

Finiteness in Cubical Type Theory

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We study five different notions of finiteness in Cubical Type Theory and prove the relationship between them. In particular we show that any totally ordered Kuratowski finite type is manifestly Bishop finite.

We also prove closure properties for each finite type, and classify them topos-theoretically. This includes a proof that the category of decidable Kuratowski finite sets (also called the category of cardinal finite sets) form a Π -pretopos.

We then develop a parallel classification for the countably infinite types, as well as a proof of the countability of A^* for a countable type A .

We formalise our work in Cubical Agda, where we implement a library for proof search (including combinators for level-polymorphic fully generic currying). Through this library we demonstrate a number of uses for the computational content of the univalence axiom, including searching for and synthesising functions. We use this library for proof search to develop a verified algorithm to solve the countdown problem.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Agda, Homotopy Type Theory, Cubical Type Theory, Dependent Types, Finiteness, Topos, Kuratowski finite

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1 INTRODUCTION

We are interested in constructive notions of finiteness, formalised in Cubical Type Theory [Cohen et al. 2016]. In this paper we will explore five such notions of finiteness, including their categorical interpretation, and use them to build a simple proof-search library facilitated in a fundamental way by univalence. Along the way we will use the Countdown problem [Hutton 2002] as an example, and provide a program which produces verified solutions to the puzzle. We will also briefly examine countability, and demonstrate its parallels and differences with finiteness.

1.1 The Varieties of Finiteness

In Section 2 we will explore a number of different predicates for finiteness. In contrast to classical finiteness, in a constructive setting there are many predicates which all have some claim to being the formal interpretation of “finiteness” [Coquand and Spiwack 2010]. The particular predicates we are interested in are organised in Figure 1: each arrow in the diagram represents a proof that one predicate can be derived from another. Each arrow in Figure 1 corresponds to a proof of implication: cardinal finiteness, for instance, with a strict total order, implies split enumerability (Theorem 17).

These finiteness predicates differ along two main axes: informativeness, and restrictiveness. More “informative” predicates have proofs which contain extraneous information other than the finiteness of the underlying type: a proof of split enumerability (Section 2.1), for instance, comes with a strict total order on the underlying type.

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Fig. 1. Classification of finiteness predicates according to whether they are discrete (imply decidable equality) and whether they imply a total order.

The “restrictiveness” of a predicate refers to how many types it admits into its notion of “finite”. There are strictly more Kuratowski finite (Section 2.5) types than there are Cardinally finite (Section 2.3).

Proofs coming with extra information is a common theme in constructive mathematics: often this extra information is in the form of an algorithm which can do something useful related to the proof itself. Indeed, our proofs of finiteness here will provide an algorithm to solve the countdown puzzle. Occasionally, however, the extra information is undesirable: we may want to assert the existence of some value $x : A$ which satisfies a predicate P without revealing *which* A we’re referring to. More concretely, we will need in this paper to prove that two types are in bijection without specifying a particular bijection. This facility is provided by Homotopy Type Theory [Univalent Foundations Program 2013] in the form of propositional truncation, and it is what allows us to prove the bulk of propositions in this paper.

For each predicate we will also prove its closure properties (i.e. that the product of two finite sets is finite). The most significant of these closure proofs is that of closure under Π (dependent functions) (Theorem 26).

1.2 Toposes and Finite Sets

In Section 3, we will explore the categorical interpretation of decidable Kuratowski finite sets. The motivation here is partially a practical one: by the end of this work we will have provided a library for proof search over finite types, and the “language” of a topos is a reasonable choice for a principled language for constructing proofs of finiteness in the style of QuickCheck [Claessen and Hughes 2011] generators.

Theoretically speaking, showing that sets in Homotopy Type Theory form a topos (with some caveats) is an important step in characterising the categorical implications of Homotopy Type Theory, first proven in [Rijke and Spitters 2015]. Our work is a formalisation of this result (and the first such formalisation that we are aware of). The proof that decidable Kuratowski finite sets form a Π -pretopos is additional to that.

1.3 Countability Predicates

After the finite predicates, we will briefly look at the infinite countable types, and classify them in a parallel way to the finite predicates (Section 5). We will see that we lose closure under function arrows, but we gain it under the Kleene star (Theorem 36).

1.4 Search

All of our work is formalised in Cubical Agda [Vezzosi et al. 2019]: as a result, the constructive interpretation of each proof is actually a program which can be run on a computer. In finiteness in particular, these programs are particularly useful for exhaustive search.

We will use the countdown problem as a running example throughout the paper: we will show how to prove that any given puzzle has a finite number of solutions, and from that we will show how to enumerate those solutions, thereby solving the puzzle in a verified way.

In Section 4 we will package up the “search” aspect of finiteness into a library for proof search: similar libraries have been built in [Frumin et al. 2018] and [Firsov and Uustalu 2015]. Our library differs from those in three important ways: firstly, it is strictly more powerful, as it allows for search over function types. Secondly, finiteness proofs also provide equivalence proofs to any other finite type: this allows transport of proofs between types of the same cardinality. Finally, through generic programming we provide a simple syntax for stating properties which mimics that of QuickCheck. We also ground the library in the theoretical notions of omniscience.

