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IDENTITIES VIA IDEMPOTENT EQUIVALENCES complementing the paper Internal ∞-Categorical Models of Dependent Type Theory Summary. The standard definition of a semicategory consists of objects, morphisms, composition, and associativity. How can we say that a given semicategory has identities, i.e. is a category? The standard answer is to say that the semicategory has identities which satisfy left-neutrality and right-neutrality. In this short note, I present another definition of the statement "has-identities" (a.k.a. "is-a-category"). The motivation is that I want "is-a-category" to be a *property* of a semicategory rather than *data*, i.e. I want it to be a proposition a.k.a. proof-irrelevant. For a semicategory where the morphisms form a set, this is already the case for the standard answer above. However, without this additional assumption, the standard answer is data. My new definition of "is-a-category" is "for every object x, there is an endomorphism i \in Hom(x,x) such that i is an idempotent equivalence". This Agda file shows that this is a propositional property. I also show below that a semicategory has idempotent equivalences if and only if it has standard identities. The Agda code can be type-checked with Agda 2.6.1 and makes use of the library HoTT-Agda, using Andrew Swan's fork that is 2.6.1-compatible: https://github.com/awswan/HoTT-Agda/tree/agda-2.6.1-compatible - } {-# OPTIONS --without-K #-} module Identities where open import HoTT public open import Iff {- A *wild semicategory*, sometimes also known as a *wild semigroupoid*, consists of: - Ob: a type of objects; - Hom: a type family of morphisms (for increased generality possibly in another universe than Ob, but it doesn't matter); - and an associative binary operation $_{ullet} \diamond _{ullet}$. This is of course just a "category without identities". Note that we do *NOT* ask for set-truncation; Ob and Hom are arbitrary types/type families! record SemiCategory j1 j2 : Type (lsucc (lmax j1 j2)) where infixr 40 ______ field Ob : Type jı Hom : $Ob \rightarrow Ob \rightarrow Type j2$ $_{\bullet}$: $\forall \{x \ y \ z\} \rightarrow \text{Hom } y \ z \rightarrow \text{Hom } x \ y \rightarrow \text{Hom } x \ z$ ass: $\forall \{x \ y \ z \ w\} \{f : Hom z \ w\} \{g : Hom y z\} \{h : Hom x y\}$ \rightarrow (f \diamond g) \diamond h == f \diamond (g \diamond h) $\{\mbox{-}\mbox{ For the rest of this file, we assume that }\mbox{C is a given}$ fixed wild semicategory. We work inside a module which fixes C. module _ {j1 j2} (C : SemiCategory j1 j2) where
 open SemiCategory C j = lmax j1 j2 $\{\, -\ A\ \hbox{"standard identity" is a morphism which is left and}$ right neutral. This is the normal, well-known definition. {y : Ob} (i : Hom y y) where module is-left-neutral = $\{x : 0b\}$ (f : Hom x y) \rightarrow i \diamond f == f is-right-neutral = {z : Ob} (g : Hom y z) \rightarrow g \diamond i == gis-standard-id = is-left-neutral \times is-right-neutral $\{ \texttt{-} \ \mathtt{We} \ \mathtt{say} \ \mathtt{that} \ \mathtt{a} \ \mathtt{semicategory} \ \mathtt{(here, the semicategory C)} \$ is a *standard category* if every object comes with a morphism which is left- and right-neutral. This is

the usual definition of what it means to "have

is-standard-category = $(x : Ob) \rightarrow \Sigma$ (Hom x x) is-standard-id

identities". -}

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{- The problem with these identities is that "having
   standard identities" is not a propositional property:
   it is structure, i.e. C can have standard identities in
   multiple different ways. This makes "having standard
   identities" ill-behaved, as demonstrated in the paper
   (see Example 9, initial model in the wild/incoherent
   setting).
