Internal Language of Rel

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I wanted an internal language corresponding to the double category **Rel** the double category with sets as objects, relations as horizontal arrows and functions as vertical arrows.

I present three different calculi: a substructural "context calculus" corresponding to the horizontal edge of **Rel**; a "term calculus" corresponding to **Set**, the vertical edge category of **Rel**; and a simple "command calculus" corresponding to commuting squares of **Rel**.

First, I give the basic framework of the calculi. Then I discuss semantics and applications. And finally I list a few possible extensions such as coproduct and dependent sum types.

Core Calculi

The core context calculus is the linear lambda calculus with a few symbol changes and corresponds to the closed monoidal structure of the horizontal edge of **Rel**. The core term calculus is a little language with only product types and corresponds to the Cartesian structure of **Set**. I am still figuring out the core command calculus which ought to correspond to commuting squares in **Rel**.

The context calculus has a linear variable rule. To make mechanization easier and ensure the typing environment can always be directly inferred from context expressions linear variables are explicitly indexed by their types and variable binding is more imperative.

Grammar, Syntax and Reductions

```
var, x, y
sort, A
function, f
relation, R
type, \tau ::=
```

S

```
intro, v
                                                fv
!
v, v'
[V]
(v)
\eta_{\tau} V
                                                                                                           S
                                                                                                           Μ
context,\ E
                                                   \boldsymbol{x}
                                                  fE
                                                  \varepsilon x: \tau . c
                                                                                                           \mathsf{bind}\ x\,\mathsf{in}\ c
                                                  !
                                                  E, E'
                                                  \mathbf{match}\, x{:}\; \tau_1, y{:}\; \tau_2 \; \mathbf{in}\; c \quad \mathsf{bind}\; x{\cup}\; y \; \mathsf{in}\; c
                                                  {\bf dup}\, E
                                                  \overline{\operatorname{\mathbf{del}} E}
                                                                                                           S
                                                   (E)
                                                                                                           Μ
                                                  [v]
command, c
                                                  RE
                                                E = E'

\begin{array}{c}
\bot \\
c \land c' \\
c \lor c' \\
(c) \\
E; c'
\end{array}

                                                                                                           S
                                                                                                           Μ
subst, \rho
                                                                                                           Μ
                                                   \rho, x := v
                                                                                                           Μ
                                                                                                           S
span, P
spans, P^*
```

```
formula
                          ::=
                                  judgement
                                  x \neq y
                                   x = y
                                   \mathbf{n} = n'
terminals
                          ::=
                                  :
                                  \vdash
                                   0
                                  Ι
                                  \otimes
                                   \mathbf{s}
                                   \mathbf{f}
                                  \boxtimes
                                   !
                                   \pi_1
                                   \pi_2
                                   \top
                                   \perp
                                   \land
                                   \lambda
```

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{let} \\ \mathbf{in} \\ \in \ \Rightarrow \ \in \ ! \\ \notin \ \cup \ \ \neq \ \end{array}$

Μ

Μ

Μ

 eta_expand ::=

sat

 $x := v \in \rho \boxtimes \rho'$

 $T; \rho \vdash c \boxtimes \rho'$ $T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho'$

::=

```
judgement
                 ::=
                      find
                      judge\_term
                      judge\_subst
                      bigV
                      bigv
                      lfind
                      scope
                      judge\_context
                      pfind
                      sat
user\_syntax
                 ::=
                      var
                      sort
                      function
                      relation
                      type
                      use
                      usage
                      global
                      signature
                      sequent
                      theory
                      environment\\
                      elim
                      intro
                      context
                      command
                      subst
                      span
```

spans formula terminals

 $\eta_{\tau} V$

$$\begin{split} & \eta_A \, V \equiv [\, V] \\ & \eta_{\rm I} \, V \equiv ! \\ & \eta_{\tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \, V \equiv \eta_{\tau_1}(\pi_1 \ V), \eta_{\tau_2}(\pi_2 \ V) \end{split}$$

E; c'

 $E\!;c\equiv E={!\!\!!}\,{\wedge} c$

[v]

$$\begin{split} [[x]] &\equiv x \\ [!] &\equiv ! \\ [v, v'] &\equiv [v], [v'] \\ [fv] &\equiv f[v] \\ [v] &\equiv ! \end{split}$$

