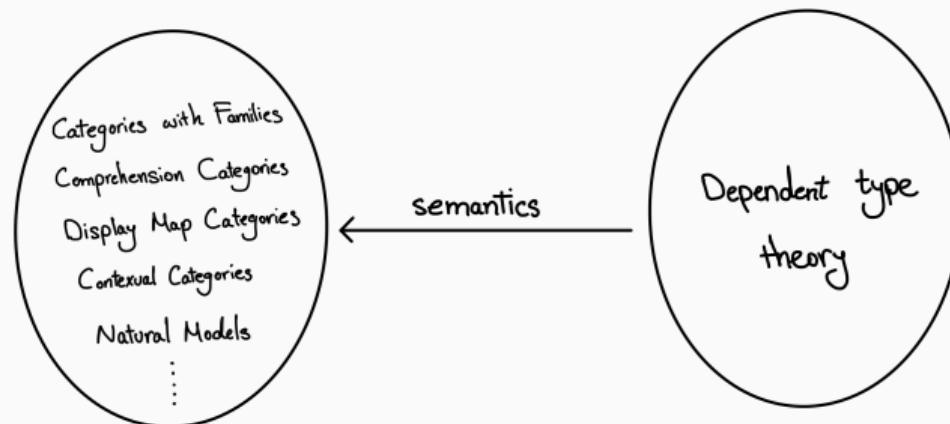


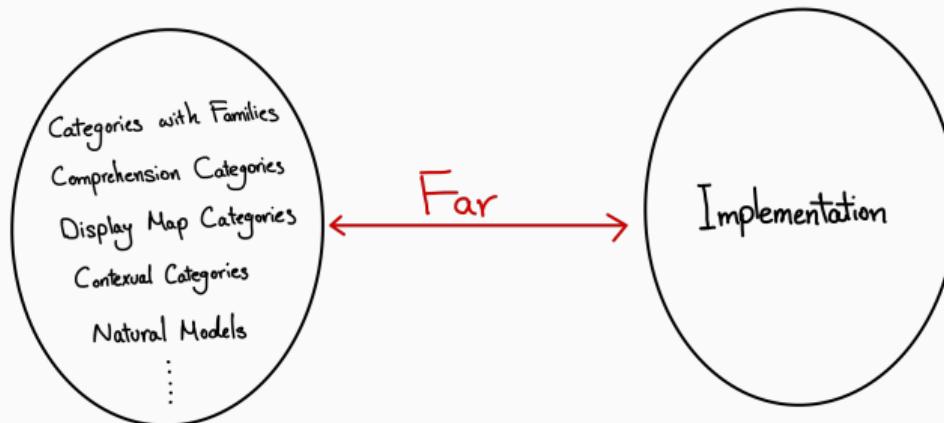
# **Categorical Semantics for the Extrinsic View of Typing**

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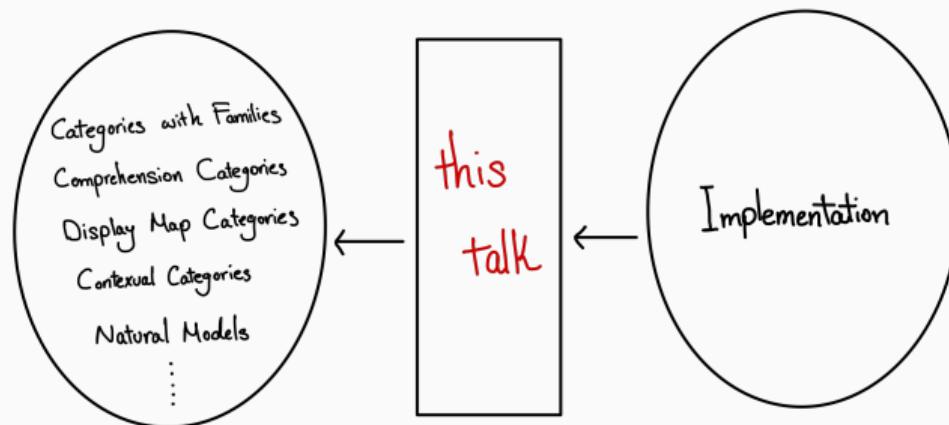
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**with Ambroise Lafont**  
LHC Days, Palaiseau  
4 June, 2025

