

Chapter 4a (draft): Data and Pattern Matching in the Surface Language

Mark Lemay

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for the purposes of this draft separating the “conventional stuff” from the new stuff? should it be recombined?

Part I

Introduction

clean up!

User defined data is a core feature of a realistic programming language. Simple data types like `Nat` and `Bool` are essential for organizing readable programs. In dependently typed languages, dependent data can represent mathematical predicates like equality. Dependent data can also be used to preserve invariants, like the length of a list in `Vec`, or the “color” of a node in a red-black-tree. The church encoded data from Chapter 2 is unrealistically inconvenient and is especially implausible for an “easy to use” dependently typed programming language.

A data definition is formed by a type constructor indexed by arguments, and a set of constructors that tag data and characterize their arguments. See Figure 1 for the definitions of several standard data types. Data defined in this style is easy to build and reason about, since data can only be created from its constructors. Unfortunately data elimination is more murky.

Part II

Data and direct elimination

How should data be used? Since the term of a given type can only be created from one of a few constructors, we can completely handle data of a type if each constructor is accounted for. For instance, `Nat` has the two constructors `Z` and `S` (which holds the preceding number), so the expression `case n { | Z => Z | S x => x }` will extract the preceding number from `n` (or 0 if `n = 0`). In this light, boolean case elimination corresponds to an if-then-else expression. This style of case elimination is pervasive in ML style languages and has become popular in more mainstream languages such as Python and Java.

We will need to extend the syntax above to support realistic dependent type checking. Specifically, we will need to add a motive that allows the type checker to compute the output type of the branches if the very in terms of the input. For instance, recursively generating a vector of a given length. We may also want to use some values of the type level argument to calculate the motive, and type the branches. this will be allowed with additional bindings in the motive and in each branch¹.

This version of data can be given by extending the surface language syntax in Chapter 2, as in 1 . This direct eliminator scheme, is similar to how Coq handles data in its core language.

differentiate identifiers with font

motive should not need to insist on the type info of the binder? grey out?

Grey out things that are surface syntax but not needed for theory

double ch
not restric

ebnf? if r
underline

¹This slightly awkward case eliminator syntax is designed to be forward compatible with the pattern matching system defined in the rest of this chapter, which in turn allows function definition by cases.

```

data Bool : * {
| True  : Bool
| False : Bool
};

data Nat : * {
| Z : Nat
| S : Nat -> Nat
};
-- Syntactic sugar expands decimal numbers
-- into their unary representation.

data Vec : (A : *) -> Nat -> * {
| Nil  : (A : *) -> Vec A Z
| Cons : (A : *) -> A -> (x : Nat)
        -> Vec A x -> Vec A (S x)
};

data Id : (A : *) -> A -> A -> * {
| refl : (A : *) -> (a : A) -> Id A a a
};

```

Figure 1: Definitions of Common Data Types

telescope,		
Δ, Θ	$::=$.
		$x : M, \Delta$
list of O , separated with s		
$\overline{sO}, \overline{Os}$	$::=$	s
		$sOs\overline{O}$
data type identifier,		
D		
data constructor identifier,		
d		
contexts,		
Γ	$::=$...
		$\Gamma, \text{data } D : \Delta \rightarrow * \left\{ \overline{ d : \Theta \rightarrow D\overline{m} } \right\}$
		$\Gamma, \text{data } D : \Delta \rightarrow *$
m, n, M, N	$::=$...
		D
		d
		$\text{case } \overline{N}, n \left\{ \overline{ x \Rightarrow (d\overline{y}) \Rightarrow m } \right\}$
		$\text{case } \overline{N}, n \langle \overline{x \Rightarrow y} : D \overline{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{ x \Rightarrow (d\overline{y}) \Rightarrow m } \right\}$
values,		
v	$::=$...
		$D \overline{v}$
		$d \overline{v}$

short hands

Figure 2: Surface Language Data

Make identifiers consistent with chapter 2, and locations in chapter 3

The case eliminator first takes the explicit type arguments, followed by a scrutinee of correct type. Then optionally a motive that characterizes the output type of each branch with all the type arguments and scrutiny abstracted and in scope. For instance, this case expression checks if a vector x is empty,

$$x : Vec\ \mathbb{B}\ 1 \vdash \text{case}\ \mathbb{B}, 1, x\ \langle y \Rightarrow z \Rightarrow s : Vec\ y\ z \Rightarrow \mathbb{B} \rangle \{ |y \Rightarrow z \Rightarrow Nil - \Rightarrow True | y \Rightarrow z \Rightarrow Cons - - - - \Rightarrow False \}$$

Additionally we define telescopes, which generalize 0 or more typed bindings. This allows us to set up data definitions in a clean way. Also we define syntactic lists, when syntax is listed it can be used to generalize dependent pairs, this becomes helpful when we need to extract the applied arguments of a constructor.