 $x: \tau \in \Gamma$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \overline{x \colon \tau \in \Gamma, x \colon \tau} & \text{mem_eq} \\ \\ x \neq y \\ \underline{x \colon \tau \in \Gamma} \\ \overline{x \colon \tau \in \Gamma, y \colon \tau'} & \text{mem_ne} \end{array}$$

 $\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash V \Rightarrow \tau$

$$\frac{x \colon \tau \in \Gamma}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash x \Rightarrow \tau} \quad JV_var$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash V \Rightarrow \tau_1 \otimes \tau_2}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \pi_1 \quad V \Rightarrow \tau_1} \quad JV_fst$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash V \Rightarrow \tau_1 \otimes \tau_2}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \pi_2 \quad V \Rightarrow \tau_2} \quad JV_snd$$

 $\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash v \Leftarrow \tau$

Assoc.find
$$f \Sigma = \text{Some } \tau \to A$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash v \Leftarrow \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash f v \Leftarrow A} \qquad \text{Jv_function}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash ! \Leftarrow \mathbf{I}}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash v_1 \Leftarrow \tau_1} \qquad \text{Jv_tt}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash v_1 \Leftarrow \tau_1}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash v_2 \Leftarrow \tau_2} \qquad \text{Jv_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash V \Rightarrow A}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash [V] \Leftarrow A} \qquad \text{Jv_neu}$$

 $\boxed{\Sigma \vdash \rho \colon \Gamma \to \Gamma'}$

$$\frac{}{\Sigma \vdash \, \bullet : \Gamma \to \bullet} \quad \text{Jp_bang}$$

$$\begin{split} & \frac{\Sigma[\Gamma_1] \vdash v \Leftarrow \tau}{\Sigma \vdash \rho \colon \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2} \\ & \frac{\Sigma \vdash \rho \colon \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2}{\Sigma \vdash \rho, x \coloneqq v \colon \Gamma_1 \to \Gamma_2, x \colon \tau} \quad \text{Jp_cut} \end{split}$$

 $\rho \vdash V \Downarrow v'$

Assoc.find
$$x \rho = \text{Some } v$$

$$\rho \vdash x \Downarrow v$$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash V \Downarrow v_1, v_2}{\rho \vdash \pi_1 V \Downarrow v_1} \quad \text{bigV_fst}$$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash V \Downarrow v_1, v_2}{\rho \vdash \pi_2 V \Downarrow v_2} \quad \text{bigV_snd}$$

 $\rho \vdash v \Downarrow v'$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash v \Downarrow v'}{\rho \vdash fv \Downarrow fv'} \quad \text{bigv_function}$$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash ! \Downarrow !}{\rho \vdash v_1 \Downarrow v'_1} \quad \text{bigv_tt}$$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash v_1 \Downarrow v'_1}{\rho \vdash v_2 \Downarrow v'_2} \quad \text{bigv_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\rho \vdash V \Downarrow v}{\rho \vdash [V] \Downarrow v} \quad \text{bigv_neu}$$

 $x \in \Delta \boxtimes \Delta'$

 $\Delta \vdash c \boxtimes \Delta'$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \frac{\Delta \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta'}{\Delta \vdash R \, E \boxtimes \Delta'} & \text{se_relation} \\ \\ \frac{\Delta_1 \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta_2}{\Delta_2 \vdash E' \boxtimes \Delta_3} \\ \\ \frac{\Delta_1 \vdash E = E' \boxtimes \Delta_3}{\Delta_1 \vdash E = E' \boxtimes \Delta_3} & \text{se_unify} \\ \\ \hline \frac{\Delta \vdash \top \boxtimes \Delta}{\Delta \vdash \bot \boxtimes \Delta} & \text{se_false} \\ \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Delta_1 \vdash c \boxtimes \Delta_2 \\ \underline{\Delta_2 \vdash c' \boxtimes \Delta_3} \\ \overline{\Delta_1 \vdash c \wedge c' \boxtimes \Delta_3} & \text{se_and} \\ \\ \underline{\Delta_1 \vdash c \boxtimes \Delta_2} \\ \underline{\Delta_1 \vdash c' \boxtimes \Delta_2} \\ \underline{\Delta_1 \vdash c \vee c' \boxtimes \Delta_2} & \text{se_or} \end{array}$$