# Overview





1. Terms are typed by construction
1. Raw syntax
2. Typing judgments
3. Typed syntax



This talk: ongoing work about the semantics of the extrinsic view of typing

# Outline

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1. Motivation
2. Intrinsic Semantics
3. Extrinsic Semantics
  - 3.1 Raw Syntax
  - 3.2 Typed Syntax
4. Bridging the Two Views
5. Future Directions

## Motivation

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# Extrinsic vs Intrinsic Typing

- **Intrinsic presentation:**

- Syntax is typed by construction
- Ill-formed terms are not expressible
- Easier to reason about mathematically
- Aka types à la Church

- **Extrinsic presentation:**

- Start with untyped syntax
- Typing judgments generated by inference rules
- Ill-typed terms are ruled out externally
- Aka types à la Curry

## Intrinsic Semantics is Well-Studied

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- Many categorical frameworks for the intrinsic view:
  - Categories with Families (CwFs)
  - Comprehension Categories
  - Natural Models
  - Contextual Categories
  - ...
- This is far from practical implementations where we start from untyped syntax.

Semantics for untyped syntax and typing: Why?

- Categorically prove syntactic results that are not provable in the traditional semantics, e.g. that reduction is compatible with typing
- Check that the implementation corresponds to the initial model
- Translation of syntactic models for e.g. proving consistency of the source type theory

$$\text{CwF} \longleftarrow \text{ExtCwF}$$

## Intrinsic Semantics

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Many categorical frameworks have been developed:

- Categories with Families (CwFs)
- Comprehension Categories
- Natural Models
- Contextual Categories
- ...

## Definition (Dybjer 1996)

A category with families consists of:

1. A category  $\mathcal{C}$  with a terminal object of contexts and substitutions
2. A presheaf  $Ty : \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$
3. A presheaf  $Tm : (\int_{\mathcal{C}} Ty)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$
4. A context extension operation giving  $\Gamma.A$ ,  $\text{proj} : \Gamma.A \rightarrow \Gamma$ , and ...

## Extrinsic Semantics

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## **Extrinsic Semantics**

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**Raw Syntax**

## Untyped syntax

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- A functor  $pTm : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$pTm : n \mapsto \text{preterms with } n \text{ free variables}$

- A functor  $pTy : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$pTy : n \mapsto \text{pretypes with } n \text{ free variables}$

And we want to be able to do **substitution of raw terms**.

## Untyped Syntax: Binding

$$pTm : Nat \rightarrow Set , \quad pTy : Nat \rightarrow Set$$

- Substituting term variables in terms

$$\frac{f : n \rightarrow pTm(m)}{\text{bind}_{Tm}(f) : pTm(n) \rightarrow pTm(m)}$$

- Substituting term variables in types

$$\frac{f : n \rightarrow pTm(m)}{\text{bind}_{Ty}(f) : pTy(n) \rightarrow pTy(m)}$$

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$$\frac{f : n \rightarrow pTm(m)}{\text{bind}_{Ty}(f) : pTy(n) \rightarrow pTy(m)}$$

$pTm$  is an  $\iota$ -relative **monad** and  $pTy$  is a **module** over  $pTm$ .

## **Extrinsic Semantics**

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**Typed Syntax**

## Well-typed Syntax: Terms, Types and Typing Derivations

We want to express well-typed terms and types in a context  $\Gamma$  with  $n$  free variables.