   We now develop an alternative, and better, definition
   of identities, namely *idempotent equivalences*, and
   this will lead to a propositional property.
is-idpt : \{x : Ob\}\ (f : Hom \ x \ x) \rightarrow Type jz
is-idpt f = f \diamond f == f
{- Note: `is-idpt f` a.k.a. "f is idempotent" is not
    necessarily a proposition (as 'Hom x x' might not be a
   set). -}
is-eqv : \{x y : Ob\} (g : Hom x y) \rightarrow Type j
{- Note: `is-eqv g` a.k.a. "g is an equivalence" is a
   proposition. This is automatic, as `is-equiv` (the
   analogous property for types) is a proposition. -}
is-idpt+eqv : \{x : Ob\} (i : Hom x x) \rightarrow Type j
is-idpt+eqv i = is-idpt i × is-eqv i
{- Note: `is-idpt+eqv i` a.k.a. "being idempotent and an
   equivalence" is still not not a proposition!
   E.g. in the wild semicategory of types and functions, the identity on the circle S^{\,\text{\tiny 1}} is an idempotent
   equivalence in Z-many ways. -}
{- I define "being a good category" as a property of a
   semicategory. The property states that each object
   comes with an idempotent equivalence. -}
is-good-category = (x : Ob) \rightarrow \Sigma (Hom x x) is-idpt+eqv
{- Note: "being a category" a.k.a. "having idempotent
    equivalences" *is* a proposition, but this is not
   trivial. The main goal of the current file is to prove
   this result.
   First, we show that an idempotent equivalence is also a
   standard identity. -}
idpt = fst idpt+eqv
  eqv = snd idpt+eqv
  left-neutral : is-left-neutral i
  left-neutral f = w/o-i
    where
      with-i : i \diamond (i \diamond f) == i \diamond f
      with-i =
        i ♦ (i ♦ f)
          =(! ass)
         (i ♦ i) ♦ f
          = \{ap (\lambda g \rightarrow g \diamond f) idpt\}
        i ♦ f
          =
      w/o-i : i \diamond f == f
      w/o-i = is-equiv.q
                 (ap-is-equiv \{f = \lambda g \rightarrow i \diamond g\} (snd eqv _) (i \diamond f) f)
  to the above. Here is the shortened version: -}
  right-neutral : is-right-neutral i
  right-neutral g =
    is-equiv.a
      (ap-is-equiv (fst eqv _) (g ❖ i) g)
      (ass · ap (\lambda f \rightarrow g • f) idpt)
{ - The above shows that an idempotent equivalence is a
   standard equivalence. A "summary statement" will be given
   later.
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We start the opposite direction with very simple
    observation: Any left-neutral endomorphism is idempotent. -}
\texttt{left-neutral} \rightarrow \texttt{idempotent} \ : \ \forall \{\, y\,\} \quad (\texttt{f} \ : \ \texttt{Hom} \ \ y \ \ y) \ \rightarrow \ \texttt{is-left-neutral} \ \ \texttt{f} \ \rightarrow \ \texttt{is-idpt} \ \ \texttt{f}
left-neutral→idempotent f l-ntrl = l-ntrl f
{- Of course, the same is true for right-neutral
    endomorphisms, but the above suffices for us.
    We are now ready to prove that a standard identity is an
    idempotent equivalence. -}
module std→idpt+eqv {y : Ob} (i : Hom y y) (std-id : is-standard-id i) where
  l-ntrl = fst std-id
r-ntrl = snd std-id
  eqv : is-eqv i
   eqv = (\lambda z \rightarrow is-eq (\lambda g \rightarrow g \bullet i) (\lambda h \rightarrow h) r-ntrl r-ntrl)
           \lambda \times A \rightarrow is - eq (\lambda f \rightarrow i \diamond f) (\lambda h \rightarrow h) l - ntrl l - ntrl
   idpt : is-idpt i
   idpt = left-neutral→idempotent i l-ntrl
{- "Summary statement":
    We now have everything in place to state Lemma TODO (15?) of
    the paper. An endomorphism `i` is an idempotent equivalence
    if and only if it is a standard identity. -}
idpt+eqv \Leftrightarrow std: \forall \{y\} \rightarrow (i: Hom y y) \rightarrow is-idpt+eqv i \Leftrightarrow is-standard-id i
idpt+eqv \Leftrightarrow std i = (\Rightarrow , \Leftarrow)
  where
     ⇒ : is-idpt+eqv i → is-standard-id i
     \Rightarrow p = idpt+eqv\rightarrowstd.left-neutral i p , idpt+eqv\rightarrowstd.right-neutral i p

      : is-standard-id i → is-idpt+eqv i

     {- This implies that any two idempotent equivalences are equal. -}
idpt+eqv-unique : \forall \{y\} \rightarrow (ii i2 : Hom y y) \rightarrow
                         is-idpt+eqv i1 → is-idpt+eqv i2 → i1 == i2
idpt+eqv-unique i1 i2 p1 p2 =
  i1
     = (! (idpt+eqv - std.right-neutral i2 p2 i1) )
     = ( idpt+eqv - std.left-neutral i1 p1 i2 )
   i2
{- A useful property is 2-out-of-3 for equivalences:
    If we have g • f == h and two out of the three maps
    {f, g, h} are equivalences, then so is the third.