$\Delta \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta'$

$$\frac{x \in \Delta \boxtimes \Delta'}{\Delta \vdash x \boxtimes \Delta'} \quad \text{sE_var}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta'}{\Delta \vdash f E \boxtimes \Delta'} \quad \text{sE_function}$$

$$\frac{\Delta, x[\mathbf{f}] \vdash c \boxtimes \Delta', x[\mathbf{s}]}{\Delta \vdash \varepsilon x \colon \tau.c \boxtimes \Delta'} \quad \text{sE_epsilon}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \vdash \mathbf{f} \boxtimes \Delta}{\Delta \vdash \mathbf{f} \boxtimes \Delta} \quad \text{sE_tt}$$

$$\frac{\Delta_1 \vdash \mathbf{f} \boxtimes \Delta_2}{\Delta_1 \vdash \mathbf{f} \boxtimes \Delta_2} \quad \text{sE_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Delta_1 \vdash E_1 \boxtimes \Delta_2}{\Delta_1 \vdash E_1, E_2 \boxtimes \Delta_3} \quad \text{sE_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Delta_1, x[\mathbf{f}], y[\mathbf{f}] \vdash c \boxtimes \Delta_2, x[\mathbf{s}], y[\mathbf{s}]}{\Delta_1 \vdash \mathbf{match} \ x \colon \tau_1, y \colon \tau_2 \ \ \mathbf{in} \ c \boxtimes \Delta_2} \quad \text{sE_match_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Delta_1 \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta_2}{\Delta_1 \vdash \mathbf{dup} \ E \boxtimes \Delta_2} \quad \text{sE_dup}$$

$$\frac{\Delta_1 \vdash E \boxtimes \Delta_2}{\Delta_1 \vdash \mathbf{del} \ E \boxtimes \Delta_2} \quad \text{sE_del}$$

$\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c$

Assoc.find
$$R$$
 Σ = Some rel τ
$$\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftarrow \tau$$
 infer_relation
$$\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftarrow \tau$$

$$\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftarrow \tau$$

$$\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E' \Leftarrow \tau$$
 infer_unify
$$\overline{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E} = E'$$
 infer_true
$$\overline{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \bot} \quad \text{infer_false}$$

$$\begin{split} & \frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c'} \\ & \frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c \land c'}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c \land c'} \quad \text{infer_and} \\ & \frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c'} \\ & \frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c \lor c'}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash c \lor c'} \end{split}$$

 $\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftarrow \tau$

$$\frac{\operatorname{Assoc.find} \ x \ \Gamma = \operatorname{Some} \ \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash x \Leftarrow \tau} \quad \operatorname{check_var}$$

$$\frac{\operatorname{Assoc.find} \ f \ \Sigma = \operatorname{Some} \ \tau \to A}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftarrow \tau}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash FE \Leftarrow A}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \varepsilon \, x \colon \tau.c \Leftarrow \tau} \quad \operatorname{check_function}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftrightarrow \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftrightarrow \tau} \quad \operatorname{check_epsilon}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftrightarrow \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E_1 \Leftrightarrow \tau_1} \quad \operatorname{check_tt}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E_1 \Leftrightarrow \tau_1}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E_1, E_2 \Leftrightarrow \tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \quad \operatorname{check_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma, x \colon \tau_1, y \colon \tau_2] \vdash c}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \operatorname{match} x \colon \tau_1, y \colon \tau_2 \text{ in } c \Leftrightarrow \tau_1 \otimes \tau_2} \quad \operatorname{check_match_fanout}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftrightarrow \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \operatorname{dup} E \Leftrightarrow \tau \otimes \tau} \quad \operatorname{check_dup}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash E \Leftrightarrow \tau}{\Sigma[\Gamma] \vdash \operatorname{del} E \Leftrightarrow \Gamma} \quad \operatorname{check_del}$$

