

The Yoneda embedding in simplicial type theory

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Riehl and Shulman [RS17] introduced *simplicial type theory* (STT), a variant of homotopy type theory which aimed to study not just homotopy theory, but its fusion with category theory: $(\infty, 1)$ -category theory. While notoriously technical, manipulating ∞ -categories in simplicial type theory is often easier than working with ordinary categories, with the type theory handling infinite stacks of coherences in the background. We capitalize on recent work by Gratzer et al. [GWB24] defining the $(\infty, 1)$ -category of ∞ -groupoids in STT to define presheaf categories within STT and systematically develop their theory. In particular, we construct the Yoneda embedding, prove the universal property of presheaf categories, refine the theory of adjunctions in STT, introduce the theory of Kan extensions, and prove Quillen’s Theorem A. In addition to a large amount of category theory in STT, we offer substantial evidence that STT can be used to produce difficult results in ∞ -category theory at a fraction of the complexity.

Dedicated to the dear memory of Thomas Streicher (1958–2025)

1 INTRODUCTION

Russell [Rus19] famously described two styles of formalizing mathematics as the difference between *theft* and *honest toil*. Both approaches can be seen in the present use of dependent type theory. Honest toil involves proceeding *analytically*: treating types as basic objects equivalent to sets and defining and reasoning about objects like the real numbers, groups, and topological spaces as one would ordinarily. This is what is done in e.g., the Coq proof of the Odd Order Theorem [Gon+13]. The more expeditious route of theft involves treating type theory as a bespoke *synthetic* language for a particular kind of mathematical object and postulating their basic properties. This narrows the scope of type theory but, by the same token, makes proofs about those particular objects far more concise. For instance, *homotopy type theory* (HoTT) [Uni13] postulates various axioms that ensure that types behave like spaces (up to homotopy), making it possible to prove theorems from algebraic topology without ever introducing an explicit description of a space. In reality, the synthetic approach is less akin to theft than a loan; one pays for the customized type theory with a semantic model that interprets types as the intended objects and validates the additional axioms.

In this work, we embrace the synthetic methodology to use type theory to study category theory. In particular, we add various axioms to homotopy type theory in order to construct a system where HoTT’s slogan “all types are spaces and all functions are continuous” is replaced by “(some) types are (∞) -categories and all functions are functors”.¹ This extension of type theory is called *simplicial type theory* (STT) and was introduced by Riehl and Shulman [RS17].

While knowledge of ∞ -categories is not necessary to use our theory, rough intuition for them is helpful for understanding STT. We therefore recall the following fuzzy definition. An ∞ -category C is a collection of objects with a *space* of arrows between objects c and d , $\mathrm{hom}(c, d)$, rather than a set,

¹In this paper, by ∞ -category we mean $(\infty, 1)$ -category.

equipped with a continuous composition operation and assignment of identity arrows. Crucially, the composition operation need only be associative and unital up to homotopy, but with the constraint that those homotopies themselves satisfy *coherence* laws in the form of additional homotopies, and so on with coherences between coherences, etc. As a loose analogy, just as a monoidal category relaxes monoids by allowing \otimes to be associative up to isomorphisms satisfying certain coherence equations, ∞ -categories weaken ordinary categories to allow for the category laws to only hold up to (infinitely coherent) isomorphisms.

Remarkably, essentially every theorem one might hope for of ordinary categories holds for ∞ -categories.² However, the proofs are vastly more complex as they work with *models* of ∞ -categories (tools used to organize and manage the tower of coherences [Ber18]). The goal of STT is to use type theory to hide coherences from the user and to allow for proofs that are no more difficult than the classical arguments for 1-categories.

In this work, we provide substantial evidence of this hypothesis by developing a large swathe of category theory—several of the main results of *Categories for the Working Mathematician* [Mac78]—purely within STT.

1.1 Simplicial type theory

To construct a type theory for synthetic category theory, one may hope to interpret type theory into the category of categories (∞ or otherwise) to ensure that types realize categories. However, the category \mathbf{Cat} of small categories is too poorly behaved to form a model of Martin-Löf type theory (MLTT). Instead, Riehl and Shulman [RS17] enlarge \mathbf{Cat} and embed it as a reflective subcategory in the (∞) -presheaf category on the simplex category $\widehat{\Delta}$ which is rich enough to model HoTT. STT then axiomatizes some of $\widehat{\Delta}$ to isolate \mathbf{Cat} as a reflective subuniverse within the type theory [RSS20].

We will introduce the full suite of additions in Section 2 (collected in Appendix B for convenience), but the most important among them is the postulated *interval type* $\mathbb{I} : \mathcal{U}_0$. We further assume that \mathbb{I} is a bounded linear order with endpoints $0, 1 : \mathbb{I}$. Intuitively, \mathbb{I} is meant to capture the category $\{0 \rightarrow 1\}$ —it is interpreted as such in $\widehat{\Delta}$ —and we may use this to define and probe the type of *synthetic morphisms* in an arbitrary type X : an arrow in X corresponds to an ordinary function $\mathbb{I} \rightarrow X$ with evaluation at $0, 1$ yielding the domain and codomain. For instance, the identity arrow at $x : X$ is given by $\lambda_. x$.

However, just as the intended model $\widehat{\Delta}$ is strictly larger than \mathbf{Cat} , not all types in STT faithfully model categories. In particular, while one is always able to construct identity morphisms, not all types enjoy a composition operator. Remarkably, however, composition operators are unique when they exist and their existence for a type X is captured by a relatively short proposition (Definition 2.9). With a composition operation for X to hand, we can define the type of isomorphisms in X and we define a category to be a type where (1) the composition operation exists uniquely up to homotopy, and (2) the type of isomorphisms in X is equivalent to the identity type $=_X$.

Remark 1.1. This last point hinges crucially on *not* assuming the uniqueness of identity proofs lest we accidentally forbid any synthetic category from having an object with a non-trivial automorphism. However, by assuming isomorphisms and identity proofs coincide, we are able to leverage type theory’s support for replacing equals by equals to seamlessly transport proofs along isomorphisms. This is why working with HoTT/intensional type theory when formulating synthetic category theory proves more convenient than extensional type theory, even if one is unconcerned with ∞ -categories.

²At least, as one of our reviewers remarked, provided one correctly calibrates one’s hopes.

1.2 Category theory inside of STT

While some recent work has investigated STT for its applications to programming languages [WL20; GWB24; Wea24], the majority of work on simplicial type theory has focused on proving results from category theory inside of type theory [RS17; Rie23; Bar22; Wei22; BW23; Wei24b; Wei24a]. To this end, the theory of adjunctions, discrete and Grothendieck fibrations, and (co)limits have been introduced and studied within simplicial type theory. Some of these results, e.g., a fibrational Yoneda lemma [RS17], were subsequently mechanized [KRW04].

Until recently, however, there were no closed types in STT which represented non-trivial categories. As a result, while an excellent definition of adjunctions is presented by Riehl and Shulman [RS17], no examples can be given. In previous work, we changed this by extending STT to construct \mathcal{S} , the category of \mathcal{S} paces, which is the homotopical analog of \mathbf{Set} [GWB24]. Objects of \mathcal{S} are elements of \mathcal{U}_0 that encode ∞ -groupoids and morphisms in \mathcal{S} correspond to functions thereof. *Op. cit.* uses \mathcal{S} as a building block to recover algebraic categories (groups, rings) as well as other examples (posets, the simplex category, etc.).

Our extension of STT employed various *modalities* on top of HoTT to construct \mathcal{S} . Here we take \mathcal{S} wholesale, but some of the modalities we used are still critical for stating natural theorems in category theory. Accordingly, we also work within a modal extension of HoTT based on MTT [Gra+20] within this paper.

1.3 Contributions

We revisit the basic category theory in light of the construction of \mathcal{S} and show that the majority of classical results one encounters in category theory are now within reach of simplicial type theory. For the first time, we show that STT can be used to prove vital theorems in ∞ -category theory without recourse to complex models. Many of these theorems (e.g., fully-faithful essentially surjective functors are equivalences) do not explicitly mention \mathcal{S} , but crucially rely on the reasoning principles enabled by \mathcal{S} . We prove two workhorse results from presheaf categories \widehat{C} :

- We construct a fully-faithful function $y : C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$.
- We prove that \widehat{C} is the “free cocompletion of C ”.

The key technical innovation for these is the *twisted arrow category*, which we integrate into STT as a modality. We are then able to deduce various classical results, e.g.:

- that pointwise invertible maps in $C \rightarrow D$ are invertible;
- that pointwise left adjoints are left adjoints;
- that (co)limits are computed pointwise in $C \rightarrow D$;
- the theory and existence of pointwise Kan extensions;
- Quillen’s theorem A;
- the properness of cocartesian fibrations.

The synthetic approach yields concise proofs for many of these theorems compared with classical expositions in 1-category theory, but our proofs apply to ∞ -categories as well and there the improvements are far more radical: it takes hundreds of pages for Lurie [Lur09] to prove that y is fully-faithful and the proof that pointwise natural transformations are isomorphisms takes nearly five pages of effort by Cisinski [Cis19]. By dividing work between a construction within STT and the already-existing model of STT, we are able to avoid many of these technicalities and give proofs more familiar to 1-category theorists. In particular, we show that just as homotopy type theory allowed type theorists to produce new arguments in algebraic topology, simplicial type theory enables type theorists to do the same with ∞ -category theory.

Remark 1.2. Given that STT extends HoTT with a number of axioms, it is natural to ask whether these axioms are *complete* in any sense. Our present suite of axioms is not complete for the intended models of simplicial objects in an ∞ -topos (though they are sound) but this is neither surprising nor undesirable: HoTT itself is not complete for its intended models (∞ -topoi) and its exotic models are a source of considerable interest. Similarly, we expect STT to have interesting exotic models and cannot reasonably hope for a finite set of axioms to be complete for standard models. What is far more important is whether these axioms suffice to derive the standard results in category theory, an empirical rather than a mathematical question. Indeed, in related synthetic approaches to domain theory [Hyl91], differential geometry [Koc06], and algebraic geometry [CCH24], the precise axioms arose over the course of multiple years and several iterations. To this end, we view our results as providing firm evidence towards the expressivity of this axiom set.

1.4 Organization

In [Section 2](#) we review the highlights of the basis of this work: homotopy type theory, basic simplicial type theory, modal homotopy type theory, and their synthesis: STT. In [Section 3](#), we study the *twisted arrow* category and use it to construct the Yoneda embedding. We prove several increasingly sophisticated versions of the Yoneda lemma and conclude with a fully functorial version ([Theorem 3.12](#)). In [Section 4](#) we put the Yoneda lemma to work to revisit the theory of adjunctions given by Riehl and Shulman [RS17]. We develop several tools for constructing adjunctions and use them to give the first non-trivial examples of adjunctions in STT. We also use this machinery to show that \widehat{C} is the free cocompletion of C ([Theorem 4.20](#)). In [Section 5](#) we develop the theory of Kan extensions in STT and prove several vital results: the existence of pointwise Kan extensions ([Theorem 5.3](#)), Quillen’s theorem A ([Theorem 5.12](#)), and the properness of cocartesian maps ([Theorem 5.24](#)). Our proof of the last fact is particularly notable, as our use of type theory led us to a far simpler proof than those we are aware of in the literature.

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2 MODAL AND SIMPLICIAL TYPE THEORY

In this paper we take STT largely for granted and focus on working within the theory. However, to make this paper more self-contained, we devote this section to carefully explaining the novel constructs of modal homotopy type theory and the axioms supplementing it which form simplicial type theory.

2.1 Homotopy type theory

We begin by recalling the basic concepts and notation from homotopy type theory we use in this paper. The canonical reference is the HoTT book [Uni13]. We work within intensional Martin-Löf type theory and note how HoTT extends this.

Notation 2.1. We write $a =_A b$ for the identity type (often suppressing A). Given $p : a =_A b$ and $B : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$, we write $p_!$ for the map $B(a) \rightarrow B(b)$.

Definition 2.2. We say that a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is an equivalence if f admits both a left and a right inverse:

$$\text{isEquiv}(f) = \sum_{g,h:B \rightarrow A} (g \circ f = \text{id}) \times (f \circ h = \text{id})$$

We write $A \simeq B$ for the sum $\sum_{f:A \rightarrow B} \text{isEquiv}(f)$.

HoTT is an extension of intensional type theory with a hierarchy of universes satisfying the univalence axiom:

$$\text{univ}_i : \prod_{A,B:\mathcal{U}_i} \text{isEquiv}(\lambda p. (p_!, \dots) : A =_{\mathcal{U}_i} B \rightarrow A \simeq B)$$

We shall suppress the i in univ_i and \mathcal{U}_i and ignore size issues unless they are relevant. Univalence produces a great number of paths in \mathcal{U} that are distinct from refl . We are often interested in types that are trivial, have only trivial paths, or trivial paths between paths, etc. These conditions are organized into a family of predicates referred to as the truncation level $(-2, -1, 0, \dots)$ of a type. We will only use the first three levels, stating that a type is contractible or a (homotopy) proposition or set:

$$\text{isContr}(A) = \sum_{a:A} \prod_{b:A} a = b \qquad \text{isProp}(A) = \prod_{a,b:A} \text{isContr}(a = b)$$

$$\text{isSet}(A) = \prod_{a,b:A} \text{isProp}(a = b)$$

Proposition 2.3 (Shulman [Shu19], see also Riehl [Rie24]). *All type-theoretic model topoi (and, therefore, Grothendieck ∞ -topoi) model HoTT.*

We shall also have occasion to use various *higher inductive types* (HITs). The semantics of HITs is complex and not directly addressed by the above result [LS19]. In particular, while Shulman [Shu19] shows that the above model supports all higher inductive types, he does not show that universes are strictly closed under these constructions. While it is work-in-progress to obtain this result, it is easy to show that universes are *weakly* closed under these constructions. For instance, there exists a type $D : \mathcal{U}_0$ such that $D \simeq A \amalg_C B$ whenever $A, B, C : \mathcal{U}_0$. Accordingly, we shall assume that our universes are closed under higher inductive types, albeit only with propositional β -rules.