Such diagrams in Set:

$$pTm(n) \xleftarrow{tm_\Gamma} wTm_\Gamma \xrightarrow{\Sigma_\Gamma} wTy_\Gamma \xrightarrow{ty_\Gamma} pTy(n)$$

Intuitively:

- $pTm(n)$  ( $pTy(n)$ ) is the set of raw terms (types)

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- We have  $w_1 : \Gamma \vdash t : A$  if  $\exists w_1 \in wTm_\Gamma$  s.t.  $tm_\Gamma(w_1) = t$  and  $ty_\Gamma(\Sigma_\Gamma(w_1)) = A$

## Well-typed Syntax: Substitution

A morphism from  $\Gamma$  to  $\Delta$  is a triple  $\sigma = (\sigma_0, \sigma_{\text{Tm}}, \sigma_{\text{Ty}})$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Gamma & p\text{Tm}(n) & \xleftarrow{\text{tm}_\Gamma} & w\text{Tm}_\Gamma & \xrightarrow{\Sigma_\Gamma} w\text{Ty}_\Gamma \xrightarrow{\text{ty}_\Gamma} p\text{Ty}(n) \\ \sigma \downarrow & \text{bind}_{\text{Tm}}(\sigma_0) \downarrow & & \downarrow \sigma_{\text{Tm}} & \downarrow \sigma_{\text{Ty}} & \downarrow \text{bind}_{\text{Ty}}(\sigma_0) \\ \Delta & p\text{Tm}(m) & \xleftarrow{\text{tm}_\Delta} & w\text{Tm}_\Delta & \xrightarrow{\Sigma_\Delta} w\text{Ty}_\Delta \xrightarrow{\text{ty}_\Delta} p\text{Ty}(m) \end{array}$$

Intuitively: Morphisms capture substitution.

This gives a category  $\mathcal{J}_{p\text{Tm}}$  with an initial object:

$$p\text{Tm}(0) \xleftarrow{\text{var}_{\text{Tm}}} 0 \xlongequal{\quad} 0 \xrightarrow{\emptyset} p\text{Ty}(0)$$

## Putting Things Together

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A discrete subcategory of  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{pTm}}$  called  $\mathcal{J}_M$  with objects:

$$\text{pTm}(n) \xleftarrow{\text{var}_{\text{Tm}}} n = n \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \text{pTy}(n)$$

Intuitively: this is like a precontext,  $n$  variables and their types (a list of length  $n$  of types).

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Intuitively: this is like a precontext,  $n$  variables and their types (a list of length  $n$  of types).

A type theory (extrinsically) is a **relative monad**  $M : \mathcal{J}_M \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_{\text{pTm}}$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{J}_M & \xrightarrow{M} & \mathcal{J}_{\text{pTm}} \\ \pi \searrow & & \swarrow \pi \\ & \text{KI}(\text{pTm}) & \end{array}$$

and some other coherences with  $\text{KI}(\text{pTm})$ .

## Definition

An ExtrinsicCwF consists of:

1. A relative monad  $pTm : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Set}$
2. A relative module  $pTy : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  over  $pTm$
3. A discrete subcategory of  $\mathcal{J}_{pTm}$  called  $\mathcal{J}_M$  ‘with certain sort of objects’
4. A relative monad  $M : \mathcal{J}_M \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_{pTm}$  ‘over’  $Kl(pTm)$

such that

5. ‘empty context’ is in  $\mathcal{J}_M$
6.  $\mathcal{J}_M$  is closed under ‘context extension’

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## Context Extension

For  $\Gamma \in \mathcal{J}_M$ :

$$\text{pTm}(n) \xleftarrow{\text{var}_{\text{Tm}}} n \equiv n \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \text{pTy}(n)$$

and  $A \in \text{Im}(\Gamma)$  we have  $\Gamma.A \in \mathcal{J}_M$ :

$$\text{pTm}(n+1) \xleftarrow{\text{var}_{\text{Tm}_{n+1}}} n+1 \equiv n+1 \xrightarrow{[\Gamma, A]} \text{pTy}(n) \xrightarrow{\text{pTy}(\iota_\ell)} \text{pTy}(n+1)$$