In the presence of general recursion this form of case eliminator is very expressive. Well-founded recursion can be used to make structurally inductive computations that can be interpreted as proofs.

abbreviate away dumb arrows, unstated separator is a space, also usual syntax $(:*)$? also shorthands for telescopes

define a closed context

Adding data allows for two additional sources of bad behavior. In-exhaustive matches, and non strictly positive data.

1 Incomplete Eliminations

Consider the match

$$x : \mathbb{N} \vdash \text{case}\ x\ \langle s : \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow \mathbb{B} \rangle \{ |S - \Rightarrow True \}$$

this match will get stuck if 0 is substituted for x . Because it is easy to ensure all constructors are matched, the surface language type assignment system will require cases to be exhaustive.

When we get to the cast language, we will allow in-exhaustive data to be reported as an elaboration warning and that will allow “unmatched” errors to be observed at runtime.

2 (non) Strict Positivity

A more subtle concern is posed by data definitions that are not strictly positive.

Example!

This data can cause unexpected non-termination. Dependent types usually requires a strictness check to eliminate this possibility. However this would block useful constructions like higher order abstract syntax, and co-inductive uses of data. Additionally since non-termination is already allowed in the surface TAS, we will not restrict ourselves to strictly positive data.

3 Specification

The type assignment system must be extended with the rules in .
telescopes are well formed

TODO

$$\frac{\Gamma\ \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \cdot.\text{ok}} \dots$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \star \quad \Gamma, x : M \vdash \Delta\ \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash x : M, \Delta\ \text{ok}} \dots$$

suspect this also hinges on regularity

$$\frac{\Gamma\ \text{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \Diamond : \cdot} \dots$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\Gamma, x : M \vdash \Delta \quad \Gamma \vdash m : M \quad \Gamma \vdash \bar{n} [x := m] : \Delta [x := m]}{\Gamma \vdash m, \bar{n} : x : M, \Delta} \dots \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \mathbf{ok} \quad \mathbf{data} D \Delta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash D : \Delta \rightarrow *} \dots \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \mathbf{ok} \quad d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m} \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m}} \dots
\end{array}$$

define these \in

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathbf{data} D \Delta \in \Gamma \\
\Gamma \vdash n : D\bar{N} \\
\Gamma, \bar{x} : \Delta, z : D\bar{x} \vdash M : \star \\
\forall d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m} \in \Gamma. \quad \Gamma, \bar{x} : \Delta, \bar{y}_d : \Theta \vdash m_d : M \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{case} \bar{N}, n \left\{ \overline{|\bar{x} \Rightarrow (d \bar{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d|} \right\} \dots \\
: M [\bar{x} := \bar{N}, z := n]
\end{array}$$

don't need $\Gamma \vdash \bar{N} : \Delta$?

$$\begin{array}{c}
\mathbf{data} D \Delta \in \Gamma \\
\Gamma \vdash \bar{N} : \Delta \quad \Gamma \vdash n : D\bar{N} \\
\Gamma, \bar{x} : \Delta, z : D\bar{x} \vdash M : \star \\
\forall d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m} \in \Gamma. \quad \Gamma, \bar{x} : \Delta, \bar{y}_d : \Theta \vdash m_d : M \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{case} \bar{N}, n \langle \bar{x} \Rightarrow z : D\bar{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{|\bar{x} \Rightarrow (d \bar{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d|} \right\} \dots \\
: M [\bar{x} := \bar{N}, z := n]
\end{array}$$

may not need scrut wf check? oh but what about the empty types!