2.2 Simplicial type theory

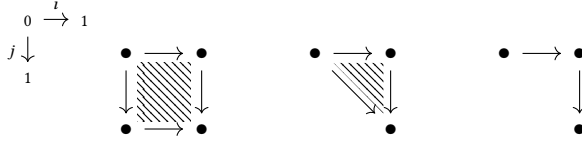
With HoTT to hand, we turn to simplicial type theory. This is an extension of HoTT by a handful of axioms that allow us to treat (certain) types as $(\infty, 1)$ -categories, henceforth just referred to as categories. We will consequently drop the $(\infty, 1)$ - or ∞ -prefix everywhere. First and most fundamentally, we add the following:

Axiom A. *There is a set \mathbb{I} that forms a bounded distributive lattice $(0, 1, \vee, \wedge)$ such that $\prod_{i,j:\mathbb{I}} i \leq j \vee j \leq i$ holds.*

We view \mathbb{I} as a *directed interval*, and Riehl and Shulman [RS17] use this to equip every type with a notion of synthetic morphism:

Definition 2.4. A synthetic morphism $f : \text{hom}_X(x, y)$ where $x, y : X$ is a function $f : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow X$ together with propositional equalities $f\,0 =_X x$ and $f\,1 =_X y$.

Remark 2.5. In Riehl and Shulman [RS17], the synthetic interval is defined as more primitive judgmental structure and $\text{hom}(x, y)$ uses strict extension types. This yields more definitional equalities: $f\,0$ and x would coincide definitionally when $f : \text{hom}(x, y)$ (and similarly for $f\,1$ and y).

Fig. 1. Visualization of \mathbb{I}^2 , Δ^2 , and Λ_1^2 .

However, the judgmental approach does not straightforwardly include \mathbb{I} as a normal type and its interactions with modalities (Section 2.4) are complex. For these reasons, we work with the simpler but less strict definition of $\text{hom}(x, y)$. In a system where both are available these two notions are equivalent [BW23].

One can define the identity morphism $\text{id}_x : x \rightarrow x$ as $\lambda_{-}.x$. Moreover, every function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ automatically has an action on synthetic morphisms $\alpha : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow X$ by post-composition $f \circ \alpha : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow Y$. In this case, we often write $f(\alpha)$.

From \mathbb{I} we immediately obtain the n -cubes \mathbb{I}^n and from them we can isolate simplices Δ^n , boundaries $\partial\Delta^n$, and horns Λ_k^n . In particular, $\Delta^2 \rightarrow X$ represents an 2-cell in X witnessing the composite of two arrows, and $\Lambda_1^2 \rightarrow X$ represents a pair of composable arrow (without a composite). We recall the definitions of these types below:

$$\Delta^n = \{(i_1, \dots, i_n) : \mathbb{I}^n \mid i_1 \geq i_2 \geq \dots \geq i_n\} \quad \Lambda_1^2 = \{(i, j) : \mathbb{I}^2 \mid i = 1 \vee j = 0\}$$

Notation 2.6. We write $i : \Delta^n$ ($0 \leq i \leq n$) as shorthand for the sequence of i copies of 1 followed by 0: $(1, 1, \dots, 0, \dots)$.

A map $f : \Delta^2 \rightarrow X$ is said to witness that the composite of $f(-, 0)$ followed by $f(1, -)$ is $\lambda i. f(i, i)$. We emphasize that this is *data*; there can be many distinct f 's witnessing the same composition as X may have many non-equivalent 2-cells with the same boundary. By the same token however, it is not always the case that a pair of composable morphisms $\Lambda_1^2 \rightarrow X$ extends to a composition datum $\Delta^2 \rightarrow X$. This is precisely because not every type in STT can be regarded as a category; even though we have defined $\text{hom}_X(x, y)$ for every X , there is no *a priori* way of *composing* these morphisms. Precategories are types for which all composites exist:

Definition 2.7. A *precategory* is a type X satisfying the Segal condition: $\text{isEquiv}(X^{\Delta^2} \rightarrow X^{\Lambda_1^2})$.

Roughly, the Segal condition ensures that every pair of composable morphisms in X extends (uniquely) to a 2-cell witnessing their composition and, in particular, there is an induced composition function $\text{hom}(x, y) \times \text{hom}(y, z) \rightarrow \text{hom}(x, z)$. Uniqueness automatically ensures that this operation is associative and unital. The definition of a category refines this slightly. In a precategory X we are able to define the type of isomorphisms $x \cong y$ between $x, y : X$ and so there are two potentially distinct types of evidence for x and y being identical: $x =_X y$ and $x \cong_X y$. A category is a precategory for which these two types are canonical equivalent.

Definition 2.8. $\alpha : \text{hom}(x, y)$ is an isomorphism ($\text{islo}(\alpha)$) if there exist $\beta_0, \beta_1 : \text{hom}(y, x)$ such that $\beta_0 \circ \alpha = \text{id}$, $\alpha \circ \beta_1 = \text{id}$.³ We write $\text{iso}(x, y)$ or $x \cong y$ for the subtype of isomorphisms.

Definition 2.9. A precategory C is a *category* if it satisfies the Rezk condition:

$$\prod_{x, y : C} \text{isEquiv}(\text{idtoiso} : (x = y) \rightarrow \text{iso}(x, y))$$

where $\text{idtoiso}(\text{refl}) := \text{id}$. If every morphism in C is an isomorphism, then C is a *groupoid*.

³This is precisely the HoTT equivalence but recast into synthetic morphisms.

Example 2.10. $\mathbb{I}, \Delta^n, \mathbb{I}^n$ are all categories [GWB24].

Lemma 2.11. C is a groupoid if and only if $\text{isEquiv}(C^{\mathbb{I}} : C \rightarrow C^{\mathbb{I}})$ (C is \mathbb{I} -null [RSS20]).

Riehl and Shulman [RS17] develop the basic theory of these synthetic categories. As noted above, every function has an action on morphisms and *op. cit.* shows that this action preserves compositions and identities and therefore defines a functor. They also show that $C \rightarrow D$ is then a category whenever D is, and that synthetic morphisms $\text{hom}_{D^C}(f, g)$ are precisely natural transformations. One can reformulate various classical categorical notions rather directly:

Definition 2.12 (Bardomiano Martínez [Bar22]). A natural transformation $\alpha : \text{hom}_{C^I}(\text{const}(c), F)$ witnesses c as the limit of $F : C^I$ if α induces an equivalence $\text{hom}(c', c) \simeq \text{hom}(\text{const}(c'), F)$ for all c' .

Definition 2.13. An adjunction between two categories C, D consists of a pair of functions $f : C \rightarrow D$ and $g : D \rightarrow C$ with a natural isomorphism $\iota : \prod_{c,d} \text{hom}(f(c), d) \simeq \text{hom}(c, g(d))$.

While we have given a few examples of categories above, a notable type that is *not* category is the universe \mathcal{U} . Maps $A : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ are too unstructured to compose and, in particular, correspond neither to functions $A(0) \rightarrow A(1)$ nor $A(1) \rightarrow A(0)$ (consider $\lambda i. i = 0$ or $\lambda i. i = 1$). In Section 2.4, we shall discuss the subuniverse \mathcal{S} constructed previously [GWB24], which is a category of groupoids whose morphisms correspond to functions. To properly situate this definition, we recall what it means for $X : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ to be covariant [RS17], giving an assignment from morphisms $\text{hom}(a_0, a_1)$ to functions $X(a_0) \rightarrow X(a_1)$.

Notation 2.14. Given $X : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ we write \tilde{X} for $\sum_{a:A} X(a)$.

Definition 2.15. A family $X : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ is *covariant* if for every $a : \text{hom}(a_0, a_1)$ and $x_0 : X(a_0)$, the following is contractible:

$$\text{Lift}(a, x_0) = \sum_{x_1 : X(a_1)} \sum_{x : \text{hom}((a_0, x_0), (a_1, x_1))} \pi_1(x) =_{\text{hom}(a_0, a_1)} a$$

Here, x is a morphism in \tilde{X} . We further say the projection $\sum_{a:A} X(a) \rightarrow A$ is covariant when X is. For a general map $\pi : X \rightarrow A$ we write X_a for $\sum_{x:X} \pi(x) = a$ and say π is covariant when $\lambda a. X_a$ is.

Since $\text{Lift}(a, x_0)$ is contractible it has an inhabitant x_1 . This yields a function $a, x_0 \mapsto x_1$ which defines $a_! : X(a_0) \rightarrow X(a_1)$. The contractibility of $\text{Lift}(a, x_0)$ ensures that these functions compose correctly, etc.

Lemma 2.16. A family $X : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ is covariant if and only if the map $\tilde{\pi} := \lambda p. (p(0), \pi_1 \circ p) : \tilde{X}^{\mathbb{I}} \rightarrow \tilde{X} \times_A A^{\mathbb{I}}$ is an equivalence.

In Sections 4.1 and 5.3, we shall briefly use a weakening of covariance:

Definition 2.17. A family $X : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ is *cocartesian* if $\tilde{X}^{\mathbb{I}} \rightarrow A^{\mathbb{I}} \times_{A^{\{1\}}} \tilde{X}^{\{1\}}$ is a right adjoint $\ell \dashv \tilde{\pi}$ such that $\tilde{\pi} \circ \ell = \text{id}$.

One can give an equivalent characterization in terms of cocartesian morphisms and show that e.g., every morphism in D can be factored as a cocartesian morphism followed by a vertical morphism:

Theorem 2.18 (Buchholtz and Weinberger [BW23]). If a map $\pi : D \rightarrow C$ is cocartesian then for every $c : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow C$, $x_0 : C_{c(0)}$, the category $\text{Lift}(c, x_0)$ has an initial object.

Dually, one can consider contravariant and cartesian families and fibrations.

Finally, we note that since categories and groupoids are defined by certain *orthogonality* conditions, by Rijke et al. [RSS20] they define reflective subuniverses.

Proposition 2.19. *There are idempotent monads $\circ_{\text{cat}}, \circ_{\text{grpd}}$ such that, e.g., $\circ_{\text{cat}} X$ is a category and $C^{\circ_{\text{cat}} X} \simeq C^X$ when C is a category.*

Proposition 2.20 (Riehl and Shulman [RS17]). *When Proposition 2.3 is specialized to simplicial spaces $(\widehat{\Delta})$, the resulting model validates Axiom A and in this model categories are realized by ∞ -categories (modeled by complete Segal spaces) and groupoids by ∞ -groupoids.*

2.3 Modal homotopy type theory

Many theorems in category theory require the ability to quantify over the objects in a category, e.g., “if $\alpha : F \rightarrow G$ is a natural transformation of functors $C \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ and each α_c is invertible, then α is invertible”. A version of this is proven by Riehl and Shulman [RS17]: $(\prod_{c:C} \text{islo}(\lambda i. \alpha i c)) \rightarrow \text{islo}(\alpha)$, but this is subtly different as we discuss below. In fact, as it stands we cannot directly capture the classical statement in STT.

To understand the divergence between the STT and classical results, note that by working internally to type theory when proving $\prod_{c:C} \text{islo}(\lambda i. \alpha i c)$ we cannot assume that c is just an object in C : since it is an arbitrary element, we have to assume it is constructed in an arbitrary context which might contain, e.g., a copy of \mathbb{I} such that c represents a synthetic morphism. In fact, if we unfold the above type into the model we find that constructing $\prod_{c:C} \text{islo}(\lambda i. \alpha i c)$ already entails proving that the chosen inverses are natural. A great deal of the power of simplicial type theory comes from this implicit naturality, but it makes this particular result weaker. After all, its purpose in standard category theory was that in this particular situation, *a priori* unnatural choices of inverses will automatically be natural. Moreover, we shall encounter theorems that are simply false when naively translated in this way.

Accordingly, to make STT practical we must extend it with *modalities*: unary type constructors distinguished by their failure to respect substitution or apply in arbitrary contexts. For instance, we shall eventually equip STT with a modality $\langle b \mid - \rangle$ which discards all non-invertible synthetic morphisms from a type to produce its *core*, which we then use to faithfully encode pointwise invertibility (see Example 2.23).

A complete reference to the modal type theory we use—MTT [Gra+20]—is given by Gratzer [Gra23] and we record formal rules in Appendix A. Fortunately, the rules for, e.g., Σ -types are unaffected by the addition of modalities. Accordingly, for brevity we only recall the new rules which must be added to MLTT to extend HoTT with modalities à la MTT.

MTT is parameterized by a *mode theory*: a strict 2-category describing the collection of modalities (the morphisms) available along with the natural transformations between them (the 2-cells). We use μ, ν, ξ to range over modalities. In the case of simplicial type theory, our mode theory will have only one object along with a handful of generating modalities and 2-cells. There are four generating modalities $b, \sharp, \text{op}, \text{tw}$ subject to the following equations:

$$b = b \circ b = b \circ \sharp = b \circ \text{op} = \text{tw} \circ b \quad \sharp = \sharp \circ \sharp = \sharp \circ b = \sharp \circ \text{op} \quad \text{op} \circ \text{op} = \text{id}$$

We further require the following generating 2-cells:

$$\epsilon : b \rightarrow \text{id} \quad \zeta : \text{id} \rightarrow \sharp \quad \tau : \text{tw} \cong \text{tw} \circ \text{op} \quad (\text{with } \tau^{-1}) \quad \pi_0^{\text{tw}} : \text{tw} \rightarrow \text{op} \quad \pi_1^{\text{tw}} : \text{tw} \rightarrow \text{id}$$

These 2-cells are likewise subject to a number of equations. For ϵ and ζ , we require $\zeta \star \sharp = \sharp \star \zeta = \text{id}$ viewing all of these as 2-cells $\sharp \rightarrow \sharp$ and $b \star \zeta = \text{id} : b \rightarrow b$ (using \star to denote whiskering). We require the dual equations on ϵ . For the remaining four 2-cells, we require that the following

diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{tw} & \\
 \pi_0^{\text{tw}} \swarrow & \downarrow \tau & \searrow \pi_1^{\text{tw}} \\
 \text{op} & \text{tw} \circ \text{op} & \text{id} \\
 \pi_1^{\text{tw}} \star \text{op} \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_0^{\text{tw}} \star \text{op}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{b} & \\
 \epsilon \star \text{op} \swarrow & \downarrow \text{tw} \star \epsilon & \searrow \epsilon \\
 \text{op} & \text{tw} & \text{id} \\
 \pi_1^{\text{tw}} \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_0^{\text{tw}}
 \end{array}$$

Each morphism μ in the mode theory induces a modal type $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$. We will describe the rules for these modal types in a moment, but first we give some idea of what they are intended to denote. For now this is merely intuition, though the axioms and model described in [Section 2.4](#) will make it so. As already mentioned, $\langle \text{b} \mid - \rangle$ removes all non-identity synthetic morphisms from a type. $\langle \# \mid - \rangle$ is the right adjoint to this operation and so it discards all non-identity morphisms but then freely adds all morphisms so that an n -simplex $\Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \# \mid X \rangle$ is exactly a collection of n points in X .⁴ Next, $\langle \text{op} \mid - \rangle$ sends a type to its opposite and, in particular, reverses the directions of all synthetic morphisms. Finally, $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$ sends a type to its corresponding type of *twisted arrows*; we shall analyze it in more depth in [Section 3](#).

