

# Dependent Types Made Difficult

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**What is the categorical semantics of  
dependent type theory?**



PHASE 1   PHASE 2   PHASE 3

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Categorical  
semantics for  
dependent type theory



Profit

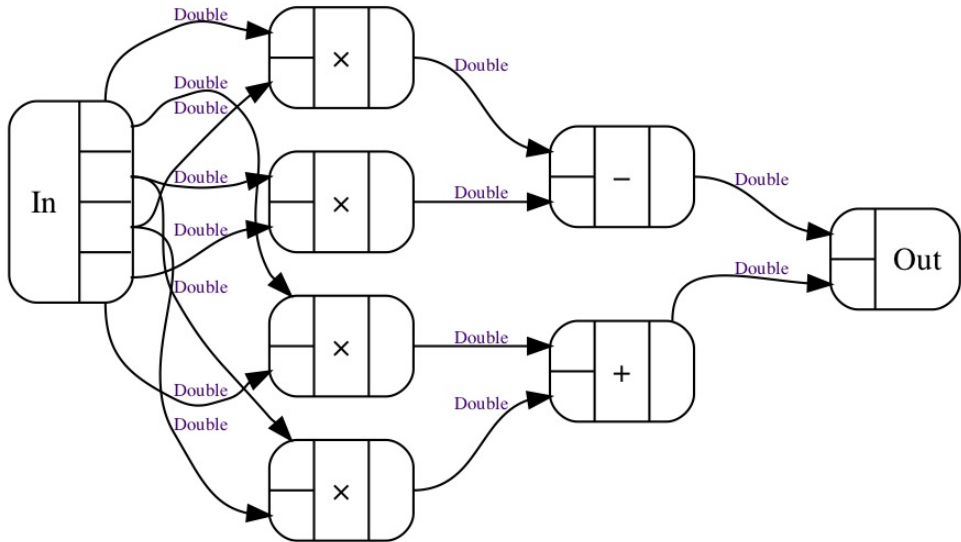


# Compiling to Categories (Elliott, 2017)

Take in Haskell source and spit out . . .

# Compiling to Categories (Elliott, 2017)

- computation graphs
  - diagrams
  - circuit descriptions (VHDL, Verilog)
- linear maps
- automatic differentiation
- incremental computation
- interval analysis
- Kleisli category for any monad e.g. probabilistic programming
- graphics (GLSL)
- syntax
- products of the above
- tons more . . . see <https://github.com/conal/concat>



**How does this work??**

The simply-typed lambda calculus is the *internal language* of *Cartesian closed categories*.

which means

We can interpret the lambda calculus in any CCC.



# Cartesian closed categories

A Cartesian closed category is a category with function objects.

$$\mathcal{C}(A \times B, C) \cong \mathcal{C}(A, C^B)$$

In Haskell, this isomorphism is called “curry”.

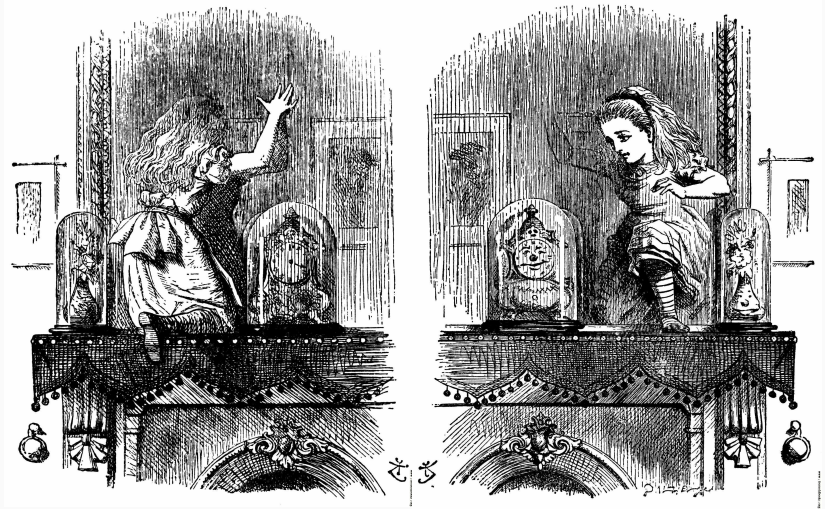
```
curry :: ((a,b) -> c) -> a -> b -> c  
curry f a b = f (a, b)
```

```
uncurry :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a, b) -> c  
uncurry f (a, b) = f a b
```