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta \mathbf{ok}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{data} D \Delta \mathbf{ok}} \dots \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{data} D \Delta \mathbf{ok} \quad \forall d. \Gamma, \mathbf{data} D \Delta \vdash \Theta_d \mathbf{ok} \quad \forall d. \Gamma, \mathbf{data} D \Delta, \Theta_d \vdash \bar{m}_d : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{data} D : \Delta \left\{ \overline{|d : \Theta_d \rightarrow D\bar{m}_d|} \right\} \mathbf{ok}} \dots
\end{array}$$

to ensure regularity

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{data} D \Delta \mathbf{ok}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{data} D \Delta \mathbf{ok}} \dots \\
\\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{data} D : \Delta \left\{ \overline{|d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m}|} \right\} \mathbf{ok}}{\Gamma, \mathbf{data} D : \Delta \left\{ \overline{|d : \Theta \rightarrow D\bar{m}|} \right\} \mathbf{ok}} \dots
\end{array}$$

red

$$\begin{array}{c}
\bar{N} \Rightarrow \bar{N}' \quad \bar{m} \Rightarrow \bar{m}' \\
\forall \bar{x} \Rightarrow (d \bar{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{|\bar{x} \Rightarrow (d' \bar{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'}|} \right\} . m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'} \\
m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'} \\
\hline
\mathbf{case} \bar{N}, d\bar{m} \langle \dots \rangle \left\{ \overline{|\bar{x} \Rightarrow (d' \bar{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'}|} \right\} \Rightarrow \mathbf{case} \bar{N}', d\bar{m}' \left\{ \overline{|\bar{x} \Rightarrow (d' \bar{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m'_{d'}|} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{-case}<>\text{-red}
\end{array}$$

it's actually kind of fine discriminating between non converting motives?

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{N} \Rightarrow \overline{N'} \quad \overline{m} \Rightarrow \overline{m'} \\
\exists \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\frac{m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'}}{\text{case } \overline{N}, d\overline{m} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \Rightarrow m'_{d'} [\overline{x} := \overline{N'}, \overline{y}_d := \overline{m'}]} \Rightarrow\text{-case-red}
\end{array}$$

structural reductions

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{N} \Rightarrow \overline{N'} \quad m \Rightarrow m' \\
M \Rightarrow M' \\
\forall d. \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\frac{m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'}}{\text{case } \overline{N}, m \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow z : D \overline{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \Rightarrow} \Rightarrow\text{-case}<> \\
\text{case } \overline{N}, m' \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow z : D \overline{x} \Rightarrow M' \rangle \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\\
\overline{N} \Rightarrow \overline{N'} \quad m \Rightarrow m' \\
M \Rightarrow M' \\
\forall d. \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\frac{m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'}}{\text{case } \overline{N}, m \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \Rightarrow} \Rightarrow\text{-case}<> \\
\text{case } \overline{N}, m' \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\\
\frac{\overline{m} \Rightarrow \overline{m'}}{D\overline{m} \Rightarrow D\overline{m'}} \dots \\
\frac{\overline{m} \Rightarrow \overline{m'}}{d\overline{m} \Rightarrow d\overline{m'}} \dots
\end{array}$$

extend reductions over lists

cbv

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{\text{case } \overline{N}, n \langle \dots \rangle \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \text{case } \overline{N}, n \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\}} \dots \\
\\
\frac{\exists \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\}}{\text{case } \overline{V}, d\overline{v} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \rightsquigarrow m_d [\overline{x} := \overline{V}, \overline{y}_d := \overline{v}]} \Rightarrow\text{-case-red} \\
\\
\frac{\overline{n} \rightsquigarrow \overline{n'}}{\text{case } \overline{V}, d\overline{n} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \text{case } \overline{V}, d\overline{n'} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\}} \\
\\
\frac{\overline{N} \rightsquigarrow \overline{N'}}{\text{case } \overline{N}, d\overline{n} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \rightsquigarrow \text{case } \overline{N'}, d\overline{n} \left\{ \overline{| \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\}}
\end{array}$$

structural reductions

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{N} \Rightarrow \overline{N'} \quad m \Rightarrow m' \\
M \Rightarrow M' \\
\forall d. \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \\
\frac{m_d \Rightarrow m'_{d'}}{\text{case } \overline{N}, m \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow z : D \overline{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\} \Rightarrow} \Rightarrow\text{-case}<> \\
\text{case } \overline{N}, m' \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow z : D \overline{x} \Rightarrow M' \rangle \left\{ \overline{| \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'} |} \right\}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{N} \Rightarrow \overline{N'} \quad m \Rightarrow m' \\
\forall d. \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d \in \left\{ \overline{\mid \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'}} \right\} \\
\frac{m_d \Rightarrow m'_d}{\text{case } \overline{N}, m \left\{ \overline{\mid \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'}} \right\} \Rightarrow} \Rightarrow\text{-case} \langle \rangle \\
\text{case } \overline{N}, m' \left\{ \overline{\mid \Rightarrow \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d' \overline{y}_{d'}) \Rightarrow m_{d'}} \right\} \\
\frac{\overline{m} \rightsquigarrow \overline{m'}}{D\overline{m} \rightsquigarrow D\overline{m'}} \dots
\end{array}$$

what about D? how much of a value should it be?