The formation rule for $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ is complex: the entire point of modalities is that $\Gamma \vdash A$ does not imply $\Gamma \vdash \langle \mu \mid A \rangle$. Instead, MTT introduces a novel form of context operation which acts like a “left adjoint” to $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$:

$$\frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\vdash \Gamma, \{\mu\}} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash \langle \mu \mid A \rangle} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{mod}_\mu(a) : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle}$$

We refer to $\{\mu\}$ as a *modal restriction*. It is helpful to compare $\langle \mu \mid A \rangle$ with dependent products and, therefore, to see $-, \{\mu\}$ as extending the context by something akin to a substructural “ μ variable” [BGM17; Bir+20]. The real force of modalities comes through how these $\{\mu\}$ s interact with variables. In particular, it is not the case that $\Gamma, x : A, \{\mu\} \vdash x : A$; since $-, \{\mu\}$ is intended to model a left adjoint, we cannot generally assume that there is a weakening substitution $\Gamma, \{\mu\} \rightarrow \Gamma$. Instead, we alter the rule extending a context with a variable so that each variable is annotated with a modality:

$$\frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\vdash \Gamma, x :_\mu A} \qquad \frac{\alpha : \mu \rightarrow \text{mods}(\Gamma_1)}{\Gamma_0, x :_\mu A, \Gamma_1 \vdash x^\alpha : A^\alpha}$$

In the above, x^α is the new form of variable rule while A^α is an admissible operation on the syntax which traverses the term A and appropriately updates all free variables y^β occurring within A and modifying β appropriately using α . In particular, if A is closed then $A^\alpha = A$. In the formal syntax, both x^α and A^α are realized by form of substitution, see Gratzner et al. [Gra+21] for further details.

The original context extension is given by taking $\mu = \text{id}$. In the second rule, $\text{mods}(\Gamma_1)$ is the composite $v_0 \circ v_1 \circ \dots$ of all the $\{v_i\}$ s occurring in Γ_1 (and is id if there are no such occurrences). In other words, a variable with annotation μ can be used precisely when it occurs behind a series of modal restrictions for which there is a 2-cell navigating from μ to this composite. It is therefore in the variable rule where the 2-cells comes into play.

Lemma 2.21. *If $\Gamma, x :_\mu A \vdash B$, $\Gamma, x :_\mu A \vdash b : B$, and $\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A$, then $\Gamma \vdash B[a/x]$ and $\Gamma \vdash b[a/x] : B[a/x]$.*

⁴Note that while $\langle \text{b} \mid X \rangle$ will always be an ∞ -category, in fact an ∞ -groupoid, the same is not true of $\langle \# \mid X \rangle$. In particular, $\langle \# \mid X \rangle$ will hardly ever satisfy the Rezk condition.

The final piece of the puzzle is the elimination rule for modalities. Roughly, this rule says that modal annotations are equivalent to modal types “from the perspective of a type”, i.e., that giving an element in context $\Gamma, x :_v \langle \mu \mid A \rangle$ is the same as giving one in $\Gamma, x :_{v \circ \mu} A$. This concretely amounts to the following pattern-matching rule which allows us to assume that $x :_v \langle \mu \mid A \rangle$ is of the form $\text{mod}_\mu(y)$ where $y :_{v \circ \mu} A$:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x :_v \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \vdash B \quad \Gamma, y :_{v \circ \mu} A \vdash b : B[\text{mod}_\mu(y)/x] \quad \Gamma, \{v\} \vdash a : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } \text{mod}_\mu(y) \leftarrow a \text{ in } b : B[a/x]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x :_v \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \vdash B \quad \Gamma, y :_{v \circ \mu} A \vdash b : B[\text{mod}_\mu(y)/x] \quad \Gamma, \{v \circ \mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{let } \text{mod}_\mu(y) \leftarrow \text{mod}_\mu(a) \text{ in } b) = b[a/y] : B[\text{mod}_\mu(a)/x]}$$

While these rules account for all of the necessary extensions to handle modal types, we avail ourselves of a convenience feature as well, modal \prod -types:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x :_\mu A \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. b : \prod_{x:\mu A} B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : \prod_{x:\mu A} B \quad \Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash f(a) : B[a/x]}$$

Notation 2.22. “If $c :_b C$, then $\Phi(c)$ ” signifies $\prod_{c:_b C} \Phi(c)$.

Example 2.23. A faithful translation of “pointwise invertibility implies invertibility” where $C, D :_b \mathcal{U}$ and $\alpha : C \times \mathbb{I} \rightarrow D$ is $(\prod_{c:_b C} \text{isIso}(\lambda i. \alpha \ i \ c)) \rightarrow \text{isIso}(\alpha)$

Immediately from these rules, we may prove the following:

Proposition 2.24 (Gratzer et al. [Gra+20]).

- $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ commutes with \sum and 1
- $\text{comp} : \langle \mu \mid \langle v \mid - \rangle \rangle \simeq \langle \mu \circ v \mid - \rangle$ and $\langle \text{id} \mid - \rangle \simeq \text{id}$
- If $\alpha : \mu \rightarrow v$, then there is a map $\text{coe}^\alpha : \langle \mu \mid - \rangle \rightarrow \langle v \mid -^\alpha \rangle$.
- $\text{transp} : \langle b \mid \langle b \mid A \rangle \rightarrow B \rangle \simeq \langle b \mid A \rightarrow \langle \sharp \mid B \rangle \rangle$
- $\text{transp} : \langle b \mid \langle \text{op} \mid A \rangle \rightarrow B \rangle \simeq \langle b \mid A \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid B \rangle \rangle$

The first point yields $\otimes : \langle \mu \mid A \rightarrow B \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mu \mid B \rangle$.

When it is not ambiguous, we will also occasionally suppress the equivalences $\langle \mu \mid \langle v \mid A \rangle \rangle \simeq \langle \mu \circ v \mid A \rangle$ and $\langle \text{id} \mid A \rangle \simeq A$. Furthermore, as there is no ambiguity, we suppress ϵ (and its whiskerings) and simply write x instead of x^ϵ and similarly for $\zeta : \text{id} \rightarrow \sharp$. Consequently, if $A :_b \mathcal{U}$ then we are able to simply write $\langle \text{tw} \mid A \rangle$ rather than $\langle \text{tw} \mid A^{\text{tw} \star \epsilon} \rangle$. By convention, we also avoid writing x^{id} .

Notation 2.25. If $\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash f : A \rightarrow B$, we write f^\dagger for the function $\text{mod}_\mu(f) \otimes -$.

Remark 2.26. Since we shall capitalize on the fact repeatedly, we note that coe^α is always suitably natural. For instance, fix $f :_b A \rightarrow B$. Then we construct a path $\alpha : \text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ f^\dagger = f \circ \text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ as follows:

$$\alpha = \text{funext}(\lambda x. \text{let } \text{mod}_{\text{tw}}(x_0) \leftarrow x \text{ in refl})$$

Since this path is essentially a commuting conversion (it is given by induction to allow $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ and f^\dagger to reduce) it is fully coherent, with higher paths being likewise constructed by induction and then reflexivity.

In general, $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ need not commute with propositional equality. However, this is true in our intended models and so we impose it as an axiom:

Axiom B. *The map $\text{mod}_\mu(a) = \text{mod}_\mu(b) \rightarrow \langle \mu \mid a = b \rangle$ sending refl to $\text{mod}_\mu(\text{refl})$ is an equivalence for all $a, b :_\mu A$.*

Technically, this map is defined by path induction in the family $\lambda(x, y : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle). \text{let mod}_\mu(a) \leftarrow x \text{ in let mod}_\mu(b) \leftarrow y \text{ in } \langle \mu \mid a = b \rangle$. By Gratzer [Gra22], there is a computational account of this principle.

Corollary 2.27. *Each $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ commutes with (HoTT) pullbacks $A \times_C B = \sum_{a:A} \sum_{b:B} f(a) =_C g(b)$.*

Remark 2.28. For readers familiar with *spatial type theory* [Shu18], this modal type theory is an extension of spatial type theory to include two additional modalities (op , tw). In particular, the results of Shulman [Shu18] that deal with \flat and \sharp can be reproduced in this setting.

2.4 Modalities and simplicial type theory

To connect the modal and simplicial structures, we impose the following axioms motivated by the intended model, as described in Proposition 2.20 (and more generally $\mathcal{E}^{\Delta^{\text{op}}}$ for an ∞ -topos \mathcal{E}); see also the work of Myers and Riley [MR23b]. First, the opposite map should be an anti-equivalence of \mathbb{I} :

Axiom C. *There is an equivalence $\neg : \langle \text{op} \mid \mathbb{I} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ which swaps 0 for 1 and \vee for \wedge .*

Corollary 2.29. *We can extend \neg to an equivalence $\neg : \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \simeq \Delta^n$.*

Next, we require the two possible notions of discreteness (being \mathbb{I} -null or \flat -modal) to coincide:

Axiom D. *If $A :_\flat \mathcal{U}$, then $\langle \flat \mid A \rangle \rightarrow A$ is an equivalence (A is discrete) if and only if $A \rightarrow A^{\mathbb{I}}$ is an equivalence (A is \mathbb{I} -null).*

Axiom E. *The canonical map $\text{Bool} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ is injective and induces an equivalence $\text{Bool} \simeq \langle \flat \mid \mathbb{I} \rangle$.*

Motivated by our intended class of models, we insist that equivalences are jointly detected by Δ^n :

Axiom F. *$f :_\flat A \rightarrow B$ is an equivalence if and only if the following holds:*

$$\prod_{n:\text{Nat}} \text{isEquiv}((f_*)^\dagger : \langle \flat \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow A \rangle \rightarrow \langle \flat \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow B \rangle)$$

Note that since there is a section-retraction pair $\Delta^n \rightarrow \mathbb{I}^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$, we can replace Δ^n with \mathbb{I}^n in the above principle.

One useful application is the following:

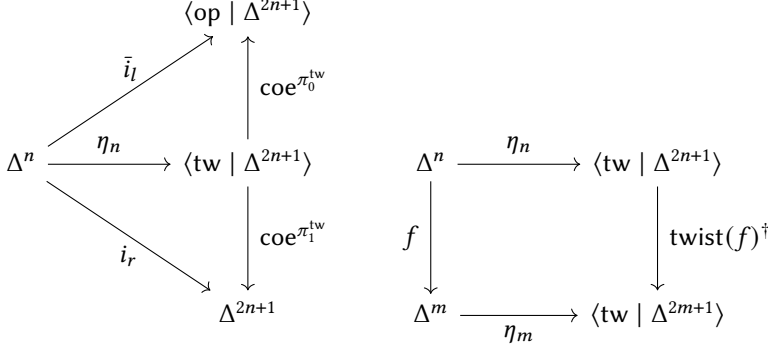
Lemma 2.30. *A map $\pi :_\flat X \rightarrow A$ is covariant if and only if the map $\langle \flat \mid X^{\Delta^n} \rangle \rightarrow \langle \flat \mid X \rangle \times_{\langle \flat \mid A \rangle} \langle \flat \mid A^{\Delta^n} \rangle$ induced by $(0^*)^\dagger$ and $(\pi_*)^\dagger$ is an equivalence for all $n :_\flat \text{Nat}$.*

The axiom for $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$. Finally, we add a new axiom to STT that governs tw . For motivation, we recall some facts about the external definition of the twisted arrow functor $\widehat{\Delta} \rightarrow \widehat{\Delta}$ which $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$ is intended to internalize. Classically, $\text{Tw} : \widehat{\Delta} \rightarrow \widehat{\Delta}$ is defined as follows:

$$\text{Tw}(X)([n]) = X([n]^{\text{op}} * [n])$$

Here we have written $[n]^{\text{op}} * [n]$ instead of the equivalent $[2n + 1]$ to clarify the action of this functor on morphisms: $f \mapsto f^{\text{op}} * f$. (I.e., this corresponds to the join operation on finite linear orders.)

As this functor is defined by precomposition, it is a right adjoint whose left adjoint is defined by left Kan extension. In particular, it sends $\Delta^n : \widehat{\Delta}$ to Δ^{2n+1} (again, with the functorial action given by twisting). As such, there is a universal map $\eta_n : \Delta^n \rightarrow \text{Tw}(\Delta^{2n+1})$ which, when unfolded,

Fig. 2. Laws for **Axiom G**.

is given by the identity $[2n+1] \rightarrow [2n+1]$. Universality of η_n amounts to the requirement that each morphism $f : \Delta^n \rightarrow \text{Tw}(C)$ factors as $\text{Tw}(\hat{f}) \circ \eta_n$ for some unique $\hat{f} : \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow C$. Our axiom governing $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$ axiomatizes this η_n along with the property that $\text{Tw}(-) \circ \eta_n : \text{hom}(\Delta^{2n+1}, C) \rightarrow \text{hom}(\Delta^n, \text{Tw}(C))$ is an equivalence. With this external motivation to hand, we proceed to fix some notation and state the axiom which governs $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$.

Notation 2.31. If $n \vdash \text{Nat}$, we have canonical maps $i_l : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1}$, $i_r : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1}$, and $i_m : \Delta^1 \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1}$ which picks out $\{0, \dots, n\}$, $\{n+1, \dots, 2n+1\}$, and $\{n, n+1\}$ respectively. For convenience, we write $\bar{i}_l = i_l^\dagger \circ \neg : \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rangle$.

Finally, in the statement of new axiom, we require a procedure which extends a map $f : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^m$ to a map $\Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow \Delta^{2m+1}$ which acts appropriately on the images of two inclusions $i_l, i_r : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1}$. To justify this formally, we introduce the *blunt join* $X \diamond Y$:

$$X \diamond Y = X \amalg_{X \times \{0\} \times Y} (X \times \mathbb{I} \times Y) \amalg_{X \times \{1\} \times Y} Y$$

This is the directed version of the join $X \star Y$ [Uni13, Ch 6] such that $X \diamond Y$ is roughly $X \amalg Y$ with morphisms adjoined to connect each $x : X$ to each $y : Y$.

Lemma 2.32. *If C is a category, then $C^{\Delta^{m+1+n}} \simeq C^{\Delta^m \diamond \Delta^n}$.*

Definition 2.33. If $f \vdash \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^m$ and we take $\text{twist}(f) : \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow \Delta^{2m+1}$ to be the map given by uniquely extending the map $f^\dagger \diamond f : \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \diamond \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^m \rangle \diamond \Delta^m$ along the categorical equivalences $\langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^i \rangle \diamond \Delta^i \rightarrow \Delta^{2i+1}$.