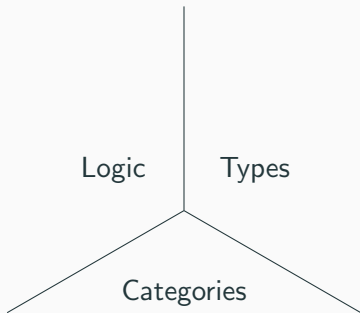
# Categorical semantics

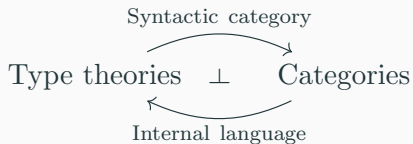
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# Curry-Howard correspondence



# Curry-Howard-Lambek correspondence





# Advantages

- The internal language is valid in every model
- More easily prove properties about a type theory using CT
- CT proofs using the internal language can be easier
- The CT can illuminate the TT, and vice versa
- Can use the internal language to define internal structures

# Adjunctions

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# Adjunctions

$$F \dashv U : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{D} \\ & U & \end{array} \quad \perp$$

$$\mathcal{D}(Fc, d) \cong \mathcal{C}(c, Ud)$$

$$\frac{Fc \rightarrow d \text{ in } \mathcal{D}}{c \rightarrow Ud \text{ in } \mathcal{C}}$$



## Example: free monoid

The free monoid on an alphabet  $\Lambda$  is the set  $\Lambda^*$  of words in  $\Lambda$ .

$$\frac{\Lambda^* \rightarrow m \text{ in } \mathbf{Mon}}{\Lambda \rightarrow m \text{ in } \mathbf{Set}}$$

Why?

A monoid homomorphism has to respect multiplication, so

$$f(abcd \cdots) = f(a)f(b)f(c) \cdots$$

## Example: currying

The functor  $- \times b$  is left adjoint to  $(-)^b$ .

$$\frac{a \times b \rightarrow c \text{ in } \mathbf{Type}}{a \rightarrow c^b \text{ in } \mathbf{Type}}$$

`curry :: ((a,b) -> c) -> a -> b -> c`  
`curry f a b = f (a, b)`

`uncurry :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a, b) -> c`  
`uncurry f (a, b) = f a b`

## Example: quantifiers $\exists_y \dashv w_y \dashv \forall_y$

$$w_y : \text{Form}(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \text{Form}(\bar{x}, y)$$

$$\phi(\bar{x}) \mapsto \phi(\bar{x})$$

$$\frac{\bar{x}, y \vdash w_y \phi(\bar{x}) \Rightarrow \psi(\bar{x}, y)}{\bar{x} \vdash \phi(\bar{x}) \Rightarrow \forall_y \psi(\bar{x}, y)}$$

$$\frac{\bar{x} \vdash \exists_y \psi(\bar{x}, y) \Rightarrow \phi(\bar{x})}{\bar{x}, y \vdash \psi(\bar{x}, y) \Rightarrow w_y \phi(\bar{x})}$$

- Categorical semantics for STLC in CCCs
- Lots of CCCs
- GHC Core's System FC can (mostly) be converted to STLC
- GHC plugin, rewrite rules
- Convert Haskell src to VHDL, diagrams, etc

There's more to type theory than STLC!

- polymorphic types
- existential types
- universal types
- type classes
- union and intersection types
- quotient types
- dependent types
- refinement types
- homotopy type theory
- . . .

# Dependent types

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# Dependent types

A dependent type is one that contains free variables.

$$\tau : \text{Type} \quad x : \tau \vdash P(x) : \text{Type}$$

It *depends on* terms.