    Here, we only show (and need) one instance, namely
    that it suffices if g and h are equivalences.
    This is easy but a bit tedious. -}
eqv-2-out-of-3 : \forall \{w \ x \ y\} (f : Hom w \ x) (g : Hom x \ y)
   \rightarrow is-eqv g \rightarrow is-eqv (g \diamond f) \rightarrow is-eqv f
eqv-2-out-of-3 \{w\} \{x\} \{y\} f g (p1, p2) (q1, q2) =
   (\lambda \_ \rightarrow - \phi f - is - eqv)
   (\lambda _{-} \rightarrow f \circ -is - eqv)
     where
     {- first part -}
     -  f : \{ y : Ob \} \rightarrow Hom \ x \ y \rightarrow Hom \ w \ y
     -\diamond f = \lambda h \rightarrow h \diamond f
     - \diamond g^{-1} : { z : Ob} \rightarrow Hom x z \rightarrow Hom y z
      -\diamond q^{-1} = is-equiv.g (p1 _)
      \neg \diamond qf : \{z : Ob\} \rightarrow Hom \ y \ z \rightarrow Hom \ w \ z
      -\diamond gf = \lambda h \rightarrow h \diamond (g \diamond f)
      eq': \forall \{z\} \rightarrow -\diamond gf \{z\} \circ -\diamond g^{-1} == -\diamond f \{z\}
      eq' \{z\} = \lambda = (\lambda h \rightarrow
        -
(-⋄g<sup>-1</sup> h) ⋄ (g ⋄ f)
           =( ! ass )
         ((-\diamond g^{-1} h) \diamond g) \diamond f
           =( ap (\lambda k \rightarrow k \diamond f) (is-equiv.f-g (p1 _) _)
        h ♦ f
      -\phi g^{-1}-equiv : \forall \{z\} \rightarrow \text{is-equiv } (-\phi g^{-1} \{z\})
     -•g<sup>-1</sup>-equiv = is-equiv-inverse (pi _)
      - \diamond f - is - eqv : \forall \{z\} \rightarrow is - equiv (- \diamond f \{z\})
      - \phi f - is - eqv \{z\} = transport is - equiv eq' (q1 _ o ise - \phi g^{-1} - equiv)
     {- second part -}
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f \diamond - : \{v : Ob\} \rightarrow Hom \ v \ w \rightarrow Hom \ v \ x
      f \diamond - = \lambda h \rightarrow f \diamond h
     q^{-1} \diamond - : \{v : Ob\} \rightarrow Hom \ v \ y \rightarrow Hom \ v \ x
     g^{-1} \diamond - = is\text{-equiv.g} \{f = \lambda h \rightarrow g \diamond h\} (p_2)
     gf^{-}: \{v : Ob\} \rightarrow Hom \ v \ w \rightarrow Hom \ v \ y
     gf \diamond - = \lambda h \rightarrow (g \diamond f) \diamond h
     eq : \forall \{v\} \rightarrow g^{-1} \diamond - \{v\} \circ gf \diamond - == f \diamond - \{v\}
     eq \{v\} = \lambda = (\lambda h \rightarrow
        (g<sup>-i</sup> • - • gf • -) h
          =( idp )
        g^{-1} \diamond - ((g \diamond f) \diamond h)
          = \langle ap g^{-1} \diamond - ass \rangle
        g^{-1} \diamond - (g \diamond (f \diamond h))
          =( is-equiv.g-f (p2 _) (f • h) )
        (f • h)
          =( idp )
        f♦- h
     g^{-1} \diamond -equiv : \forall \{v\} \rightarrow is -equiv (g^{-1} \diamond - \{v\})
      g^{-1} \diamond -equiv \{v\} = is-equiv-inverse (p2 _)
      f \diamond -is - eqv : \forall \{v\} \rightarrow is - equiv (f \diamond - \{v\})
     f \diamond -is - eqv \{v\} = transport is - equiv eq (g^{-1} \diamond - equiv \circ ise q_2)
{ - Given an equivalence, we can define an idempotent
    equivalence. This construction was already presented in
    "Higher Univalent Categories via Complete Semi-Segal Types"
    (Capriotti-Kraus, POPL'18) and is motivated by work of