Axiom G. *For each $n \vdash \text{Nat}$, there is a (necessarily unique) function $\eta_n \vdash \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rangle$ such that the following map is an equivalence, for each category $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$:*

$$\iota := \lambda \text{mod}_b(f). \text{mod}_b(f^\dagger \circ \eta_n) : \langle b \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow C \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle$$

Additionally, we require that $\tau = (\text{coe}^-)^\dagger : \langle \text{tw} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \rangle$ and that the diagrams in Fig. 2 commute (these are mere properties—all objects are sets since $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ preserves h-level).

One may visualize ι as ensuring that $\langle b \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle$ is isomorphic to a $2n+1$ simplex in C :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} c_n & \longleftarrow & c_{n-1} & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & c_0 \\ \downarrow & & & & & & \\ c_{n+1} & \longrightarrow & c_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & c_{2n} \end{array}$$

Under this correspondence, η is the unique map $\Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rangle$ given by the identity $\text{id} : \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1}$ and is thus the universal n -simplex. The map π_1^{tw} picks out the bottom row and π_0^{tw} selects the top but *twisted* so that it lands in $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$ rather than C . This axiom will only be used in the proof of [Theorem 3.4](#), where we use $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$ to construct a bifunctorial version of hom .

Proposition 2.34 (Gratzer et al. [GWB24]). *Proposition 2.20 extends to a model of modal HoTT validating our axioms.*

Remark 2.35. While our previous work [GWB24] did not handle $\langle \text{tw} \mid - \rangle$, the methods employed there scale directly to this situation. In particular, Mukherjee and Rasekh [MR23a] give an explicit description of the necessary twisted arrow operation and show it is a Quillen right adjoint as required to extend the model.

With modalities to hand, a number of results from classical category theory can be proven directly. For instance, the so-called fundamental theorem of ∞ -category theory:

Theorem 2.36. *If $C, D \vdash \mathcal{U}$ are categories, then $F \vdash C \rightarrow D$ is an equivalence if (1) the induced map $\langle b \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid D \rangle$ is surjective, and (2) for any $c, c' \vdash C$ the map $\text{hom}(c, c') \rightarrow \text{hom}(F(c), F(c'))$ is an equivalence.*

PROOF. Suppose (1) and (2) holds. We prove that F is an equivalence using [Axiom F](#) and fix $n \vdash \text{Nat}$ such that it suffices to show $\text{isEquiv}(F_*^\dagger : \langle b \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow C \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow D \rangle)$.

If $n = 0$, then by (1) F_*^\dagger is surjective and by (2) combined with the Rezk condition, it is an embedding. Accordingly, F_*^\dagger is an equivalence in this case. The case for $n = 1$ is an immediate consequence of the cases for $n = 0$ along with (2). In general, since $C^{\Delta^n} \simeq C^{\Delta^1} \times_C \cdots \times_C C^{\Delta^1}$ by the Segal condition and likewise for D , and $\langle b \mid - \rangle$ commutes with pullbacks, the case for $n \geq 2$ follows from $n = 0, 1$. \square

2.5 Basic building blocks for categories

Finally, we recall two results from our earlier work [GWB24] that will be used repeatedly within this work to construct new categories. The first is a construction of *full subcategories* using $\#$:

Proposition 2.37. *If $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$ is a category and $\phi \vdash \langle b \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \text{HProp}$, then $C_\phi = \sum_{c:C} \langle \# \mid \phi(\text{mod}_b(c)) \rangle$ is a category such that (1) the projection map $C_\phi \rightarrow C$ induces an equivalence on hom-types, (2) $\langle b \mid C_\phi \rangle \simeq \sum_{c:\langle b \mid C \rangle} \phi(c)$, and (3) a map $F \vdash D \rightarrow C$ factors through C_ϕ if and only if $\phi(\text{mod}_b(F(d)))$ holds for all $d \vdash D$.*

Corollary 2.38. *If $C, D \vdash \mathcal{U}$ are categories and $F \vdash C \rightarrow D$, then $\text{hom}(c, c') \rightarrow \text{hom}(F(c), F(c'))$ is an equivalence for all $c, c' : C$ if and only if it is an equivalence when $c, c' \vdash C$.*

Next, we recall the construction of the category of groupoids which plays the role of the category of sets in simplicial type theory, e.g., we shall use this category to define presheaves:

Axiom/Proposition 2.39. *There is a category $S_i \vdash \mathcal{U}_{i+1}$ with an embedding $S_i \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_i$ such that:*

- *If $X : A \rightarrow S_i$, then the composite $A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_i$ is covariant.*
- *The converse holds for $A \vdash \mathcal{U}_i$, $X \vdash A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}_i$: if X is covariant, then X factors through S_i .*

Corollary 2.40 (Directed univalence). *$S^{\mathbb{I}} \simeq \sum_{X_0, X_1 : S} X_1^{X_0}$ and composition in S is the composition of functions.*

Corollary 2.41. *If $X \vdash \mathcal{U}$ is a groupoid, then $X : S$.*

Warning 2.42. We proved [GWB24] [Axiom/Proposition 2.39](#) in a richer variation of STT (*triangulated type theory*). Since we only require the result here, we take it as an “axiom” of sorts to work in a simpler type theory and note that one could extend STT to triangulated type theory to prove this theorem outright.

3 THE YONEDA EMBEDDING

Within this section, we fix a category $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$. Our goal is to study the type $\widehat{C} = \mathcal{S}^{\langle \text{op} | C \rangle}$ of presheaves on C . As \mathcal{S} is a category, so is \widehat{C} , and by directed univalence:

Lemma 3.1. *If $F, G : \widehat{C}$ then $\text{hom}(F, G) \simeq \prod_{c : \langle \text{op} | C \rangle} F c \rightarrow G c$*

Remark 3.2. Just as with e.g., completeness, \widehat{C} implicitly fixes a universe level such that $\widehat{C} = \langle \text{op} | C \rangle \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_i$. We may regard i as a parameter or simply take $i = 0$. Occasionally, we shall need to insist that $C \simeq C'$ where $C' : \mathcal{U}_i$ and in such situations we shall say that C is *small*. We assume all categories are locally small—that each $\text{hom}_C(c, c')$ is small.

One may recast the *fibrational* Yoneda lemma proven by Riehl and Shulman [RS17] to take advantage of \widehat{C} rather than quantifying over contravariant families as in *op. cit.*:

Lemma 3.3. *If $F : \widehat{C}$ and $c : \langle \text{op} | C \rangle$ then $F(c) \cong \prod_{c' : \langle \text{op} | C \rangle} \text{hom}_{\langle \text{op} | C \rangle}(c, c') \rightarrow F(c')$*

3.1 The twisted arrow category and the Yoneda embedding

In light of this last result, the natural next step is to define a map $C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ which sends $c : C$ to something like $\text{hom}(-, c)$.⁵ However, caution is required: $\text{hom}(-, c)$ has type $C \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ and not the required $\langle \text{op} | C \rangle \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$. Upon reflection, the reader should find it surprising that $\text{hom}(-, -) : C \times C \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ at all; if all maps are functorial in STT how can $\text{hom}(-, -)$ be covariant in both arguments? In fact, this is a consequence of the strange behavior of synthetic morphisms in \mathcal{U} . While $\text{hom}(-, -)$ is functorial in both arguments, the lack of directed univalence for \mathcal{U} makes this useless. This strangeness ensures that $\text{hom}(-, -)$ does not restrict to a function into \mathcal{S} .

What is required instead is a function $\Phi : \langle \text{op} | C \rangle \times C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ such that $\Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), -) = \text{hom}(c, -)$ whenever $c \vdash C$, i.e., a function that agrees on objects with $\text{hom}(-, -)$ and has the same functoriality in the second argument, but takes $\langle \text{op} | C \rangle$ as its first argument. In fact, it is highly non-obvious where such a function should come from; Riehl and Verity [RV22, p. xii] specifically highlight this construction as remarkably subtle in ∞ -category theory. It is for this reason that we introduced $\langle \text{tw} | - \rangle$. Recall the visualization of $\langle b | \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} | C \rangle$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} c_n & \longleftarrow & c_{n-1} & \longleftarrow & \cdots & \longleftarrow & c_0 \\ \downarrow & & & & & & \\ c_{n+1} & \longrightarrow & c_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & \cdots & \longrightarrow & c_{2n} \end{array} \quad (1)$$

The projection to $\langle \text{op} | C \rangle$ gives the top row and the map to C yields the bottom. This visualization for n -simplices is very similar to that of $C^{\mathbb{I}} = \sum_{c_0, c_1} \text{hom}(c_0, c_1)$, but the top row has been twisted to ensure that one restriction lands in $\langle \text{op} | C \rangle$ as required for a bifunctorial version of $\text{hom}(-, -)$:

Theorem 3.4. *If $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$ is a category, then the following holds:*

- The map $\langle \text{coe}^{\pi_0^{\text{tw}}}, \text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \rangle : \langle \text{tw} | C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{op} | C \rangle \times C$ straightens to $\Phi : \langle \text{tw} | C \rangle \times C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$.
- For every $c \vdash C$, the map $\alpha_c : \text{hom}(\text{hom}(c, -), \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), -))$ induced by the Yoneda lemma ([Lemma 3.3](#)) applied to $\iota(\text{mod}_b(\text{id}_c)) : \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), c)$ is an equivalence.

⁵Here we see why C must be flat: we wish to discuss both C and $\langle \text{op} | C \rangle$. It is helpful to understand $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$ as a *closed* type which depends on nothing in the context and, in particular, need not be treated functorially.

Lemma 3.5. *Given $f :_b \Delta^1 \rightarrow C$ and let $\bar{f} = \iota(\text{mod}_b(f)) : \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle$, then there exist paths:*

$$\theta(f)_0 : (\text{coe}^{\pi_0^{\text{tw}}} \circ \text{extract}(\bar{f}))(*) = \text{mod}_{\text{op}}(f(0)) \quad \theta(f)_1 : (\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ \text{extract}(\bar{f}))(*) = f(1)$$

These paths are natural in C so that e.g., the two paths of the following shape induced by $\theta(g \circ f)_1$ and $\theta(f)_1$ with the naturality of $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ at g agree:

$$(\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ \text{extract}(\iota(\text{mod}_b(g \circ f))))(*) = g(f(1))$$

Here $$: Δ^0 is the unique element of the unit type.*

PROOF. We show the second, as they are symmetric. We define θ_1 using the naturality of $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ and the behavior of $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ on η from Fig. 2:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ \text{extract}(\iota(\text{mod}_b(f))))(*) \\ &= (\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ f^\dagger \circ \eta_0)(*) \\ &= (f \circ \text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ \eta_0)(*) && \text{By naturality, Remark 2.26} \\ &= f(1) && \text{By the first diagram in Fig. 2} \end{aligned}$$

To prove that θ_1 is natural in C , we observe that the terms agree up to a commuting conversion of elimination rules for modal types. Accordingly, we may prove that these two paths agree by induction on $\eta_0(*)$ and then reflexivity. \square

PROOF OF THE THEOREM 3.4. We begin by showing that the map $\langle \text{coe}^{\pi_0^{\text{tw}}}, \text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \rangle : \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times C$ is a covariant family. By Lemma 2.30 the following map induced by $\{0\} : \Delta^0 \rightarrow \Delta^n$ is an equivalence:

$$\epsilon : \langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle^{\Delta^n} \rangle \rightarrow (\langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle \times_{\langle b \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle \times \langle b \mid C \rangle} (\langle b \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle^{\Delta^n} \rangle \times \langle b \mid C^{\Delta^n} \rangle))$$

For convenience, we begin by applying a few modal transformations (in particular, using $\text{transp} : \langle b \mid A \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid B \rangle \rangle \simeq \langle b \mid \langle \text{op} \mid A \rangle \rightarrow B \rangle$) such that it suffices to show that the following map is an equivalence:

$$\epsilon' : \langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle^{\Delta^n} \rangle \rightarrow (\langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle \times_{\langle b \mid C \rangle \times \langle b \mid C \rangle} (\langle b \mid C^{\langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle} \rangle \times \langle b \mid C^{\Delta^n} \rangle))$$

To prove this, we shall construct a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \langle b \mid C^{\Delta^{2n+1}} \rangle & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \langle b \mid \Delta^1 \rightarrow C \rangle \times_{\langle b \mid C \rangle \times \langle b \mid C \rangle} (\langle b \mid C^{\langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle} \rangle \times \langle b \mid C^{\Delta^n} \rangle) \\ \downarrow \iota & & \downarrow (\iota, \text{id}) \\ \langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle^{\Delta^n} \rangle & \xrightarrow{\epsilon'} & \langle b \mid \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle \times_{\langle b \mid C \rangle \times \langle b \mid C \rangle} (\langle b \mid C^{\langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle} \rangle \times \langle b \mid C^{\Delta^n} \rangle) \end{array} \quad (2)$$

We define ϕ momentarily, but we first remark that (ι, id) is well-formed because of Lemma 3.5, which ensures that applying ι and then evaluating commutes appropriately with projection.

Note also that the two vertical maps are equivalences because ι is an equivalence. Accordingly, by 3-for-2, to show ϵ' is an equivalence, it suffices to ensure that ϕ is an equivalence making the diagram commute.⁶ We now define ϕ as follows:

$$\phi(\text{mod}_b(f)) := (\text{mod}_b(f|_{n \leq n+1}), (\text{mod}_b(f|_{0 \leq \dots \leq n \circ \neg}), \text{mod}_b(f|_{n+1 \leq \dots \leq 2n+1})), \text{refl})$$

⁶We emphasize that the filler for this square is irrelevant. Any filler suffices to show that ϵ' is an equivalence, which in turn implies that ϵ is an equivalence as required.

ϕ is given by restricting along a categorical equivalence $(\langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \diamond \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^{2n+1})$, so it is an equivalence.

Next, we note that all four of the maps in this diagram are weakly natural in C . For the bottom and top maps, this is an easy observation—the top is given by restriction and the bottom uses restriction along with $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$, which is also natural by [Remark 2.26](#). For the left-hand map, this is a consequence of the naturality of ι . For the right-hand map, the only wrinkle is the paths used to witness that ι commutes with evaluating on projections. This requires a filler for a certain path, but this is precisely the naturality coherence supplied by the latter part of [Lemma 3.5](#).