## Dependent types

$n : \text{Nat} \vdash \text{IsEven } n : \text{Type}$

```
data IsEven (n : Nat) : Type where  
  ZEven : IsEven 0  
  SSEven : IsEven n -> IsEven (n + 2)
```

## Dependent types

$$n : \text{Nat}, a : \text{Type} \vdash \text{Vect}_n(a) : \text{Type}$$

```
data Vect (n : Nat) (a : Type) : Type where  
  Nil : Vect 0 a  
  (::) : a -> Vect n a -> Vect (n + 1) a
```

## Dependent product type

`replicate : (n : Nat) -> a -> Vect n a`

$$\begin{aligned}\text{replicate} &: \prod_{a:\text{Type}} \prod_{n:\mathbb{N}} \prod_{x:a} \text{Vect}_n(a) \\ &= \prod_{a:\text{Type}} \prod_{n:\mathbb{N}} a \rightarrow \text{Vect}_n(a)\end{aligned}$$

$$a \rightarrow b \equiv \prod_{_:a} b$$

## Dependent sum type

`evenLenLists = (l : List Int ** m : Nat ** length l = 2 * m)`

$$\text{evenLenLists} = \sum_{l:\text{List}(\text{Int})} \sum_{m:\mathbb{N}} \text{length}(l) = 2m$$

$$(a, b) :\equiv \sum_{-:a} b$$

Dependent types are the internal language of *locally Cartesian closed categories*.

# Semantics

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Objects: closed types

Arrows: terms in context

also arrows: functions

$$f : a \rightarrow b$$

$$\llbracket f \rrbracket : \llbracket a \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket b \rrbracket$$

$\text{IsEven} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

$\text{IsEven } 0 = \{\text{zeroEven}\}$

$\text{IsEven } 1 = \{\}$

$\text{IsEven } 2 = \{\text{twoEven}\}$

$\text{IsEven } 3 = \{\}$

$\text{IsEven } 4 = \{\text{fourEven}\}$

$\vdots$



CustomerOf : Bank  $\rightarrow$  **Set**

CustomerOf ANZ = {Alice, Albert, Anne-Marie}

CustomerOf CBA = {Calvin, Colin}

CustomerOf NAB = {Nathan}

CustomerOf Westpac = {Wendy, Will}

# Thinking backwards

$p : \text{IsEven } \_ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

$p \text{ zeroEven} = 0$

$p \text{ twoEven} = 2$

$p \text{ fourEven} = 4$

$\vdots$

$p : \text{CustomerOf } \_ \rightarrow \text{Bank}$

$p \text{ Alice} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Albert} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Anne-Marie} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Calvin} = \text{CBA}$

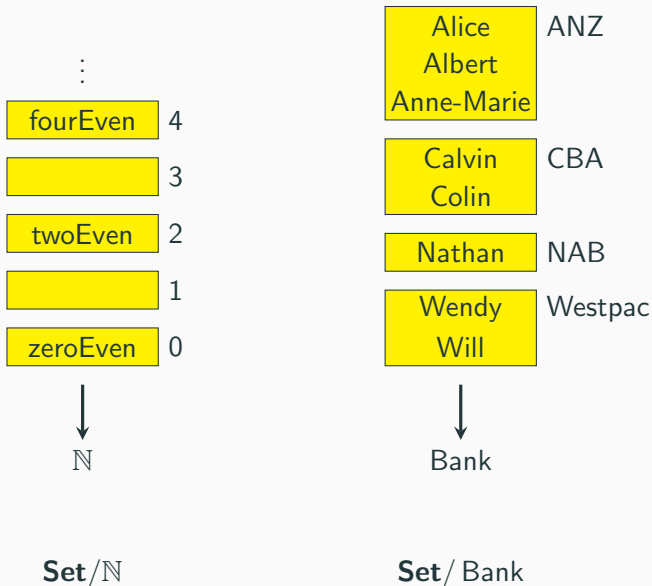
$p \text{ Colin} = \text{CBA}$

$p \text{ Nathan} = \text{NAB}$

$p \text{ Wendy} = \text{Westpac}$

$p \text{ Will} = \text{Westpac}$

# Semantics for dependent types



# Over-categories

$$X \in \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}/X$$

Objects:

$$\begin{array}{c} A \\ \downarrow p \\ X \end{array}$$

fibre  $(A)_x = p^{-1}x$  in **Set**

Arrows:

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

section  $s : X \rightarrow A$   
such that  $p \circ s = \text{id}$

# Over-categories

Alice  
Albert  
Anne-Marie

ANZ

Calvin  
Colin

CBA

Nathan

NAB

Wendy  
Will

Westpac

Artarmon  
Annandale  
Auburn

ANZ

Clovelly  
Curl Curl

CBA

Naremburn  
Nth Bondi

NAB

Wahroonga  
Woollahra

Westpac

$$\text{fibre } (A)_x = p^{-1}x$$

section  $s : X \rightarrow A$  such that  $p \circ s = \text{id}$

$\text{bankOf} : \text{Branch} \rightarrow \text{Bank}$

$b : \text{Bank} \vdash \text{CustomerOf } b : \text{Type}$

$br : \text{Branch} \vdash \text{CustomerOf}(\text{bankOf } br) : \text{Type}$

Alice Albert	Artarmon
	Annandale
Anne-Marie	Auburn
Calvin Colin	Clovelly
	Curl Curl
	Naremburn
Nathan	Nth Bondi
Will	Wahroonga
Wendy	Woollahra

⋮	
	"hello"
twoEven	"no"
eightEven	"icecream"
	"submarine"
⋮	

$s : \text{String} \vdash \text{IsEven}(\text{length } s) : \text{Type}$

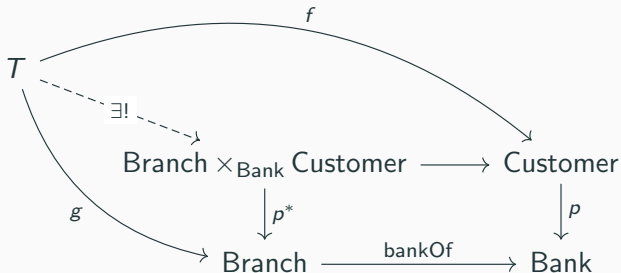


## Substitution = pullback aka change of base

$\text{bankOf} : \text{Branch} \rightarrow \text{Bank}$

$\text{bankOf}^* : \mathbf{Set} / \text{Bank} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / \text{Branch}$

## Substitution = pullback aka change of base



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Branch} \times_{\text{Bank}} \text{Customer} &= \text{bankOf}^* \text{Customer} \\ &= \{(br, c) \mid \text{bankOf}(br) = p(c)\}\end{aligned}$$

# Dependent sum

$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

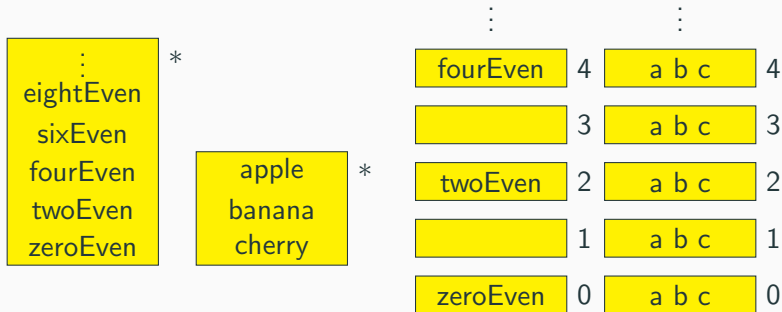
$$\sum_f : \mathbf{Set} / X \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / Y$$

$$\begin{array}{c} A \\ \downarrow p \\ X \\ \downarrow f \\ Y \end{array}$$

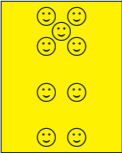









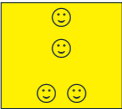











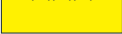




$$\sum_f \dashv f^*$$

$$\sum_{x:X} := \sum_{!_X} \quad !_X : X \rightarrow *$$

$$\mathbf{Set} / * (\sum_f p, q) \cong \mathbf{Set} / X(p, f^* q)$$



$\Sigma_{\text{bankOf}}$  : **Set** / Branch  $\rightarrow$  **Set** / Bank

		ANZ			Artarmon
					Annandale
					Auburn
		CBA			Clovelly
		NAB			Naremburn
					Nth Bondi
		Westpac			Wahroonga
					Woollahra

A category is **locally Cartesian closed**  
if  $f^*$  also has a right adjoint  
for all arrows  $f$ .

