** is circular, but not viciously so; it is inductive-recursive. Then, the meaning of this judgement is given by the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\top \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \quad \frac{\perp \text{ true } [\Gamma]}{P \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \\
\\
\frac{P \text{ true } [\Gamma] \quad Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]}{P \wedge Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \quad \frac{P \wedge Q \text{ true } [\Gamma] \quad R \text{ true } [\Gamma, x : P \text{ true } [\Gamma]; y : Q \text{ true } [\Gamma, x : P \text{ true } [\Gamma]]]}{R \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \\
\\
\frac{P \vee Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]}{P \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \quad \frac{P \vee Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]}{Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \quad \frac{P \vee Q \text{ true } [\Gamma] \quad R \text{ true } [\Gamma, x : P \text{ true } [\Gamma]] \quad R \text{ true } [\Gamma, x : Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]]}{R \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \\
\\
\frac{Q \text{ true } [\Gamma, x : P \text{ true } [\Gamma]]}{P \supset Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]} \quad \frac{P \supset Q \text{ true } [\Gamma] \quad P \text{ true } [\Gamma]}{Q \text{ true } [\Gamma]}
\end{array}$$