Finally, we argue that the diagram commutes. Fix $\text{mod}_b(f) : \langle b \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow C \rangle$. We wish to show that $\epsilon'(\iota(\text{mod}_b(f))) = (\iota, \text{id})(\phi(\text{mod}_b(f)))$. By naturality, however, we may use f to reduce to the case where $C = \Delta^{2n+1}$ and $f = \text{id}$. In this case, everything involved is a set and so it suffices to argue the diagram commutes when we replace each pullback with a simple product. With this in place, we now calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \epsilon'(\iota(\text{mod}_b(\text{id}))) &= \epsilon'(\text{mod}_b(\eta_n)) \\
 &= (\text{mod}_b(\eta_n 0), (\text{transp}(\text{mod}_b(\text{coe}^{\pi_0^{\text{tw}}} \circ \eta_n)), \text{mod}_b(\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}} \circ \eta_n))) \\
 &= (\text{mod}_b(\eta_n 0), (\text{transp}(\text{mod}_b(\bar{i}_l)), \text{mod}_b(i_r))) \\
 &= (\text{mod}_b(i_m(\eta_0 *)), (\text{mod}_b(i_l \circ \neg), \text{mod}_b(i_r))) \\
 &= (\iota, \text{id})(\text{mod}_b(i_m), (\text{mod}_b(i_l \circ \neg), \text{mod}_b(i_r))) \\
 &= (\iota, \text{id})(\phi(\text{mod}_b(\text{id})))
 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the first step of the argument. The second is to show that for each $c :_b C$ the map $\alpha_c : \text{hom}_{C \rightarrow S}(\text{hom}(c, -), \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), -))$ is an isomorphism. Passing to total spaces, it suffices to show the following map is an equivalence:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_c = \lambda(d, f). (d, f_*(\iota(\text{mod}_b(\text{id}_c)))) : \sum_{d:C} \text{hom}(c, d) \rightarrow \sum_{d:C} \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), d)$$

In the above, f_* is the covariant transport operation on $\Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), -)$. Since both sides of this map are categories, it suffices to show that this map is fully faithful and essentially surjective.

In fact, $\tilde{\alpha}_c$ is an equivalence on objects. To this end, we observe that if $f :_b \text{hom}(c, d)$ for some $d :_b C$, then we can construct the transport f_* alternatively as follows. Define a path $h : \Delta^1 \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle$ by $h := \iota(\text{mod}_b(\lambda \neg, \neg k. f(k)))$, i.e., h corresponds to the following doubly degenerate 3-simplex in C :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 c & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_c} & c \\
 \text{id}_c \downarrow & & \\
 c & \xrightarrow{f} & d
 \end{array}$$

We then consider the morphism $\lambda i. (\pi_1^{\text{tw}}(h i), h i)$ in $\sum_{d:C} \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), d)$. Using the definition of ι and the naturality of η , this is a morphism from $(c, \iota(\text{mod}_b(\text{id}_c)))$ to $(d, \iota(\text{mod}_b(f)))$. Moreover, the naturality of $\text{coe}^{\pi_1^{\text{tw}}}$ ensures that it lies over f in C . Consequently, $\tilde{\alpha}_c(d, f) = (d, \iota(\text{mod}_b(f)))$ when restricted to $d :_b C$ and $f :_b \text{hom}(c, d)$, which is an equivalence because ι is invertible.

For fully-faithfulness, it suffices to show that the following map is an equivalence:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_c : \langle b \mid \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \sum_{d:C} \text{hom}(c, d) \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \sum_{d:C} \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), d) \rangle$$

However, as both sides are the total spaces of covariant families, it suffices to show that the following map is an equivalence:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_c : \langle b \mid \sum_{d:\mathbb{I} \rightarrow C} \text{hom}(c, d 0) \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid \sum_{d:\mathbb{I} \rightarrow C} \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), d 0) \rangle$$

The conclusion now follows from the previous case. \square

Notation 3.6. We write $\Phi_D : \langle \text{op} \mid D \rangle \times D \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ for the same construction applied to some category D . Within this section, we continue to write Φ as shorthand for Φ_C .

Corollary 3.7. *If $c_0 : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$ and $c_1 : C$, then $\Phi(c_0, c_1) = \Phi_{\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle}(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c_1)), c_0)$.*

PROOF. Passing to total spaces, it suffices to find an equivalence $\langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle$ fitting into the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \langle \text{tw} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle \\ & \searrow \quad \swarrow & \\ & \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times C & \end{array}$$

The map coe^τ precisely satisfies this role: it is invertible because the 2-cell τ is an isomorphism and it fits into the commuting diagram because of the corresponding diagram in the mode theory. \square

3.2 The Yoneda lemma

With a bi-functorial version of $\text{hom}(-, -)$ to hand, we can now straightforwardly define the Yoneda embedding \mathbf{y} and leverage [Lemma 3.3](#) into a result about \mathbf{y} :

Definition 3.8 (Yoneda). $\mathbf{y} = \lambda c. \Phi(-, c) : C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$.

Lemma 3.9. $\text{hom}(\mathbf{y}(c), X) \cong X(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c))$ for all $X : \widehat{C}$ and $c :_{\mathfrak{b}} C$.

PROOF. Since c is \mathfrak{b} -annotated, using [Theorem 3.4](#) and [Corollary 3.7](#) we have the following identification $\text{hom}_{\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle}(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), -) = \Phi(-, c)$. Moreover, by [Lemma 3.1](#) we additionally have the following:

$$\prod_{c' : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} \Phi(c', c) \rightarrow X(c') \cong \text{hom}(\mathbf{y}(c), X)$$

The conclusion now follows by [Lemma 3.3](#). \square

A great deal of category theory is contained within [Lemma 3.9](#). It shows that \mathbf{y} is fully-faithful on \mathfrak{b} -annotated elements of C and that C is a full subcategory of \widehat{C} :

Lemma 3.10. $\mathbf{y} : C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ induces an equivalence $C \simeq \widehat{C}_{\text{isRepr}}$ where $\text{isRepr} = \lambda X. \sum_{c:C} X = \mathbf{y}(c)$.⁷

While [Lemma 3.9](#) follows directly from [Lemma 3.3](#), the above consequence can only be expressed once there exists a *category* of presheaves—something missing from Riehl and Shulman [\[RS17\]](#). This opens up a new proof strategy: to prove a result of C , we first prove that it holds for \mathcal{S} , then \widehat{C} , then that it restricts to the full subcategory. For instance, we may prove the aforementioned characterization of natural isomorphisms:

Theorem 3.11. *If $C, D :_{\mathfrak{b}} \mathcal{U}$ are categories, $F, G :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow D$, and $\alpha :_{\mathfrak{b}} \text{hom}(F, G)$, then $\prod_{c:C} \text{isIso}(\alpha c)$ if $\prod_{c:C} \text{isIso}(\alpha c)$.*

PROOF. Note that this theorem is trivial for $C = \Delta^0$ and for $C = \Delta^1, D = \mathcal{S}$ it is a consequence of [Corollary 2.40](#). The Segal condition for \mathcal{S} then implies the theorem for $C = \Delta^n, D = \mathcal{S}$.

⁷Note that $\text{isRepr}(X)$ is a proposition due to [Lemma 3.9](#) and [Corollary 2.38](#).

By [Lemma 3.10](#), it suffices to assume $D = \widehat{D}_0$. By [Axiom D](#) and [Proposition 2.24](#) it suffices to show that $(\sum_{c:C} \text{islo}(\alpha c)) \rightarrow (\sum_{c:C} \langle \# \mid \text{islo}(\alpha c) \rangle)$ is an equivalence. By [Axiom F](#), it suffices to prove for all n :

$$\text{isEquiv}\left(\langle b \mid (\sum_{c:C} \text{islo}(\alpha c))^{\Delta^n} \rangle \rightarrow \langle b \mid (\sum_{c:C} \langle \# \mid \text{islo}(\alpha c) \rangle)^{\Delta^n} \rangle\right)$$

Unfolding and commuting b with \sum , it suffices to show that for every $c :_{\mathfrak{b}} \Delta^n \rightarrow C$ the following holds:

$$\sum_{\sigma:\Delta^n} \text{islo}(\alpha(c \sigma)) \simeq \sum_{\sigma:\Delta^n} \text{islo}(\alpha(c \sigma))$$

Replacing α with $\alpha \circ c$, however, reduces us to the already proven case of $C = \Delta^n, D = \mathcal{S}$. \square

[Lemma 3.9](#) is already powerful. However, it does not capture that this equivalence is *natural* in both c and X —or, more precisely, since c is \mathfrak{b} -annotated and the equivalence is in \mathcal{U} , the naturality it yields is trivial. We are able to prove a far stronger version of the Yoneda lemma that (1) does not need to assume that $c :_{\mathfrak{b}} C$, and (2) yields the desired functoriality in both c and X . To do so, we replace $\text{hom}(-, -)$ with Φ :

Theorem 3.12 (Functorial Yoneda lemma). *There is a natural isomorphism $\Phi_{\widehat{C}}(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(-), -) \cong \text{eval} : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$.*

Remark 3.13. This result uses a handful of results from [Section 4](#). These forward references are justified: we do not use [Theorem 3.12](#) till [Section 4.3](#). We present the proof here for conceptual coherence.

PROOF. The central difficulty in this proof is to find a map $\Phi_{\widehat{C}}(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(-), -) \rightarrow \text{eval}$ which can then be checked to be an equivalence. To construct this map, we use the presentation of $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ as covariant families over $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C}$. In particular, we consider the following pullback diagrams:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \tilde{\Phi}_C & \xrightarrow{v} & V & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \langle \text{tw} \mid \widehat{C} \rangle \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times C & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times \mathbf{y}} & \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{y}^\dagger \times \text{id}} & \langle \text{op} \mid \widehat{C} \rangle \times \widehat{C} \\ \\ \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle & \xrightarrow{w} & W & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \sum_{A:\mathcal{S}} A \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times C & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times \mathbf{y}} & \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} & \xrightarrow{\text{eval}} & \mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

The claim is then that $V \simeq W$. To show this, we argue that if we replace the composite $\langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times C \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C}$ with the free covariant family, then the maps \bar{v}, \bar{w} induced by v and w are both equivalences. The conclusion then shows $\bar{v} \circ \bar{w}^{-1}$ is the desired equivalence.

Using Rijke et al. [[RSS20](#), Theorem 2.41] there is a free covariant fibration $Z : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ and if $c :_{\mathfrak{b}} C$ and $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} \widehat{C}$ then by [Corollary 4.10](#) we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(c, X) = \\ \bigcirc_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{c_0, c_1} \text{hom}(c_0, c) \times \text{hom}(\mathbf{y}(c_1), X) \times \Phi(c_0, c_1)) \end{aligned}$$

To show that e.g., v induces an equivalence, we must show that the following map is an equivalence:

$$Z(c, X) \rightarrow \text{hom}(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(c), X)$$

We may use [Theorem 3.11](#) and assume that there exists $c' \vdash C$ such that $c = \text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c')$ and that $X \vdash \widehat{C}$. Moreover, since the right-hand side is a groupoid, this map is uniquely induced by extending the canonical map of the following type:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\sum_{c_0, c_1} \text{hom}(c_0, c) \times \text{hom}(\mathbf{y}(c_1), X) \times \Phi(c_0, c_1)) \\ & \rightarrow \Phi(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(c), X) \simeq X(c') \end{aligned}$$

This map sends (c_0, c_1, f, α, t) to $\alpha c (\Phi(f, \text{id}) t)$ and one may check directly that the assignment $x \mapsto \eta(c, c', \text{id}, \text{id}, F_x)$ is a quasi-inverse to this map where $F_x : \text{hom}(\mathbf{y}(c'), X)$ corresponds to $x : X(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c'))$ under [Lemma 3.9](#). The case for w is similar. \square

4 REVISITING ADJUNCTIONS

With presheaves and the Yoneda embedding available, we now revisit the theory of adjoint functors introduced by Riehl and Shulman [\[RS17\]](#) in STT. They define a pair of functions $f : C \rightarrow D$ and $g : D \rightarrow C$ to be adjoint when equipped with $\iota : \prod_{c,d} \text{hom}(f(c), d) \simeq \text{hom}(c, g(d))$. While they produce several equivalent reformulations using a unit and counit natural transformations, no non-trivial examples of adjunctions are given—unsurprisingly, since concrete examples of categories in STT are relatively recent. Even with \mathcal{S} available it is quite difficult to produce examples of such adjunctions.

It is far more feasible to construct only f and then show that $\Phi(f^\dagger(-), d) : \widehat{C}$ is representable for every $d \vdash D$. This is comparable to [Theorem 3.11](#): we wish to give a functorial definition of either f or g and a *non-functorial* definition of the other, and then show that this can be upgraded to a full adjunction. In this section, we show that this is indeed possible, and we observe that a number of important adjunctions and results are then immediately within reach. In particular, we shall use this technique to prove that \widehat{C} is cocomplete and, moreover, is the free cocompletion of C .

4.1 Pointwise adjunctions to adjunctions

Let us begin by formalizing the notion of pointwise adjoints:

Definition 4.1. We say that $f \vdash C \rightarrow D$ is a pointwise left adjoint if $\prod_{d \vdash D} \text{isRepr}(\Phi(f^\dagger(-), d))$; f is a pointwise right adjoint if $f^\dagger : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid D \rangle$ is a pointwise left adjoint.

Our main theorem relies on two crucial preliminary results. The first shows that any pointwise left adjoint f gives rise to a function in the other direction picking out the various (necessarily unique) representing objects for $\Phi(f^\dagger(-), d)$.

Lemma 4.2. *If $f \vdash C \rightarrow D$ is a pointwise left adjoint, then the type of morphisms $g \vdash D \rightarrow C$ equipped with a natural isomorphism $\iota : \Phi(f^\dagger(-), -) \cong \mathbf{y} \circ g$ is contractible.*

PROOF. Since \mathbf{y} is an embedding, this type is a proposition. It therefore suffices to show that it is inhabited. By assumption, $\bar{g} = \Phi(f^\dagger(-), d)$ is representable for all $d \vdash D$, and thus it factors through $\widehat{C}_{\text{isRepr}}$. Post-composing with the equivalence $\widehat{C}_{\text{isRepr}} \simeq C$ yields the desired $g : D \rightarrow C$. \square

Using this, we prove a universal case of the theorem improving a pointwise adjoint to an adjoint: every $g \vdash D \rightarrow C$ that is a cartesian fibration [\[BW23\]](#) such that the fiber over every $c \vdash C$ has an initial object [\[Bar22\]](#) admits a left adjoint.