$$\frac{\overline{m} \rightsquigarrow \overline{m'}}{D\overline{m} \rightsquigarrow D\overline{m'}} \dots$$

extend step over lists

While similar systems are explored in , we will not prove the Type soundness of the system here. For clarity we will list it as a conjecture.

Conjecture the data aextension to the surface language is type sound.

4 Bidirectional extension

A bidirectional interpretation exists over the type assignment rules listed above

$$\frac{\text{data } D \Delta \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash D \overrightarrow{\cdot} \Delta \rightarrow * } \dots$$

$$\frac{d : \Theta \rightarrow D\overline{m} \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash d \overrightarrow{\cdot} \Theta \rightarrow D\overline{m}} \dots$$

bidirectional non-dependent elimination

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{data } D \Delta \in \Gamma \\ \Gamma \vdash n \overrightarrow{\cdot} D\overline{N} \\ \Gamma, \overline{x} : \Delta, z : D\overline{x} \vdash M \overleftarrow{\cdot} * \\ \forall d : \Theta \rightarrow D\overline{m} \in \Gamma. \quad \Gamma, \overline{x} : \Delta, \overline{y}_d : \Theta \vdash m_d \overleftarrow{\cdot} M \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case } n \left\{ \overline{\mid (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d} \right\} \overleftarrow{\cdot} M} \dots$$

tying information flows outside in.
bidirectional dependent elimination

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{data } D \Delta \in \Gamma \\ \Gamma \vdash \overline{N} \overleftarrow{\cdot} \Delta \quad \Gamma \vdash n \overleftarrow{\cdot} D\overline{N} \\ \Gamma, \overline{x} : \Delta, z : D\overline{x} \vdash M \overleftarrow{\cdot} * \\ \forall d : \Theta \rightarrow D\overline{m} \in \Gamma. \quad \Gamma, \overline{x} : \Delta, \overline{y}_d : \Theta \vdash m_d \overleftarrow{\cdot} M \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case } \overline{N}, n \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow z : D\overline{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{\mid \overline{x} \Rightarrow (d \overline{y}_d) \Rightarrow m_d} \right\} \overleftarrow{\cdot} M} \dots$$

$$\overrightarrow{\cdot} M [\overline{x} := \overline{N}, z := n]$$

information flows from the inside out

may not need scrut wf check? oh but what about the empty types!

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta \overleftarrow{\text{ok}}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{data } D \Delta \overleftarrow{\text{ok}}} \dots$$

abuse of notation...

```

-- eliminator style
head' : (A : *) -> (n : Nat) ->
  Vec A (S n) ->
  A ;
head' A n v =
  case A, (S n), v <
  A' => n' => _ : Vec A' n' =>
    case n' < _ => * > {
      | (Z _) => Unit
      | (S _) => A'
    }
  >{
  | _ => (Z)      => (Nil _          ) => tt
  | _ => (S _) => (Cons _ a _ _) => a
  } ;

-- pattern match style
head : (A : *) -> (n : Nat) ->
  Vec A (S n) ->
  A ;
head A n v =
  case v < _ => A > {
  | (Cons _ a _ _) => a
  } ;

```

clean when I get motive inference working

syntax highlighting would be bomb

Figure 3: Eliminators vs. Pattern Matching

ok? $\Gamma \vdash \Delta \vdash \overleftarrow{\star}$, perhaps $\Gamma \vdash \Delta \text{ wf}$ and $\Gamma \vdash \Delta \overleftarrow{\text{wf}}$. or $\Gamma \vdash \Delta \text{ ok}$...or $\Gamma \vdash \Delta \vdash \dots$ or $\Gamma \text{ context}$, $\Delta \text{ telescope}$ as in [CD18]

abuse of notation...