 $x := v \in \rho \boxtimes \rho'$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \overline{x := v \in \rho, x := v \boxtimes \rho, x := !} & \text{pmem_eq} \\ & x \neq y \\ & x := v \in \rho \boxtimes \rho' \\ & \overline{x := v \in \rho, y := v' \boxtimes \rho', y := v'} & \text{pmem_ne} \end{array}$$

 $T; \rho \vdash c \boxtimes \rho'$

$$\begin{array}{l} T; \rho_1 \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_2 \\ T; \rho_2 \vdash E'[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \\ \overline{T; \rho_1 \vdash E = E' \boxtimes \rho_3} \end{array} \quad \text{produces_unify}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash T \boxtimes \rho \quad \text{produces_true}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash T \boxtimes \rho$$

$$T; \rho \vdash C \boxtimes \rho_2$$

$$T; \rho \vdash C \boxtimes \rho'$$

$$T; \rho \vdash C \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{produces_or_inl}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash C \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{produces_or_inl}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash C \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{produces_or_inr}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho'$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho'$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{accepts_var}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho' \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_2 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_2 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_3 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

$$T; \rho \vdash E[v] \boxtimes \rho_2 \quad \text{accepts_tunction}$$

Examples

Identity

$$\mathbf{id}_t = \lambda X \colon t.X \quad \frac{\top}{\underbrace{\bullet, X \colon t \vdash X \colon t}} (\mathbf{V}) \\ \underbrace{\bullet \vdash \lambda X \colon t.X \colon t \otimes t} (\mathbf{X}) \qquad \underbrace{\frac{\top}{\bullet, X[N] \vdash X[N]}} (\mathbf{V}) \\ \underbrace{\bullet \vdash (\lambda X \colon t.X)[N, N]} (\mathbf{X})$$

Composition

$$f \circ_{t} g = \lambda X : t. f (g X)$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \bullet \vdash g : t_{0} \otimes t_{1} & \frac{\top}{\bullet, X : t_{0} \vdash X : t_{0}} \overset{(\times V)}{(\times E)} \\ \hline \bullet \vdash f : t_{1} \otimes t_{2} & \bullet, X : t_{0} \vdash g X : t_{1} \\ \hline \bullet, X : t_{0} \vdash f (g X) : t_{2} & (\times E) \\ \hline \bullet \vdash \lambda X : t_{0} . f (g X) : t_{0} \otimes t_{2} & (\times I) \\ \hline \\ \bullet \vdash f[N_{1}, N_{2}] & \bullet, X[N_{0}] \vdash g X[N_{1}] & (\times E) \\ \hline \hline \bullet, X[N_{0}] \vdash f (g X)[N_{2}] & (\times E) \\ \hline \hline \bullet \vdash \lambda X : t_{0} . f (g X)[N_{0}, N_{2}] & (\times I) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Categorical Semantics

The intent is to create calculi encoding the core features of the double category **Rel**. If this is successful then terms and types ought to map to **Rel** as follows. Note that defining normalization in terms of closed terms means a little workaround of multisubstition is required.

$$\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash v \colon t \\ \Delta \vdash E \colon t \\ \sigma \colon \Delta \\ \rho \colon \Gamma \\ [:= \rho]v \Downarrow N \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{I} & \stackrel{\mathbf{id}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbf{I} \\ \downarrow^{\rho} \\ \xrightarrow{\sigma \vdash E[N]} & \stackrel{\downarrow}{\searrow} v \\ \Delta & \stackrel{\downarrow}{\longrightarrow} t \end{array}$$

I have no idea about universe issues and such. Dependent sum is probably wrong. Really need to think about denotation again.

Applications to Synthetic Category Theory

A category is a monad in **Span**. Once this system has been generalized to **Span** we can define monads internal to **Span**.