Lemma 4.3. *If $g \vdash D \rightarrow C$ is cartesian and for each $c \vdash C$ the fiber D_c has an initial object, then there exists $f : C \rightarrow D$ such that $f(c)$ is initial in D_c for all $c : C$.*

PROOF. Note that $\text{hasInitialObj}(D_c)$ is a proposition and, therefore, by [Axiom D](#) we may assume $\langle b \mid \text{hasInitialObj}(D_c) \rangle$ holds for each $c :_b C$. With this observation to hand, we can show that g is a pointwise right adjoint: if $c :_b C, d : D$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_C(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(c), g(d)) &\simeq \text{hom}(c, g(d)) \\ &\simeq \text{hom}(\mathbf{0}_{D_c}, d) && g \text{ is cartesian} \\ &\simeq \Phi_D(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(\mathbf{0}_{D_c}), d) \end{aligned}$$

In this last step, we use our observation that $\langle b \mid \text{hasInitialObj}(D_c) \rangle$ and not only $\text{hasInitialObj}(D_c)$ holds. In particular, we rely on the fact that $\mathbf{0}_{D_c} :_b D_c$.

Accordingly, we obtain a function $f :_b C \rightarrow D$ which sends $c :_b C$ to $\mathbf{0}_{D_c}$. It remains to show that $f(c)$ is initial in D_c for all $c : C$. Since $D = \sum_{c:C} D_c$, this amounts to the following map being an equivalence: $(\sum_{d:D} \text{hom}_{D_{g(d)}}(f(g(d)), d)) \rightarrow D$.

To prove this, we use [Theorem 2.36](#) which allows us to reduce to the b -annotated case, where the conclusion follows from the fact that $f(c)$ is then initial in D_c . \square

Theorem 4.4. *Pointwise right adjoints are right adjoints.*

PROOF. Given a map $g :_b D \rightarrow C$, consider the cartesian family

$$\pi : (C \downarrow g) = (\sum_{c:C} \sum_{d:D} \text{hom}(c, g(d))) \rightarrow C$$

Since g is a pointwise right adjoint, each fiber of π over $c :_b C$ has an initial object. We then apply [Lemma 4.3](#) to obtain $\tilde{f} : C \rightarrow (C \downarrow g)$. Finally, the composite $\pi_2 \circ \tilde{f}$ is the desired left adjoint to g :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{hom}_C(c, g(d)) &\simeq \sum_{\alpha : \text{hom}_C(c, g(d))} \text{hom}_{(C \downarrow g)_c}(\tilde{f}(c), (c, d, \alpha)) \\ &\simeq \sum_{\alpha : \text{hom}_C(c, g(d))} \sum_{\beta : \text{hom}_D(f(c), d)} g(\beta) \circ \pi_3(\tilde{f}(c)) = \alpha \\ &\simeq \text{hom}_D(f(c), d) \end{aligned}$$

The first step uses the initiality of $\tilde{f}(c)$ in the fiber over c and the second unfolds the definition of a morphism in $(C \downarrow g)$. \square

4.2 Examples of adjunctions

We take advantage of [Theorem 4.4](#) to produce vital examples of adjoints. The most important is the following:

Theorem 4.5. *If $f :_b D \rightarrow C$ and D is small, then $\widehat{f} := (f^\dagger)^* : \widehat{C} \rightarrow \widehat{D}$ is a right adjoint with left adjoint $f_!$.*

PROOF. For notational simplicity, we replace C and D with $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$ and $\langle \text{op} \mid D \rangle$. By [Theorem 4.4](#), it suffices to assume $X :_b D \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ and to construct $f_!(X) : C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ along with a natural bijection $\prod_Y \text{hom}(f_!(X), Y) \simeq \text{hom}(X, f^*(Y))$. This is an immediate consequence of Rijke et al. [[RSS20](#), Theorem 2.41] after localizing the composite $\sum_{c:C} X(c) \rightarrow D$ against the map $\{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$. \square

Corollary 4.6. *The left adjoint $f_! \dashv \widehat{f}$ satisfies $f_! \circ y \cong y \circ f$.*

Corollary 4.7. *\mathcal{S} is small cocomplete: $\text{const} : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^C$ is a right adjoint with left adjoint \varinjlim for small categories $C :_b \mathcal{U}$. Explicitly, if $X :_b C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$, then $\varinjlim_C X = \bigcirc_{\text{grp}}(\sum_{c:C} X(c))$.*

Remark 4.8. One can prove \mathcal{S} is complete (that $\text{const} \dashv \varinjlim$) by a result of Gratzer et al. [[GWB24](#)]. In particular, they show $\prod_{c:C} X(c) : \mathcal{S}$ whenever $X : C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ and $C :_b \mathcal{U}$. [Corollary 2.40](#) and [Lemma 3.1](#) then imply that $\text{hom}(A, \prod_{c:C} X(c)) \simeq \text{hom}(\text{const } A, X)$.

Lemma 4.9. *If $c :_b C$ then $\widehat{c} : \widehat{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is a left adjoint.*

PROOF. For simplicity, we once more replace C with $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$ and invoke [Theorem 4.4](#). We then assume that we are given $X :_b \mathcal{S}$ and define c_*X to be $\lambda c'. X^{\text{hom}(c', c)}$. This is covariant in c' [[GWB24](#)]. It then suffices to show that the map $X^{\text{hom}(c, c)} \rightarrow X$ given by evaluation at the identity map induces an equivalence $\text{hom}_{C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}}(Y, c_*X) \simeq \text{hom}_{\mathcal{S}}(Y(c), X)$. This, in turn, is a consequence of the fact that the map $Y(c) \rightarrow \bigcirc_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{c':C} \text{hom}(c', c) \times Y(c'))$ is an equivalence, so we may decompose the evaluation map as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{hom}_{C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}}(Y, c_*X) \\ & \simeq \prod_{c':C} Y(c') \rightarrow X^{\text{hom}(c', c)} \\ & \simeq \prod_{c':C} \text{hom}(c', c) \times Y(c') \rightarrow X \\ & \simeq \bigcirc_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{c':C} \text{hom}(c', c) \times Y(c')) \rightarrow X \\ & \simeq Y(c) \rightarrow X \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Combining [Theorem 4.5](#) and [Lemma 4.9](#), we obtain the following characterization of $f_!X$:

Corollary 4.10. *If $X :_b \widehat{C}$, $f :_b C \rightarrow D$, and $d :_b D$ then $(f_!X) d = \bigcirc_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{c:\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c) \times \text{hom}(f^\dagger c, d))$.*

PROOF. We first observe that $\widehat{d}f_!(X) = (f_!X) d$. Transposing, we have $\text{hom}(\widehat{d}f_!X, Z) \simeq \text{hom}(X, \widehat{f}d_*Z)$ for every $Z :_b \mathcal{S}$. We calculate $\text{hom}(X, \widehat{f}d_*Z)$ using the definition of d_* provided above:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{hom}_{\widehat{C}}(X, f^*d_*Z) \\ & \simeq \prod_{c:\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c) \rightarrow \text{hom}(f^\dagger c, d) \rightarrow Z \\ & \simeq (\sum_{c:\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c) \times \text{hom}(f^\dagger c, d)) \rightarrow Z \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\widehat{d}f_!X$ satisfies the universal property of $\bigcirc_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{c:\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c) \times \text{hom}(f^\dagger c, d))$ \square

The following lemma does not require [Theorem 4.4](#), but is merely a consequence of manipulating natural transformations:

Lemma 4.11. *If $f : C \rightarrow D$ is an adjoint so is $f_* : C^A \rightarrow D^A$.*

Corollary 4.12. *If C is (co)complete so is C^D and (co)limits are computed pointwise. In particular, \widehat{C} is (co)complete.*

Corollary 4.13. *The Yoneda embedding preserves all limits.*

PROOF. If $F :_b I \rightarrow C$ and $\varprojlim F$ exists, then functoriality of \mathbf{y} induces a map $\mathbf{y}(\varprojlim F) \rightarrow \varprojlim(\mathbf{y} \circ F)$, so it suffices to check that this map is invertible at all $c :_b C$. Unfolding, we must argue that $\text{hom}(c, \varprojlim F) \simeq \varprojlim \text{hom}(c, F)$ is an equivalence, but this is immediate by [Lemma 3.1](#). \square

Finally, we show the full subcategories $\mathcal{S}_{\leq n}$ of \mathcal{S} defined by n -truncated types form reflective subcategories of \mathcal{S} . The idea is simple: use the truncation HITs. However, it is not automatic that they restrict to $\|-\|_n : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\leq n}$. We prove this alongside with the reflectivity of $\mathcal{S}_{\leq n}$ using [Theorem 4.4](#):

Corollary 4.14. *The inclusion $\mathcal{S}_{\leq n} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is a right adjoint.*

Corollary 4.15. *$\mathcal{S}_{\leq n}$ is (co)complete.*

The same methodology applies to the subcategory of modal types associated to an idempotent monad [[RSS20](#)].

Example 4.16 (Isbell conjugation). If $C \vdash \mathcal{U}$, then the Isbell conjugation map ϕ is a left adjoint:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi : \widehat{C} &\rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid C \rightarrow \mathcal{S} \rangle \\ \phi(X) &= \text{mod}_{\text{op}}(\lambda c. \Phi(X, \mathbf{y}(c)))\end{aligned}$$

4.3 The universal property of presheaf categories

Next, we generalize [Theorem 4.5](#) to show that if $f \vdash C \rightarrow E$ where C is a small category and E is a cocomplete category, then $\Phi(f^\dagger(-), -) : E \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ is a right adjoint loosely following the argument given by Cisinski [[Cis19](#)]. We begin with a few general lemmas. In what follows, fix C and E as above.

First, as a corollary of the proof of [Theorem 4.5](#):

Lemma 4.17. *The colimit of $\mathbf{y} : C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ is $1_{\widehat{C}} = \lambda_{-}. 1$.*

From the above, and further inspection of colimits, we are able to derive a result of independent interest: Every presheaf is the colimit of representable presheaves.

Lemma 4.18 (Density of \mathbf{y}). *If $X \vdash \widehat{C}$, then $X \cong \lim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \widetilde{X} \rangle} \mathbf{y} \circ \pi^\dagger$, where $\widetilde{X} = \sum_{c : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c)$.*

PROOF. We begin with the following computation where $\pi : \widetilde{X} \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$ and $\pi_!^\dagger : \mathcal{S}^{\widetilde{X}} \rightarrow \widehat{C}$:

$$\pi_!^\dagger \mathbf{1} \cong \pi_!^\dagger \left(\lim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \widetilde{X} \rangle} \mathbf{y} \right) \cong \lim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \widetilde{X} \rangle} \pi_!^\dagger \circ \mathbf{y} \cong \lim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \widetilde{X} \rangle} \mathbf{y} \circ \pi^\dagger$$

We have used the fact that $\pi_!^\dagger$, a left adjoint, commutes with colimits [[Bar22](#)]. To show $\pi_!^\dagger \mathbf{1} \cong X$, we note that for all $Z : \widehat{C}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{hom}(\pi_!^\dagger \mathbf{1}, Z) &\simeq \text{hom}_{\widetilde{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{1}, Z \circ \pi) \\ &\simeq \prod_{(c, x) : \sum_{c : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c)} Z(c) \\ &\simeq \prod_{c : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle} X(c) \rightarrow Z(c) \\ &\simeq \text{hom}(X, Z)\end{aligned}$$

The conclusion now follows from the Yoneda lemma. \square

Lemma 4.19. $\mathbf{n}_f = \Phi(f^\dagger(-), -) : E \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ is a right adjoint.

PROOF. We will prove that \mathbf{n}_f is a pointwise right adjoint. Accordingly, fixing $X \vdash \widehat{C}$ we must construct $e : \langle \text{op} \mid E \rangle$ such that $\Phi(e, -) \cong \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(X), \mathbf{n}_f(-))$. Since $X \cong \lim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \widetilde{X} \rangle} \mathbf{y} \circ \pi^\dagger$ and E is cocomplete, by the dual of [Corollary 4.13](#) it suffices to assume $\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(X) = \mathbf{y}^\dagger(c)$ with $c : \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$.⁸ Finally, take $e = f^\dagger(c)$ and $\Phi(f^\dagger(c), -) \cong \Phi(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(c), \mathbf{n}_f(-))$ by [Theorem 3.12](#). \square

We are now able to prove, as promised, the universal property of \widehat{C} . If we write $\text{CC}(\widehat{C}, E)$ for the full subcategory of $\widehat{C} \rightarrow E$ spanned by functors preserving all colimits, then $\mathbf{y}^* : \text{CC}(\widehat{C}, E) \rightarrow (C \rightarrow E)$ is an equivalence. To prove this, we essentially argue that there is a map sending f to the left adjoint to \mathbf{n}_f and that this is the inverse to \mathbf{y}^* .

Theorem 4.20. $\mathbf{y}^* : \text{CC}(\widehat{C}, E) \rightarrow (C \rightarrow E)$ is an equivalence.

⁸Note the lack of \flat -annotation here: we must ensure that we are functorial in c in order to obtain a *diagram* in E .

PROOF. We use [Theorem 2.36](#). If $f :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow E$, then $f_! : \widehat{C} \rightarrow E$ satisfies $f_! \circ \mathbf{y} = f$ and so \mathbf{y}^* is essentially surjective:

$$\Phi((f \circ \mathbf{y})^\dagger(-), -) \cong \Phi(\mathbf{y}^\dagger(-), \mathbf{n}_f(-)) \cong \mathbf{n}_f = \Phi(f^\dagger(-), -)$$

Moreover, if $F :_{\mathfrak{b}} \mathcal{C}\widehat{\mathcal{C}}(\widehat{C}, E)$, then $(F \circ \mathbf{y})_! \cong F$, so that \mathbf{y}^* is a bijection on \mathfrak{b} -elements. Let us write $f = F \circ \mathbf{y}$. We first construct a comparison map $\text{hom}(f, F)$ by constructing a natural transformation $\text{hom}(\text{id}, \mathbf{n}_f(F(-)))$. Currying, this is equivalent to constructing a natural transformation between maps $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \times \widehat{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ and, in this form, id is given by evaluation ϵ and $\mathbf{n}_f(F(-))$ is $\Phi(f(-), F(-))$. We can replace ϵ with $\Phi(\mathbf{y}(-), -)$ by [Theorem 3.12](#) and $\Phi(f(-), F(-)) = \Phi(F(\mathbf{y}(-)), F(-))$ by definition. Accordingly, the relevant map is supplied by Φ_F . It is routine to check that this is pointwise an equivalence by [Lemma 4.18](#).