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{data } D \Delta \quad \forall d. \Gamma, \text{data } D \Delta \vdash \Theta_d \quad \forall d. \Gamma, \text{data } D \Delta, \Theta_d \vdash \overline{m}_d : \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \text{data } D : \Delta \left\{ \overline{d} : \Theta_d \rightarrow D \overline{m}_d \right\}} \dots$$

Conjecture the data extention to the bidirectional surface language is type sound.

Conjecture the data extention to the bidirectional surface language is weakly annotatable from the data extention of the surface language.

Part III

Pattern Matching

Unfortunately, the eliminator style is cumbersome for programmers to deal with directly. For instance, in figure 3 we show how `Vec` data can be directly eliminated in the definition of `head'`. The `head'` function needs to redirect impossible inputs to a dummy type and requires several copies of the same variable that are not identified automatically by eliminators. Pattern matching is much more ergonomic than a direct eliminator, where variables will be assigned their definitions as needed, and unreachable branches can be omitted from code. For this reason, pattern matching has been considered an “essential” feature for dependently typed languages since [Coq92] and is implemented in Agda and the user facing language of Coq.

Figure 4 shows the extensions to the surface language for data and pattern matching. The syntax of data constructors and data type constructors is standard. Our case eliminators match a tuple of expressions, allowing us to be very precise about the typing of branches. Additionally this style allows for syntactic sugar for easy definitions of functions by cases.

$m...$	$::=$	$...$	
		$\text{case } \overline{n}, \left\{ \overline{\overline{pat} \Rightarrow m} \right\}$	data elim. without motive
		$\text{case } \overline{n}, \langle \overline{x} \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{\overline{pat} \Rightarrow m} \right\}$	data elim. with motive
patterns,			
pat	$::=$	x	match a variable
		$(d \overline{pat})$	match a constructor

Figure 4: Surface Language Data

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{x \sim_{\{x:=m\}} m} \dots \\
\frac{\overline{pat \sim_{\sigma} \overline{m}}}{\overline{dpat \sim_{\sigma} d\overline{m}}} \dots \\
\frac{pat' \sim_{\sigma} n \quad \overline{pat \sim_{\sigma'} \overline{m}}}{\overline{pat', \overline{pat} \sim_{\sigma \cup \sigma'} n, \overline{m}}} \dots \\
\overline{\cdot \sim_{\emptyset} \cdot} \dots
\end{array}$$

Figure 5: Surface Language Match

Patterns correspond to a specific form of expression syntax. When an expression matches a pattern it will choose the appropriate branch to reduce. For instance,

$Cons \mathbb{B} true (S(S(S(Z)))) (Cons \mathbb{B} false (S(S(Z)))) y'$

will match the patterns

x where x is equal to the full expression

$Cons w x y z$ where $w = \mathbb{B}$, $x = true$, $y = 3$, $z = Cons \mathbb{B} false (S(S(Z))) y'$

$Cons - x - (Cons - y - -)$ where $x = true$, $y = false$

so the expression

$\text{case } Cons \mathbb{B} true (S(S(S(Z)))) (Cons \mathbb{B} false (S(S(Z)))) y' \{ Cons - x - (Cons - y - -) \Rightarrow x \& y \}$ reduces to $false$

The explicit rules for pattern matching are listed in 5.

It is now possible for branches to overlap, which could allow nondeterministic reduction. There are several plausible ways to handle this, such as requiring each branch to have independent patterns, or requiring patterns have the same behaviour when they overlap. For the purposes of this thesis, we will use the programmatic convention that the first matching pattern has precedence. For example, we will be able to type check

$\text{case } 4 \langle s : \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow \mathbb{B} \rangle \{ |S(S -) \Rightarrow True | - \Rightarrow False \}$

and it will reduce to $True$.