### Lemma

*In this case all the slice categories  $\mathcal{C}/X$  are Cartesian closed.*



PHASE 1   PHASE 2   PHASE 3

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Categorical  
semantics for  
dependent type theory



Profit



- Categorical semantics for DTs in LCCCs
- Lots of LCCCs
- Something something Agda, Idris, Lean, ...
- **Profit**



**Set** is locally Cartesian closed.

# Dependent product

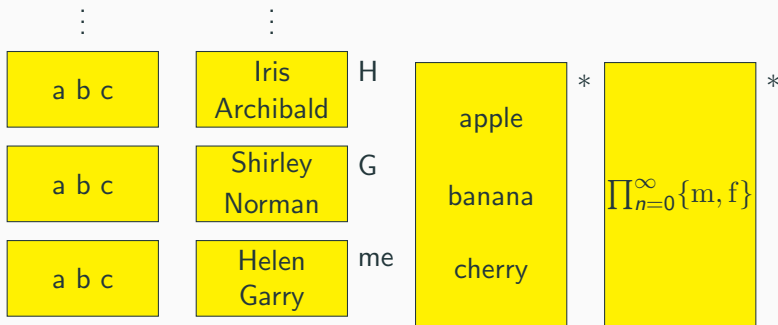
$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

$$\prod_f : \mathbf{Set} / X \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / Y$$

$$f^* \dashv \prod_f$$










$$\prod_{x:X} := \prod_{!_X} \quad !_X : X \rightarrow *$$

$$\mathbf{Set} / X (f^* p, q) \cong \mathbf{Set} / * (p, \prod_f q)$$



$$\frac{p : \text{Person} \vdash \text{Fruit} \rightarrow \text{ParentOf}(p)}{\vdash \text{Fruit} \rightarrow \prod_{p:\text{Person}} \text{ParentOf}(p)}$$

$\Pi_{\text{bankOf}} : \mathbf{Set} / \text{Branch} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / \text{Bank}$

A A A		Artarmon		
A A A		Annandale		
A A A		Auburn		
C C		Clovelly	Alice Albert Anne-M	...
C C		Curl Curl		
N		Naremburn	Calvin Colin	...
N		Nth Bondi	Nathan	...
W W		Wahroonga	Wendy	...
W W		Woollahra	Will	...
				ANZ
				CBA
				NAB
				Westpac

$$(\Pi_{\text{bankOf}} \text{Staff})_{\text{ANZ}} = \{s : (\text{Branch})_{\text{ANZ}} \rightarrow \text{Staff} \mid \forall br. \text{branchOf}(s(br)) = br\}$$

$c : \text{Customer} \vdash \text{IsEven}(\text{length}(\text{firstName}(c)))$

- substitute  $s := \text{firstName}(c)$  into  $\text{IsEven}(\text{length}(s))$
- substitute  $n := \text{length}(\text{firstName}(c))$  into  $\text{IsEven } n$

- display map categories
- contextual categories
- categories with families
- categories with attributes
- Awodey's “natural model”

## References

R. A. G. Seely, *Locally cartesian closed categories and type theory*

Martin Hofman, *Syntax and semantics of dependent types*

Alexandre Buisse, *Categorical models of dependent type theory*

Awodey, *Category Theory*, 7.29 and 9.7

MacLane and Moerdijk, *Sheaves in Geometry and Logic*, IV.7

The nLab, [ncatlab.org/nlab](https://ncatlab.org/nlab)