Finally, we now show that \mathbf{y}^* is fully faithful. To show that it is fully faithful, we must show that if $f, g :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow E$, then $\text{hom}(f, g)_! \cong \text{hom}(f, g)$. Both sides are groupoids, so it suffices to consider \mathfrak{b} -annotated elements. If $\alpha :_{\mathfrak{b}} \text{hom}(f, g)$, then by transposing we may regard α as an element of $\langle \mathfrak{b} \mid C \rightarrow E^\mathfrak{I} \rangle$ and the previous observation ensures that this type is equivalent to $\langle \mathfrak{b} \mid \mathcal{C}\widehat{\mathcal{C}}(\widehat{C}, E^\mathfrak{I}) \rangle$ which yields the desired conclusion after transposing. \square

5 THE THEORY OF KAN EXTENSIONS

A unifying concept in category theory are *Kan extensions*, which are universal extensions of functors along functors on the same domain. Mac Lane, one of the founders of category theory, famously stated: “The notion of Kan extensions subsumes all the other fundamental concepts of category theory,” such as (co)limits and adjunctions [[Mac78](#); [Rie14](#)].

Definition 5.1 (Kan extensions). Given a map $f : C \rightarrow D$ and a category E , the left (right) Kan extension lan_f (ran_f) is the left (right) adjoint to $f^* : E^D \rightarrow E^C$.

While the definition makes sense in general, to use the results of the previous sections, we shall assume $f :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow D$ and $E :_{\mathfrak{b}} \mathcal{U}$. In [Section 5.1](#) we show that Kan extensions exist whenever E is (co)complete and in [Sections 5.2](#) and [5.3](#) we put this to work by deducing two important results: Quillen’s theorem A and the properness of cocartesian fibrations. Our arguments for the existence of Kan extensions and Quillen’s theorem A adapt the (model-agnostic) ∞ -categorical arguments of Ramzi [[Ram21](#)].

5.1 Existence and characterization of Kan extensions

We can prove that Kan extensions can be computed in an expected way. For $d : D$, we write $C_{/d} := C \times_D D_{/d}$ and $C_{d/} := C \times_D D_{d/}$. We assume that C and D are both small so each $C_{/d}$ is also small. By [Theorem 4.5](#) and [Lemma 4.11](#):

Lemma 5.2. *If $E = \widehat{A}$ for some category $A :_{\mathfrak{b}} \mathcal{U}$, then lan_f exists. Moreover, if $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow E$ and $d :_{\mathfrak{b}} D$, then $\text{lan}_f X d = \varinjlim (C_{/d} \rightarrow C \rightarrow E) = \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}(\sum_{(c, -) : C_{/d}} X(c))$.*

This yields more generally:

Theorem 5.3. *If E is cocomplete, then lan_f exists, and if $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow E$, $d :_{\mathfrak{b}} D$, then $\text{lan}_f X d = \varinjlim (C_{/d} \rightarrow C \rightarrow E)$.*

PROOF. It suffices to argue that precomposition is pointwise a right adjoint and so we fix $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow E$. By [Theorem 4.20](#), we may view X as the composition $\bar{X} \circ \mathbf{y}$, where $\bar{X} : \widehat{C} \rightarrow E$ is the left adjoint to \mathbf{n}_X . Next, we observe by [Lemma 5.2](#) that $\mathbf{y} : C \rightarrow \widehat{C}$ admits an extension to D along

f , namely $\text{lan}_f \mathbf{y} : D \rightarrow \widehat{C}$, and we claim that $\bar{X} \circ \text{lan}_f \mathbf{y}$ is our desired extension of f . Fixing $Z : D \rightarrow E$, we calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{hom}_{D \rightarrow E}(\bar{X} \circ \text{lan}_f \mathbf{y}, Z) &\simeq \text{hom}_{D \rightarrow \widehat{C}}(\text{lan}_f \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}_X \circ Z) \\ &\simeq \text{hom}_{C \rightarrow \widehat{C}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{n}_X \circ Z \circ f) \\ &\simeq \text{hom}_{C \rightarrow E}(\bar{X} \circ \mathbf{y}, Z \circ f) \\ &= \text{hom}_{C \rightarrow E}(X, Z \circ f) \end{aligned}$$

The expected colimit formula continues to hold as a consequence of [Lemma 5.2](#) and the cocontinuity of \bar{X} . \square

By duality, we obtain the following variant:

Theorem 5.4. *If E is complete, then ran_f exists and is specified by the dual limit formula: $\text{ran}_f X d = \varprojlim (C_d / \rightarrow C \rightarrow E)$.*

5.2 Final and initial functors

It is frequently useful to show that the limit of a complex diagram D can be calculated by first restricting to a simpler diagram using $f : C \rightarrow D$ and calculating the limit there e.g., restricting from \mathbb{Z} to $\mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$. When this approach is valid, f is said to be initial:

Definition 5.5. A functor $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is *initial* if for every $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ the map $\varprojlim_D X \rightarrow \varprojlim_C X \circ f$ is an equivalence. A map is *final* if its opposite is initial.

While this definition is asymmetrical in its treatment of initiality and finality, we shall restore the symmetry as a consequence of Quillen's Theorem A in the next section, see [Corollary 5.16](#).

Recall that $\varprojlim_D X = \prod_{d:D} X(d)$ and so the definition of initiality equivalently states that the restriction map $(\prod_{d:D} X(d)) \rightarrow (\prod_{c:C} X(f(c)))$ is an equivalence.

Example 5.6. The $\{0\}/\{1\}$ inclusion $\mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ is initial/final.

Lemma 5.7. *If $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is initial and $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow E$, then $\varprojlim_C (X \circ f)$ and $\varprojlim_D X$ both exist whenever either exists and are canonically isomorphic.*

PROOF. By [Corollary 4.13](#), we replace E with \widehat{E} and by [Corollary 4.12](#) we reduce to \mathcal{S} where the result is immediate. \square

Lemma 5.8. *If $C : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$, then $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C \simeq \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$.*

PROOF. We observe that $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C \simeq \langle \mathcal{B} \mid \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C \rangle$ and likewise for $\langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle$. Accordingly, we note that:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{B} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle &\rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \simeq \langle \mathcal{B} \mid \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \\ \langle \mathcal{B} \mid C \rangle &\rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \simeq \langle \mathcal{B} \mid \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \\ \langle \mathcal{B} \mid C \rangle &\rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \simeq \langle \mathcal{B} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid C \rangle \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{B} \mid X \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the result follows from a simple Yoneda argument. \square

Lemma 5.9. *For every C , the canonical map $C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C$ is both initial and final.*

PROOF. By [Lemma 5.8](#), it suffices to argue that this map is initial. To this end, we must show the following map to be an equivalence for every $X : \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$:

$$(\prod_{d:\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C} X(d)) \rightarrow (\prod_{c:C} X(\eta(c)))$$

However, $X(d)$ is discrete for every $d : \mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C$ and so this is simply the universal property of $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}$. \square

Corollary 5.10. *If $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C = 1$, then $\varprojlim_C A = A$ for $A : \mathcal{S}$.*

5.3 Quillen's Theorem A

Our next goal is to prove the ∞ -categorical version of Quillen's theorem A. Unlike traditional proofs, we follow Ramzi [Ram21] and rely on having already established the basic apparatus of Kan extensions to simplify our argument.

Definition 5.11. A functor $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is Quillen final if $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}(C_{d/}) \simeq 1$ for all $d : \mathcal{D}$.

Theorem 5.12. *A functor $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is final if and only if it is Quillen final.*

Remark 5.13. This result shows that, in particular, finality doesn't depend on the particular universe \mathcal{S} chosen.

Lemma 5.14. *If $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is Quillen final and $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{A}}$, then $\varinjlim_D X \simeq \varinjlim_C X \circ f$.*

PROOF. This statement is pointwise, so we quickly reduce to \mathcal{S} instead of $\widehat{\mathcal{A}}$. In this situation, we wish to show that the following commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{S}^{\mathcal{D}} & \xrightarrow{f^*} & \mathcal{S}^{\mathcal{C}} \\ & \searrow \varinjlim_D & \swarrow \varinjlim_C \\ & \mathcal{S} & \end{array}$$

Note that all three morphisms are left adjoints, and so it suffices to compare their right adjoints: the constant functors Δ_C and Δ_D , along with the right Kan extension ran_f . We next note that there is at least a comparison map $\Delta_D \rightarrow \text{ran}_f \circ \Delta_C$ given by transposing the identity map $f^* \circ \Delta_D \rightarrow \Delta_C$. We must argue that this map is pointwise invertible, and so we reduce to considering $X : \mathcal{S}$ and $d : \mathcal{D}$, and we must show the following, using Theorem 5.4: $X \simeq \varprojlim_{C_{d/}} X$. This now follows from our assumption and Corollary 5.10. \square

Lemma 5.15. *If $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is Quillen final, E is cocomplete, and $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow E$, then $\varinjlim_D X \simeq \varinjlim_C X \circ f$.*

PROOF. We reduce to the case where $E = \widehat{\mathcal{D}}$ (and therefore Lemma 5.14) by factoring X as $\bar{X} \circ y$ and noting that \bar{X} preserves colimits by construction. \square

PROOF OF THEOREM 5.12. To see that Quillen finality implies finality, we apply Lemma 5.15 to $\langle \text{op} \mid \mathcal{S} \rangle$, and calculate:

$$\varprojlim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \mathcal{D} \rangle} X \simeq \varinjlim_D X^\dagger \simeq \varinjlim_C X^\dagger \circ f \simeq \varprojlim_{\langle \text{op} \mid \mathcal{C} \rangle} X \circ f^\dagger$$

For the reverse, suppose that f is final. We note that by the dual of Lemma 5.7 (again applied to $\langle \text{op} \mid \mathcal{S} \rangle$), the canonical map $\varinjlim_C X \circ f \rightarrow \varinjlim_D X$ is an equivalence for any $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$. Fix $d : \mathcal{D}$ and choose $X = \text{hom}(d, -) = \Phi(\text{mod}_{\text{op}}(d), -)$ such that the colimits in question are precisely $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} D_{d/}$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} C_{d/}$, using Theorem 4.5. This completes the proof since $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}} D_{d/} = 1$. \square

Corollary 5.16. *A functor $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is final if and only if, for every $X : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ the map $\varinjlim_D X \rightarrow \varinjlim_C X \circ f$ is an equivalence.*

This restores the symmetry between initial and final functors, as promised. We offer another symmetric definition of initiality and finality, informed by Cisinski et al. [Cis+24, Ch. 8].

Definition 5.17 (Covariant equivalences). Fix $p :_b C \rightarrow A$ and $q :_b D \rightarrow A$ between categories A, C, D . Let $f :_b C \rightarrow D$ be a fibered map as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{f} & D \\ & \searrow p & \swarrow q \\ & A & \end{array}$$

We call f a *covariant equivalence* if for all families $X :_b A \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ reindexing gives rise to an equivalence, i.e.,:

$$f^* : (\prod_{a:A} D_a \rightarrow X_a) \rightarrow (\prod_{a:A} C_a \rightarrow X_a)$$

Dually, f is called *contravariant equivalence* precomposition with respect to all contravariant families is an equivalence.

Lemma 5.18. *Let f as below be a covariant equivalence with respect to p and q . Then, for any functor $r :_b B \rightarrow A$ it is also a covariant equivalence with respect to rp and rq :*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{f} & D \\ & \searrow p & \swarrow q \\ & A & \\ & \downarrow r & \\ & B & \end{array}$$

PROOF. We get the following induced square:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\prod_{b:B} D_b \rightarrow X_b) & \xrightarrow[\simeq]{f^*} & (\prod_{b:B} C_b \rightarrow X_b) \\ \simeq \downarrow & & \downarrow \simeq \\ (\prod_{a:A} D_a \rightarrow X_{r(a)}) & \xrightarrow{f^*} & (\prod_{a:A} C_a \rightarrow X_{r(a)}) \end{array}$$

The upper horizontal map is an equivalence by the preconditions. The goal is to show that the lower horizontal map is an equivalence, too. But this follows from 3-for-2 for equivalences. \square

Lemma 5.19 (Characterizations of initiality). *Let $f :_b C \rightarrow D$ be a functor. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) f is initial.
- (2) Let $X :_b A \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ be a family with associated left fibration $\pi :_b \tilde{X} \rightarrow A$. Then any square of the following form has a filler $\bar{\varphi}$, uniquely up to homotopy:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \tilde{X} \\ f \downarrow & \nearrow \bar{\varphi} & \downarrow \pi \\ D & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & A \end{array}$$

(3) For any family $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} A \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ the following square is a pullback:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{X}^D & \longrightarrow & \tilde{X}^C \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \\ A^D & \longrightarrow & A^C \end{array}$$

(4) f is a covariant equivalence with respect to any $\alpha :_{\mathfrak{b}} D \rightarrow A$.

The analogous characterization holds for contravariant equivalences and final functors.

PROOF. Conditions (2) and (3) are readily seen to be equivalent by commuting \prod and \sum . Condition (4) unfolds to the following: for any $X :_{\mathfrak{b}} A \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ reindexing along f is an equivalence, namely

$$f^* : (\prod_{a:A} D_a \rightarrow X_a) \xrightarrow{\sim} (\prod_{a:A} (\sum_{d:D_a} C_{a,d}) \rightarrow X_a)$$

This, again, is readily seen to be equivalent to (2).

We turn to the implication (4) \implies (1). But this is clear, since (1) says that f is a covariant equivalence with respect to itself and id_D .

For the converse direction (1) \implies (4) we use the insight just made together with Lemma 5.18. \square

The following alternative characterization is also often useful:

Lemma 5.20. $f :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow D$ is initial (resp. final) if and only if for every covariant (resp. contravariant) family $\pi :_{\mathfrak{b}} X \rightarrow Y$, f is left orthogonal to π , i.e., $\text{isEquiv}(X^D \rightarrow X^C \times_{Y^C} Y^D)$.

PROOF. Immediate by Lemma 5.19 for the initial case and by duality and Corollary 5.16 for the final case. \square

As another consequence we get the dual of Theorem 5.12:

Corollary 5.21. A functor $f :_{\mathfrak{b}} C \rightarrow D$ is initial if and only if $\text{O}_{\text{grpd}}(C_{/d}) \simeq \mathbf{1}$ for all $d :_{\mathfrak{b}} D$ (Quillen initial).

We demonstrate the utility of Theorem 5.12 by giving a new and far simpler proof that cocartesian fibrations are proper.