While pattern matching is an extremely practical feature, typing these expressions tends to be messy. To implement dependently typed pattern matching, a procedure is needed to resolve the equational constraints that arise on each branch, and to confirm the impossibility of unwritten branches. There is no “optimal” strategy to handle these equational constraints, since the constraints are undecidable in general, since arbitrary computation can be embedded in the arguments of a type constructor. Any approach will have to be an approximation that performs well in practice. Several options are explored in [CD18]. In practice this procedure usually takes the form of a first order unification.

there is a lot of jenkyness about unification in general, but I think the additional points lose focus?

uniqueness of match. or better yet, any deterministic way to resolve paths

5 First Order Unification

When type checking the branches of the a case expression, the patterns are interpreted as expressions under bindings for each variable used in the pattern. If these equations can be unified, then the branch will typecheck under the

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overline{U(\emptyset, \emptyset)} \dots \\
\frac{U(E, a) \quad m \equiv m'}{U(\{m \sim m'\} \cup E, a)} \dots \\
\frac{U(E[x := m], a[x := m])}{U(\{x \sim m\} \cup E, \{a, x := m\})} \dots \\
\frac{U(E[x := m], a[x := m])}{U(\{m \sim x\} \cup E, a \cup \{x := m\})} \dots \\
\frac{U(\overline{m} \sim \overline{m'} \cup E, a) \quad n \equiv d\overline{m} \quad n' \equiv d\overline{m'}}{U(\{n \sim n'\} \cup E, a)} \dots \\
\frac{U(\overline{m} \sim \overline{m'} \cup E, a) \quad N \equiv D\overline{m} \quad N' \equiv D\overline{m'}}{U(\{N \sim N'\} \cup E, a)} \dots
\end{array}$$

Figure 6: Surface Language Unification

variable assignments, with the additional typing information. For instance, the pattern

Cons x (S y) 2 z

could be checked against the type *Vec Nat w*

this implies the typings $x : *, y : \text{Nat}, (S y) : x, 2 : \text{Nat}, z : \text{Vec } x \ 2, (\text{Cons } x (S y) \ 2 \ z) : \text{Vec } \text{Nat } w$

which in turn imply the equalities

$x = \text{Nat}, w = 3$

note that this is a very simple example, in the worst case we may have equations in the form $m \ n = m' \ n'$ which are hard to solve (until an assignment of $m = \lambda x.x$, and $m' = \lambda - .0$ are solved).

uniqueness of unification solution

A simplified version of a typical unification procedure is listed in 6. The unification does not exclude the possibly cyclic assignments that could occur $x = S x$

as a threat to soundness this should be corrected?

. Unification is not guaranteed to terminate since it relies on definitional equalities.

After the branches have typechecked we should make sure that they are exhaustive. Again there are several possible strategies. In general it is undecidable whether any given pattern is impossible or not, so a practical approximation must be chosen. At least programmers have the ability to manually include non obvious branches and prove their impossibility, or direct those branches to dummy outputs. Though there is a real risk that the unification procedure gets stuck in ways that are not clear to the programmer, and a clean error message may be very difficult.

Usually this primitive impossibility is tied to a contradiction of the unification procedure. but there is still a matter of generating patterns that cover all the unmatched cases. Again there is no clear best way to do this since a more fine division of patterns may allow enough additional definitional information to show unsatisfiability, while a more coarse division of patterns may be more efficient. Agda uses a tree branching approach, that is efficient but generates coarse patterns. The current experimental implementation of the language in this thesis generates patterns by a system of complements, this system seems slightly easier to implement, more uniform, and generates a much finer system of patterns than the case trees used in Agda. However this approach is exponentially less performant than Agda in the worst case.

All told we can extend the bidirectional system with rules that look like

$$\frac{
\begin{array}{c}
\Gamma \vdash \overline{n} \overset{\rightarrow}{\vdash} \Delta \\
\Gamma, \Delta \vdash M \overset{\leftarrow}{\vdash} \star \\
\forall i \ (\Gamma \vdash \overline{pat}_i :_E ? \Delta \quad U(E, \sigma) \quad \sigma(\Gamma, [\overline{pat}_i]) \vdash \sigma m \overset{\leftarrow}{\vdash} \sigma(M[\Delta := \overline{pat}_i])) \\
\Gamma \vdash \overline{pat} : \Delta \text{ complete}
\end{array}
}{
\Gamma \vdash \text{case } \overline{n}, \langle \Delta ? \Rightarrow M \rangle \left\{ \overline{pat} \Rightarrow m \right\} \overset{\rightarrow}{\vdash} M[\Delta := \overline{n}] \dots
}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash \bar{n} \xrightarrow{\cdot} \Delta \\ \forall i \left(\Gamma \vdash \overline{pat}_i :_E ? \Delta \quad U(E, \sigma) \quad \sigma(\Gamma, |\overline{pat}_i|) \vdash \sigma m \stackrel{\cdot}{\leftarrow} \sigma(M) \right) \\ \Gamma \vdash \overline{pat} : \Delta \text{ complete} \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case } \bar{n}, \left\{ \left| \overline{pat} \Rightarrow m \right| \right\} \stackrel{\cdot}{\leftarrow} M} \dots$$

where $\Gamma \vdash \bar{n} \xrightarrow{\cdot} \Delta$ is shorthand for a set of equations that allow a list of patterns to typecheck under Δ . and $\Gamma \vdash \overline{pat} : \Delta \text{ complete}$ is shorthand for the exhaustiveness check.