## Some Notation

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Let  $(\text{pTm}, \text{pTy}, \mathcal{J}_M, M)$  be a ExtCwF, and  $\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{J}_M$

1. We write  $\pi : \Gamma \vdash_M A$  type for  $\exists \pi \in \text{wTy}_{M(\Gamma)}$  such that  $\text{ty}_{M(\Gamma)}(\pi) = A$
2. We write  $\pi : \Gamma \vdash_M t : A$  for  $\exists \pi \in \text{wTm}_{M(\Gamma)}$  such that  $\text{tm}_{M(\Gamma)}(\pi) = t$  and  $\text{ty}_{M(\Gamma)}(\Sigma_{M(\Gamma)}(\pi)) = A$
3. We write  $\sigma : \Gamma \rightarrow_M \Delta$  for a morphism  $\sigma : \Gamma \rightarrow \Delta$  in  $\text{Kl}(M)$

$$\text{pTm}(n) \xleftarrow{\text{tm}_\Gamma} \text{wTm}_\Gamma \xrightarrow{\Sigma_\Gamma} \text{wTy}_\Gamma \xrightarrow{\text{ty}_\Gamma} \text{pTy}(n)$$

# Substitution in ExtCwF

## Proposition

In an ExtCwF we have:

$$\frac{\pi : \Gamma \vdash_M A \text{ type} \quad \sigma : \Gamma \rightarrow_M \Delta}{\pi[\sigma] : \Delta \vdash_M A[\sigma] \text{ type}} \quad \frac{\pi : \Gamma \vdash_M t : A \quad \sigma : \Gamma \rightarrow_M \Delta}{\pi[\sigma] : \Delta \vdash_M t[\sigma] : A[\sigma]}$$

## Proposition

In an ExtCwF we have:

$$\frac{\sigma' : \Gamma.A \rightarrow_M \Delta}{\sigma : \Gamma \rightarrow_M \Delta \quad \pi : \Delta \vdash_M t : A[\sigma]}$$

## Bridging the Two Views

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## From Extrinsic to Intrinsic

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We skip defining the (1-)category  $\text{ExtCwF}$ .

We want to build a functor:

$$\text{CwF} \longleftarrow \text{ExtCwF}$$

Here, I only discuss the action on objects.

## From ExtCwF to CwF

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We start from an ExtCwF  $(\text{pTm}, \text{pTy}, \mathcal{J}_M, M)$  and build a CwF  $(\mathcal{C}, \text{Type}, \text{Term}, \text{ext})$ .

- $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\text{KI}(M)^{\text{op}}$  quotiented by equality of the first component of morphisms

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$$\text{Type} : \Gamma_n \mapsto \text{Im}(\text{ty}_{M\Gamma})$$

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$$\text{Term} : (\Gamma_n, A) \mapsto \text{The image under } \text{tm}_{M\Gamma} \text{ of the preimage of } A$$

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- $\text{ext}$  follows from the intuitive context extension discussed before

## Future Directions

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- Define a notion of signature with an interpretation in both **intrinsic** and **extrinsic** views



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- Define a notion of signature with an interpretation in both intrinsic and extrinsic views
- Lift the construction discussed before to this notion of signature



## Future Directions

- Define a notion of signature with an interpretation in both intrinsic and extrinsic views
- Lift the construction discussed before to this notion of signature
- Show that this passage from extrinsic to intrinsic preserves initial objects



**Please Clap!**

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Questions?

-  Dybjer, Peter (1996). “**Internal type theory**”. In: *Types for Proofs and Programs*. Springer Berlin Heidelberg, pp. 120–134. ISBN: 9783540707226. DOI: 10.1007/3-540-61780-9\_66. URL: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/3-540-61780-9\\_66](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/3-540-61780-9_66).