    Harpaz and Lurie in higher dimensional category theory. -}
module I {y z} (e : Hom y z) (p : is-eqv e) where
  e^{-1} \diamond - : \forall \{x\} \rightarrow \text{Hom } x z \rightarrow \text{Hom } x y
  e^{-1} \diamond - = is-equiv.g  (snd p _)
  e^{-}: \forall \{x\} \rightarrow \text{Hom } x y \rightarrow \text{Hom } x z
  e⋄- = _⋄_ e
  I : Hom y y
  I = e^{-1} \diamond - e
   {- In comments, we write I(e) for the I constructed above
      (e is a module parameter).
      It is easy to see that I(e) is right neutral for e: -}
  e◊I : e ◊ I == e
  e > I = is-equiv.f-g (snd p _) e
   { - Also easy (but more work):
       I is left neutral in general. -}
   l-ntrl : is-left-neutral I
   1-ntrl f =
     I ♦ f
       =( ! (is-equiv.g-f (snd p _) _) )
     e<sup>-1</sup>♦- (e♦- (I ♦ f))
       = (ap e^{-1} \diamond - (! ass))
     e^{-1} \diamond - ((e \diamond I) \diamond f)
       =( ap (\lambda g \rightarrow e^{-1} \diamond - (g \diamond f)) e \diamond I)
     e<sup>-1</sup>♦- (e ♦ f)
       =( is-equiv.g-f (snd p _) _ )
     f
   \{\,\text{-}\, We do not need the other analogous properties. This
       is enough to see that I is an idempotent equivalence. -}
   I-is-idpt+eqv : is-idpt+eqv I
   I-is-idpt+eqv = left-neutral→idempotent
     I 1-ntrl ,
     eqv-2-out-of-3 I e p (transport is-eqv (! e\diamondI) p)
{- If an endomorphism e is an equivalence, then it is
    idempotent if and only if it is equal to I(e); and
    this connection even forms an equivalence of types
module e-vs-I {y : Ob} (e : Hom y y) (p : is-eqv e) where
  open I
  e-I-idpt : (e == I e p) \simeq is-idpt e
   e-I-idpt =
     e == I e p
      ~( ap-equiv (e♦- e p , snd p _) e (I e p) )
     e ◆ e == e ◆ I e p
       ≃( transport (\(\lambda\) expr →
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(e \diamond e == e \diamond I e p) \simeq (e \diamond e == expr)) (e \diamond I e p) (ide ) )
         e • e == e
           ≃( ide _ )
         is-idpt e
           ~
   {- Finally, put all the previous lemmas together to show that
       the type of idempotent equivalences is a proposition. We do
       this by showing that, if we assume that this type has one
       element i0, then i0 is the only element. -}
  module unique (y : Ob) (i0 : Hom y y) (idpt+eqv0 : is-idpt+eqv i0) where
     open I
     open e-vs-I
      idpt0 = fst idpt+eqv0
     eqv0 = snd idpt+eqv0
      {- Using a chain of equivalences, we show that the type
          of idempotent equivalences is trivial (given one
          single idempotent equivalence, see the module
         parameter). -}
      idpt-to-=i0 =
         \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow is-idpt+eqv i)
        \simeq ( ide {i = j} _ )
 \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow is-idpt i \times is-eqv i)
           \simeq ( \Sigma-emap-r (\lambda i \rightarrow \times-comm) )
        \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma (is-eqv i) \lambda eqv \rightarrow (is-idpt i))
           \simeq( \Sigma-emap-r (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma-emap-r \lambda eqv \rightarrow e-I-idpt i eqv ^{-1}) )