Conjecture There exists a suitable² extension to the surface language TAS that supports pattern matching style elimination

Conjecture The bidirectional extension listed here is weakly annotatable with that extension to the surface language.

Additionally, it makes sense to allow some additional type annotations in the motive and for these annotations to switch the type inference of the scrutinee into a type-check. Along with a full syntax of modules, and even mutually defined data types. For simplicity these have been excluded from the formal presentation.

6 Discussion

Pattern matching seems simple, but is a surprisingly subtle.

Even without dependent types, pattern matching is a strange feature. How important is it that patterns correspond exactly to a subset expression syntax? What about capture annotations or side conditions? Restricting patterns to constructors and variable means that it is hard to encapsulate functionality, a fact noticed by Wadler as early as [Wadler1985]. This has led to making pattern behavior override-able in Scala. An extension in GHC allows some computations to happen within a pattern match. It seems unreasonable to extend patterns to arbitrary computation (though this is exactly what the Curry language does as a way to make use of its logical programming features).

In the presence of full-spectrum dependent types, the perspective shifts. Any terminating typing procedure will necessarily exclude some typable patterns and be unable to exclude some reachable branches. Since dependent patterns are already attacking a much more difficult problem than in the non-dependent case but also only considering data values (no functions), it may make sense to extend the notion of pattern matching to include other useful but difficult features. To some extent this is similar to the syntax of [Ghilezan et al. 2004]. In principle it seems that dependent case expressions could be extended with uniqueness side conditions, arbitrary computation or some amount of constraint solving, without being any theoretically worse than usual unification.

Agda and Idris attempt to deal with these issues using **with** syntax that allows further branching based on the computation of each branch. This is justified as syntactic sugar that corresponds to several helper functions that can be appropriately typed. The language described in this thesis does not use the **with** side condition since nested case expressions carry the same computational behaviour, and the elaboration to the cast language will allow possibly questionable typing.

ATS

How should overlapping branches be handled? partial evaluation of case expressions can change the definitional nature of the theory.

The details of pattern matching change the logical character of the system. Since non-termination is allowed in the language described here the logical issues are less of a concern. However it is worth noting that pattern matching as described here validates axiom K and thus appears unsuitable for HoTT or CTT developments.

We have glossed over the definitional behavior of case branches in this chapter since we plan to sidestep the issue with the cast language. Though it is still worth noting that there are several ways to set up the definitional reductions. Agda style case trees may result in unpredictable definitional equalities (in so far as definitional behaviour is ever predicatable). [Ghilezan et al. 2004] advocates for a more conservative approach that makes function definitions be cases definitional (which is nice in that it respects the surface language equality, but shifts the difficulties to overlapping branches and does not allow shadowing behavior programmers are used to). another extreme would be to only allow reductions at fully computed scrutinee values, as in trellis works. Alternatively a partial reduction is possible, such that branches are eliminated as they are found unreachable and substitutions made as that are available. This last approach is experimentally implemented in the implementation.

This complicates the simple story from chapter 2, where the bidirectional system made the TAS system tractable by only adding annotations (and having annotatability). We have only conjectured the existence of a suitable TAS

²supporting at least subject reduction, type soundness, and regularity

system. If the definitional equality that feeds the TAS is generated by a system of reductions, any of the reduction strategies from the last section will generate a different TAS with subtly different characteristics. For instance, insisting on a call-by-value case reduction will leave many equivalent computations unassociated. If the TAS system uses partial reductions it will need to inspect the constructors of the scrutinee in order to preserve typing over reduction. Agda style reductions need to extend syntax under reduction to account for side conditions. For this reason it is rare to see a fully formalized account of pattern matching.