Definition 5.22. A functor $\pi :_{\mathfrak{b}} E \rightarrow B$ between categories is *proper* if for all pullbacks (of \mathfrak{b} -functors) of the following form, v is final if u is final:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} E'' & \xrightarrow{v} & E' & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \pi' \lrcorner & & \downarrow \pi \\ B'' & \xrightarrow{u} & B' & \longrightarrow & B \end{array}$$

We call π *smooth* if $\pi^\dagger : \langle \text{op} \mid E \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{op} \mid B \rangle$ is proper.

Lemma 5.23. Smooth and proper functors are closed under composition and pullback.⁹

Theorem 5.24. Cartesian fibrations are smooth and cocartesian fibrations are proper.

⁹The definition of properness is formulated specifically to bake in the latter.

PROOF. It suffices to treat the proper case. Fix a cocartesian fibration $\pi :_B E \rightarrow B$ and note that since cocartesian fibrations are stable under pullbacks, it suffices show to that v is final in the following pullback diagram if u is final:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times_B E & \xrightarrow{v} & E \\ \downarrow \lrcorner & & \downarrow \pi \\ A & \xrightarrow{u} & B \end{array}$$

We now use [Theorem 5.12](#). For $e :_B E$ we compute the fiber:

$$\begin{aligned} (A \times_B E) \times_E E_{e/} & \\ \simeq A \times_B E_{e/} & \\ \simeq A \times_B \left(\sum_{b': B, f: \text{hom}(\pi(e), b')} (E_{b'})^{\mathbb{I}} \right) & \quad \pi \text{ is cocartesian} \\ \simeq \sum_{(a, f): A \times_B B_{\pi(e)/}} (E_{u(a)})_{f|e/} & \end{aligned}$$

Applying $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}$ to each fiber yields $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}(E_{u(a)})_{f|e/} \simeq 1$ (as coslices have initial elements) and $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}(A \times_B B_{\pi(e)/}) \simeq 1$ since u is final by assumption. This implies that applying $\mathcal{O}_{\text{grpd}}$ to the entire \sum -type produces 1 [\[RSS20\]](#). \square

Corollary 5.25. *If $\pi :_B E \rightarrow B$ is cocartesian and $X :_B E \rightarrow D$, then the left Kan extension $\text{lan}_\pi X$ sends $b :_B B$ to $\varinjlim (E_b \rightarrow E \rightarrow D)$.*

6 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

We have introduced and studied the impact of the ∞ -categorical Yoneda embedding in STT. This includes the development of classical concepts (Kan extensions, adjoints, (co)limits, etc.), all in the synthetic ∞ -categorical setting. While some of the basic theory had been investigated in STT already, we were able to produce the first non-trivial concrete examples of, e.g., adjunctions ([Theorem 4.5](#)) and give several more refined versions of existing theorems ([Theorem 3.11](#)) which more closely match their standard counterparts.

6.1 Related work

There are several closely related type-theoretic approaches to synthetic (∞)-category theory. We may roughly divide these into (1) directed type theory, where every type is a category but various operations (\prod) must be restricted, and (2) variations on simplicial type theory. For instance, many directed type theories have been proposed and studied over the years [\[LH11; War13; Nuy15; Kav19; Buc19; KS23; WL20; Wea24; ANvdW23; Nor19; Nuy20; NA24\]](#). In general, while these type theories are a promising approach to formalize category theory in type theory, none of them have thus far received as much attention as STT and, consequently, none have developed category theory to the extent of this work. Furthermore, it is substantially harder to design a directed type theory in this style (as it is a more radical alteration of the basic rules of type theory) and most proposals handle only 1-category theory rather than $(\infty, 1)$ -categories. We note, however, that some of these type theories do include a version of [Theorem 3.12](#) in the form of directed path induction [\[Nor19; Nuy20; NA24\]](#). Given, however, that few of our arguments rely on types which are not categories, we expect many of them to transfer to sufficiently rich future variants of directed type theory.

Other variations of simplicial type theory have been considered in the literature. For instance, several papers use additional judgmental structure (extension types) to get more definitional equalities around hom-types [\[RS17; Bar22; Wei22; BW23; Wei24b; Wei24a\]](#) at the cost of making the

interval a second-class type similar to two-level type theory [Ann+23; Voe12]. Other versions have favored a cubical interval [GWB24] or even a cubical interval atop a cubical version of HoTT [WL20; Wea24]. Aside from the addition of modalities, our version of STT is deliberately minimalistic: we use only ordinary HoTT with a handful of postulates. Accordingly, our results can be interpreted into essentially any incarnation of modal STT and does not rely on extra definitional equalities.

Finally, there are many attempts to formulate more conceptual and synthetic foundations for ∞ -category theory which do not rely on type theory. For instance, the ∞ -cosmos program of Riehl and Verity [RV22] aims to give a systematic account of the formal category theory and model-independence using 2-category theory. On the other hand, most practitioners in the field attempt to give looser “model independent” arguments which avoid relying on explicit computations as much as possible. We have successfully translated some of these arguments into our framework, proving that this informal discipline is effective (e.g., Section 5). More recently, Cisinski et al. [Cis+24] have begun to redevelop ∞ -category theory in a deliberately informal and high-level language, splitting the difference between a formal theory like STT and the usual “model-independent” discipline of practitioners. We expect that their arguments can be translated into STT and we have shown that some of their primitive axioms are *provable* in STT (e.g., Axiom/Proposition 2.39, Proposition 2.37, and Lemma 4.3).

6.2 Future work

Many promising avenues for future work remain to be explored. While we have focused on presheaf categories and immediate consequences of their theory, we plan to port other foundational results from category theory (presentable and accessible categories, Bousfield localizations, topos theory, etc.) into STT. It would also be desirable to adapt more parts of the internal ∞ -category theory and ∞ -topos theory of Martini and Wolf [Mar22a; MW24a; Mar24; MW22; MW24b; Mar22b; Wol25] to STT. Additionally, we hope to extend a proof assistant like Agda [Tea] with the necessary support for modalities to give machine-checked versions of the proofs in this paper. On the foundational side, STT presently relies on a handful of axioms (Appendix B) and therefore satisfies only normalization and not canonicity. In future work, we hope to examine which of these principles can be given computational interpretations and to what extent one can ‘compute’ with synthetic ∞ -categories.

A THE FORMAL RULES OF MTT

The formal syntax of MTT is comprised of four judgments: $\vdash \Gamma$, $\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta$, $\Gamma \vdash a : A$, and $\Gamma \vdash A$. We list the relevant novel rules for these judgments below:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \boxed{\vdash \Gamma} \\
 \hline
 \vdash 1 \qquad \frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\vdash \Gamma.\{\mu\}} \qquad \frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \Gamma.\{\mu\} \vdash A}{\vdash \Gamma.(\mu \mid A)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\vdash \Gamma.\{\text{id}\} = \Gamma} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \vdash \Gamma.\{\mu\}.\{\nu\} = \Gamma.\{\mu \circ \nu\}}{\vdash \Gamma.\{\mu\}.\{\nu\} = \Gamma.\{\mu \circ \nu\}} \\
 \hline
 \boxed{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta} \\
 \hline
 \Gamma \vdash ! : 1 \qquad \frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \Gamma.\{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma.(\mu \mid A) \vdash \uparrow : \Gamma} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta \quad \Gamma.\{\mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \delta.a : \Delta.(\mu \mid A)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta}{\Gamma.\{\mu\} \vdash \delta.\{\mu\} : \Delta.\{\mu\}}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \alpha : \mu \longrightarrow \nu}{\Gamma, \{v\} \vdash \Gamma, \{\alpha\} : \Gamma, \{\mu\}} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \gamma : 1}{\Gamma \vdash ! = \gamma : 1} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta \quad \Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \uparrow \circ (\delta.a) = \delta : \Delta} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta, (\mu \mid A)}{\Gamma \vdash (\uparrow \circ \delta).v[\delta] = \delta : \Delta, (\mu \mid A)} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \delta, \{\text{id}\} = \delta : \Delta} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \{v \circ \mu\} \vdash \delta, \{v \circ \mu\} = \delta, \{v\}, \{\mu\} : \Delta, \{v \circ \mu\}}{\Gamma, \{v\} \vdash \Delta, \{\alpha\} \circ \delta, \{\mu\} = \delta, \{\mu\} \circ \Gamma, \{\alpha\} : \Delta, \{\mu\}} \\
\\
\frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash \Gamma, \{\text{id}\} = \text{id} : \Gamma, \{\mu\}} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\Gamma, \{\xi\} \vdash \Gamma, \{\alpha\} \circ \Gamma, \{\beta\} = \Gamma, \{\alpha \circ \beta\} : \Gamma, \{\mu\}} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta \quad \mu \leq \nu}{\Gamma, \{v\} \vdash \Delta, \{\alpha\} \circ \delta, \{\mu\} = \delta, \{\mu\} \circ \Gamma, \{\alpha\} : \Delta, \{\mu\}} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \alpha : \mu_0 \longrightarrow \nu_0 \quad \beta : \mu_1 \longrightarrow \nu_1}{\Gamma, \{v_1 \circ v_0\} \vdash \frac{\Gamma, \{\beta\}, \{\mu_0\} \circ \Gamma, \{\alpha\}}{= \Gamma, \{\beta \bullet \alpha\}} : \Gamma, \{\mu_1 \circ \mu_0\}} \\
\\
\boxed{\Gamma \vdash A} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash \langle \mu \mid A \rangle} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta \quad \Delta, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash \langle \mu \mid A \rangle [\delta] = \langle \mu \mid A[\delta, \{\mu\}] \rangle} \\
\\
\boxed{\Gamma \vdash a : A} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma, (\mu \mid A), \{\mu\} \vdash v : A[\uparrow, \{\mu\}]} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{mod}_\mu(a) : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, (v \mid \langle \mu \mid A \rangle) \vdash B \quad \Gamma, (v \circ \mu \mid A) \vdash b : B[\uparrow, \text{mod}_\mu(v)] \quad \Gamma, \{v\} \vdash a : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let mod}_\mu(-) \leftarrow a \text{ in } b : B[\text{id}, a]} \\
\\
\frac{\Delta, (v \mid \langle \mu \mid A \rangle) \vdash B \quad \Delta, (v \circ \mu \mid A) \vdash b : B[\uparrow, \text{mod}_\mu(v)] \quad \Delta, \{v\} \vdash a : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \quad \Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \frac{\text{let mod}_\mu(-) \leftarrow a[\delta, \{v\}] \text{ in } b[(\delta \circ \uparrow).v]}{= (\text{let mod}_\mu(-) \leftarrow a \text{ in } b)[\delta]} : B[\delta, a]} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A \quad \Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \text{mod}_\mu(a)[\delta] = \text{mod}_\mu(a[\delta, \{\mu\}]) : \langle \mu \mid A[\delta, \{\mu\}] \rangle} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta \quad \Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash a : A[\delta, \{\mu\}] \quad \Delta, \{\mu\} \vdash A}{\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash v[\delta, a, \{\mu\}] = a : A[\delta, \{\mu\}]} \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma, (v \mid \langle \mu \mid A \rangle) \vdash B \quad \Gamma, (v \circ \mu \mid A) \vdash b : B[\uparrow, \text{mod}_\mu(v)] \quad \Gamma, \{v\} \vdash a : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle}{\Gamma \vdash (\text{let mod}_\mu(-) \leftarrow \text{mod}_\mu(a) \text{ in } b) = b[\text{id}, a] : B[\text{id}, \text{mod}_\mu(a)]}
\end{array}$$

B THE COMPLETE LIST OF AXIOMS

Axiom A. *There is a set \mathbb{I} that forms a bounded distributive lattice $(0, 1, \vee, \wedge)$ such that $\prod_{i,j \in \mathbb{I}} i \leq j \vee j \leq i$ holds.*

Axiom B. The map $\text{mod}_\mu(a) = \text{mod}_\mu(b) \rightarrow \langle \mu \mid a = b \rangle$ sending refl to $\text{mod}_\mu(\text{refl})$ is an equivalence for all $a, b :_\mu A$.

Axiom C. There is an equivalence $\neg : \langle \text{op} \mid \mathbb{I} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ which swaps 0 for 1 and \vee for \wedge .

Axiom D. If $A :_\flat \mathcal{U}$, then $\langle \flat \mid A \rangle \rightarrow A$ is an equivalence (A is discrete) if and only if $A \rightarrow A^\mathbb{I}$ is an equivalence (A is \mathbb{I} -null).

Axiom E. The canonical map $\text{Bool} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ is injective and induces an equivalence $\text{Bool} \simeq \langle \flat \mid \mathbb{I} \rangle$.

Axiom F. $f :_\flat A \rightarrow B$ is an equivalence if and only if the following holds:

$$\prod_{n : \text{Nat}} \text{isEquiv}((f_*)^\dagger : \langle \flat \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow A \rangle \rightarrow \langle \flat \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow B \rangle)$$

Axiom G. For each $n :_\flat \text{Nat}$, there is a (necessarily unique) function $\eta_n :_\flat \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rangle$ such that the following map is an equivalence, for each category $C :_\flat \mathcal{U}$:

$$\iota := \lambda \text{mod}_\flat(f). \text{mod}_\flat(f^\dagger \circ \eta_n) : \langle \flat \mid \Delta^{2n+1} \rightarrow C \rangle \rightarrow \langle \flat \mid \Delta^n \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid C \rangle \rangle$$

Additionally, we require that $\tau = (\text{coe}^-)^\dagger : \langle \text{tw} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{tw} \mid \langle \text{op} \mid \Delta^n \rangle \rangle$ and that the diagrams in Fig. 2 commute (these are mere properties—all objects are sets since $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ preserves h -level).

The following *duality axiom* was first studied by Blechschmidt [Ble23] and implies that, e.g., \mathbb{I} is a category. Closely related axioms and consequences are considered by Pugh and Sterling [PS25] and Cherubini et al. [CCH24]. We did not introduce it in the main body of the paper as it was not explicitly invoked in any of our proofs.

Axiom H. If A is a finitely presented \mathbb{I} -algebra (i.e., A is a bounded distributive lattice equivalent to $\mathbb{I}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ quotiented by finitely many relations) and $\text{hom}_{\mathbb{I}\text{Alg}}(A, \mathbb{I})$ is the type of \mathbb{I} -algebra homomorphisms, then the map $\lambda a f. f(a) : A \rightarrow (\text{hom}_{\mathbb{I}\text{Alg}}(A, \mathbb{I}) \rightarrow \mathbb{I})$ is an equivalence.

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