This is not fully internal but a simple approach to defining an equivalence relation might be something like:

object
$$\bullet \vdash O$$
: *
$$\underbrace{ \text{refl} \underbrace{ \bullet \vdash o : O}_{\bullet \vdash R[o, o]} }_{\bullet \vdash R[o, o]}$$

$$\underbrace{ \text{trans} \underbrace{ \frac{\bullet \vdash o : O}{\bullet \vdash R[o, o]}}_{\bullet \vdash R[o_0, o_1]} \{ \bullet \vdash o_1, o_0 : O \times O \}$$

$$\underbrace{ \text{sym} \underbrace{ \frac{\bullet \vdash R[o_0, o_1]}{\bullet \vdash R[o_1, o_0]} \{ \bullet \vdash o_1, o_0 : O \times O \} }_{\bullet \vdash R[o_1, o_0]}$$

Generalizing to a constructive interpretation in terms of spans and groupoids is future work.

Extensions

Disjoint union and dependent sum types.

Disjoint Unions

Disjoint unions in **Set** become Cartesian products/coproducts in **Rel**.

I have a hunch it is proper for the combination of product/coproduct to introduce nondeterminism in the operational semantics but I need to think more about the issue.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Types} & \quad t ::= \dots \mid \emptyset \mid t \oplus t \\ \mathbf{Contexts} & \quad E ::= \dots \mid \mathbf{abort}_t E \mid \mathbf{i}_{1t} E \mid \mathbf{i}_{2t} E \mid \\ & \quad \mathbf{m}(E_0, X.E_1, Y.E_2) \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \mathbf{1} E \mid \mathbf{r} E \mid E; E' \\ \mathbf{Terms} & \quad v ::= \dots \mid \mathbf{abort}_t \ v \mid \mathbf{i}_{1t} \ v \mid \mathbf{i}_{2t} \ v \mid \mathbf{m}(v_0, x.v_1, y.v_2) \end{aligned}$$

Context Calculus

Term Calculus

Command Calculus

Dependent Sums

If product of sets becomes an internal hom in the predicate calculus then dependent sums ought to become a little like Π types. So the predicate calculus effectively becomes like a linear System-F.

Some things become awkward to interpret here though.

I also really can't figure out unpacking. It's messy if you don't want full dependent types.

Not really good at the typing judgements for dependent sum types.

 $t ::= \dots | x | * | \mathbf{h}(v) | \Sigma X : * .t$ **Types** $E ::= \dots \mid E t \mid \lambda X \colon * .E$ Contexts

 $v ::= \ldots \mid \mathbf{t}(v) \mid \langle x := t, v \rangle$ **Terms**

Command Env $\sigma ::= \ldots \mid \Delta, X[t]$

Context Calculus

$$\underbrace{ \begin{array}{c} \Delta_0 \vdash E \colon \Sigma X \colon *.t_1 & \Delta_1 \vdash t_0 \colon * \\ \Delta_0, \ \Delta_1 \vdash E_0 \ t_0 \colon [X := t_0] t_1 \\ \underline{\Sigma I} \underbrace{ \begin{array}{c} \Delta, \ x \colon * \vdash E \colon t \\ \Delta \vdash \lambda X \colon *.E \colon \Sigma X \colon *.t \end{array}}_{}
\end{array}}_{}$$

Term Calculus

Term Calculus
$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{\sum E_1} \ \frac{\Gamma \vdash E \colon \Sigma x \colon \ ^*.t}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{h}(v) \colon \ ^*} \\ \underline{\sum E_2} \ \frac{\Gamma \vdash v \colon \Sigma x \colon \ ^*.t}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{t}(v) \colon [x \coloneqq \mathbf{h}(v)]t} \\ \underline{\sum I} \ \frac{\Gamma \vdash t_0 \colon \ ^* \quad \Gamma, \ x \colon \ ^* \vdash v \colon t_1}{\Gamma \vdash \langle x \coloneqq t_0, v \rangle \colon \Sigma x \colon \ ^*.t_0} \\ \underline{\sum \beta_1} \ \mathbf{h}(\langle x \coloneqq t, v \rangle) \leadsto t \\ \end{array}$$

Command Calculus

$$\boxed{\Sigma \mathbf{I}} \frac{\sigma,\, X[t] \vdash E[N]}{\sigma \vdash (\lambda X \colon *.E)[\langle x := t, N \rangle]}$$

I can't figure out commands here at all.

The Future?

Satisifies judgments correspond to thin squares. Moving to more general categories such as Span or Prof or Vect for matrix math requires an interpretation of squares carrying constructive content.