Ideally the typing rule for pattern matching case expression in the TAS should not use the notion of pattern matching at all. Instead the rule should characterize the behaviour that is required directly and formally³. An ideal rule might look like

$$\frac{\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma \vdash \bar{n} : \Delta' & (\textit{scrutinees type check}) \\ \Gamma, \bar{x} : \Delta' \vdash M : \star & (\textit{motive exists and is well formed}) \\ \forall i. ? & (\textit{every branch is well typed over all possible instantiations}) \\ ? & (\textit{all scrutinees are handled}) \end{array}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case } \bar{n}, \left\{ \overline{\text{pat} \Rightarrow_i m_i} \right\} : M [\bar{x} := \bar{n}] \quad \dots}$$

last condition is optional if you're willing to modify type soundness to allow pattern match errors (again, they are no worse than the non-termination already allowed, and much better behaved).

Part IV

Related work

7 Systems with Data

Minimal data with Sigma and Unit

ML W types

UTT[Luo90, Luo94] is an extension to ECC that specifies a scheme to define strictly positive data types by way of a logical framework defined in MLTT. This scheme generates primitive recursors, and does not inherently support pattern matching.

finish reading this

I am unaware of any clear, complete account of CIC in English. A bidirectional account of CIC is given in [LB21], though it uses a different style of bidirectionality than discussed here to maintain compatibility with the existing Galina language.

CTT, higher inductive types, quotient types

8 Pattern matching

Early work by Coq92 [Coq92]

with a lot of follow up from McBride [MM04]

reiterated in [Nor07]

A tutorial implementation of dynamic pattern unification Adam Gundry and Conor McBride (2012)

<http://adam.gundry.co.uk/pub/pattern-unify/> (this links give you the choice to read a more detailed chapter of Adam Gundry's thesis instead)

with substantial follow up in [CD18]

<https://research.chalmers.se/en/publication/519011> ?

https://sozeau.gitlabpages.inria.fr/www/research/publications/Equations:_A_Dependent_Pattern-Matching_Compiler.pdf ?

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.99.1405&rep=rep1&type=pdf> ?

³Cite has a good informal description

<https://popl19.sigplan.org/details/POPL-2019-Research-Papers/33/Higher-Inductive-Types-in-Cubical-Computational-Type-Theory>

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Part V

TODO

Todo list

for the perposes of this draft seperating the “conventional stuff” from the new stuff? should it be recombined?	1
clean up!	1
double check and perhaps not restricitons	1
ebnf? if reinventing it underline	1
differentiate identifiers with font	1
motive should not need to insist on the type info of the binder? grey out?	1
Grey out things that are surface syntax but not needed for theory	1
Make identifiers consistent with chapter 2, and locations in chapter 3	1
short hands	2
abbreviate away dumb arrows, unstated separator is a space, also usual syntax (:*)? also shorthands for telescopes	3
define a closed context	3
Example!	3
TODO	3
suspect this also hinges on regularity	3
define these \in	4
don’t need $\Gamma \vdash \overline{N} : \Delta$?	4
may not need scrut wf check? oh but what about the empty types!	4
to ensure regularity	4
it’s actually kind of fine discriminating between non converting motives?	4
extend reductions over lists	5
what about D? how much of a value should it be?	6

extend step over lists	6
Cite	6
may not need scrut wf check? oh but what about the empty types!	6
abuse of notation...	6
clean when I get motive inference working	7
syntax highlighting would be bomb	7
abuse of notation...	7
cite	8
there is a lot of jenkyness about unification in general, but I think the additional points lose focus?	8
uniqueness of match. or better yet, any deterministic way to resolve paths	8
uniqueness of unification solution	9
as a threat to soundness this should be corrected?	9
cite	10
Which	10
cite	10
Epigram	10
ATS	10
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A tutorial implementation of dynamic pattern unification Adam Gundry and Conor McBride (2012) http://adam.gundry.co.uk/publications/unify/ (this links give you the choice to read a more detailed chapter of Adam Gundry's thesis instead)	11
https://research.chalmers.se/en/publication/519011 ?	11
https://sozeau.gitlabpages.inria.fr/www/research/publications/Equations:_A_Dependent_Pattern-Matching_Compiler.pdf ?	11
http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.99.1405&rep=rep1&type=pdf ?	11
talk about normalization	11

9 notes

Other extensions to the Calculus of Constructions that are primarily concerned with data (UCC, CIC) will be reviewed in chapter 4.

Coq and Lean trace their core theory back to the Calculus of Constructions.

10 unused

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