         \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma (is-eqv i) \lambda eqv \rightarrow i == I i eqv)
            = ( \Sigma - emap - r (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma - emap - r \lambda p \rightarrow coe - equiv (ap (\lambda i' \rightarrow (i == i'))) (
                        idpt+eqv-unique (I i p) i@ (I-is-idpt+eqv i p) idpt+eqv@))) )
         \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma (is-eqv i) \lambda \_ \rightarrow i == i0)
           \simeq (\Sigma - emap - r (\lambda i \rightarrow \times - comm))
        \Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow \Sigma (i == i0) \lambda \rightarrow (is-eqv i)) \simeq ( \Sigma-assoc ^{-1} )
         (\Sigma \ (\Sigma \ (Hom \ y \ y) \ (\lambda \ i \ \rightarrow \ (i \ \text{==} \ i \, e)))) \ \lambda \ ip \ \rightarrow \ (is \text{-eqv} \ (fst \ ip)))
           \simeq \langle \Sigma - \text{emap-l} \{ A = \text{Unit} \}
                             \{B = \Sigma \pmod{y} \mid \lambda i \rightarrow (i == i0)\}
                              (\lambda \text{ ip} \rightarrow (\text{is-eqv (fst ip})))
                             (contr-equiv-Unit (pathto-is-contr i0) -1) -1 )
         (\Sigma Unit \lambda \rightarrow \text{is-eqv ie})
           \simeq (\Sigma_1 - Unit)
         is-eqv i0
           ≃( contr-equiv-Unit (inhab-prop-is-contr eqv0) )
        Unit
           ~
      \{\,\text{-}\ \text{In other words, the type of idempotent equivalences}\,
          is contractible. -}
      unique-idpt+eqv : is-contr (\Sigma (Hom y y) (\lambda i \rightarrow is-idpt+eqv i))
     unique-idpt+eqv = equiv-preserves-level (idpt-to-=i0
{ -
                                  THEOREMS
    With the help of the above lemmas, we show our main
    results:
    (1) A semicategory is a good category if and only if
          it is a standard category.
    (2) "Being a good category" is a propositional (proof-
          irrelevant) property of a semicategory.
\texttt{good-iff-standard} \; : \; \forall \; \{\texttt{j1} \; \texttt{j2}\} \; \; (\texttt{C} \; : \; \texttt{SemiCategory} \; \texttt{j1} \; \; \texttt{j2}) \; \rightarrow \;
                             is-good-category C \Leftrightarrow is-standard-category C
good-iff-standard C = \Rightarrow , \leftarrow
  where
  \Rightarrow : is-good-category C _{\rightarrow} is-standard-category C
  \Rightarrow igc x = fst (igc x) , fst (idpt+eqv\Leftrightarrowstd C _) (snd (igc x))
  \Leftarrow : is-standard-category C \rightarrow is-good-category C
  \leftarrow isc x = fst (isc x) , snd (idpt+eqv\Leftrightarrowstd C _) (snd (isc x))
\texttt{goodness-is-prop} \; : \; \forall \; \{\texttt{j1} \; \texttt{j2}\} \; \; (\texttt{C} \; : \; \texttt{SemiCategory} \; \texttt{j1} \; \texttt{j2}) \; \rightarrow \; \texttt{is-prop} \; \; (\texttt{is-good-category} \; \texttt{C})
goodness-is-prop C = inhab-to-contr-is-prop λ idpt+eqvs →
  \texttt{WeakFunext.weak-} \lambda \texttt{ y} \rightarrow \texttt{unique.unique-idpt+eqv C y (fst(idpt+eqvs y)) (snd(idpt+eqvs y))}
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