1.5 Countdown

The Countdown problem [Hutton 2002] is a well-known puzzle in functional programming (which was apparently turned into a TV show). As a running example in this paper, we will produce a verified program which lists all solutions to a given countdown puzzle: here we will briefly explain the game and our strategy for solving it.

The idea behind countdown is simple: given a list of numbers, contestants must construct an arithmetic expression (using a small set of functions) using some or all of the numbers, to reach some target. Here’s an example puzzle:

1	3	7	10	25	50
765					

(Target)

We’ll allow the use of $+$, $-$, \times , and \div . The answer is at the bottom of this page¹.

Our strategy for finding solutions to a given puzzle is to describe precisely the type of solutions to a puzzle, and then show that that type is finite. So what is a “solution” to a countdown puzzle? Broadly, it has two parts:

A Transformation from a list of numbers to an expression.

A Predicate showing that the expression is valid and evaluates to the target.

The first part is described in Figure 2.

This transformation has four steps. First (Fig. 2a) we have to pick which numbers we include in our solution. We will need to show there are finitely many ways to filter n numbers.

Secondly (Fig. 2b) we have to permute the chosen numbers. The representation for a permutation is a little trickier to envision: proving that it’s finite is trickier still. We will need to rely on some of the more involved lemmas later on for this problem.

¹Answer: $3 - (10 - (50 \times 7 \times (25 - 1)))$


```

197   record  $\Sigma$  (A : Type) a (B : A  $\rightarrow$  Type) b : Type (a  $\ell \sqcup$  b) where
198     constructor  $\rightarrow_{-}$ 
199     field
200       fst : A
201       snd : B fst
202

```

(4)

We will use different notations to refer to this type depending on the setting. The following four expressions all denote the same type:

$$\Sigma A B \quad (5) \quad \Sigma [x : A] B x \quad (6) \quad \exists [x] B x \quad (7) \quad \exists B \quad (8)$$

The non-dependent product is a special instance of the dependent. We denote a simple pair of types A and B as $A \times B$.

Definition 4 (Dependent Product). Dependent products (dependent functions) use the Π symbol. The three following expressions all denote the same type:

$$\Pi A B \quad (9) \quad (x : A) \rightarrow B x \quad (10) \quad \forall x \rightarrow B x \quad (11)$$

Non-dependent functions are denoted with the arrow (\rightarrow).

At this point, as a quick example, we can define the first of our objects for the countdown transformation: the vector of Booleans for selection. A vector is relatively simple to define: a vector of zero elements is simply a unit, a vector of $n + 1$ elements is the product of an element and a vector of n elements.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Vec} &: \text{Type } a \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type } a \\
 \text{Vec } A \text{ zero} &= \top \\
 \text{Vec } A (\text{succ } n) &= A \times \text{Vec } A n
 \end{aligned}
 \quad (12)$$

From this we can see that a vector of n Booleans has the type $\text{Vec Bool } n$

Finally, there is one last thing we must define before moving on to the finiteness predicates: paths.

Definition 5 (Path Types). The equality type (which we denote with \equiv) in CuTT is the type of Paths². The nature and internal structure of Paths is complex and central to how Cubical Type Theory “implements” Homotopy Type Theory, but those details are not relevant to us here. Instead, we only need to know that univalence holds for paths, and path types do indeed compute in Cubical Agda.

2 FINITENESS PREDICATES

In this section, we will define and briefly describe each of the five predicates in Figure 1. We will also explain *why* there are five separate predicates: how can it be the case that so many different things describe “finiteness”? As we will see, some predicates are too informative (they tell us more about the underlying type other than it just being finite), or too restrictive (they don’t allow certain finite types to be classified as finite). These diversions won’t be dead-ends, however: the final predicate we will land on as the “correct” (or, more accurately, most useful) notion of finiteness will be built out of all of the others.

²Actually, CuTT does have an identity type with similar semantics to the identity type in MLTT. We do not use this type anywhere in our work, however, so we will not consider it here.

2.1 Split Enumerability

We will start with a simple notion of finiteness, called split enumerability. This predicate is perhaps the first definition of “finite” that someone might come up with (it’s certainly the most common in dependently-typed programming): put simply, a split enumerable type is a type for which all of its elements can be listed.

Definition 6 (Split Enumerable Set). To say that some type A is split enumerable is to say that there is a list $support : List(A)$ such that any value $x : A$ is in $support$.

$$\mathcal{E}! A = \Sigma [xs : List A] ((x : A) \rightarrow x \in xs) \quad (13)$$

We call the first component of this pair the “support” list, and the second component the “cover” proof. An equivalent version of this predicate was called `Listable` in [Firsov and Uustalu 2015].

Simple as it is, this predicate is arguably the most useful of the finiteness predicates. We will see presently why it doesn’t entirely capture what we mean by the term “finite”, but we will nonetheless use it throughout the paper. Before we dive in to exploring the predicate itself, though, we will need to explain some of the terms we used in its definition.

2.1.1 Terms used in the Definition of Split Enumerability. We have used two types there which we have not yet defined: `List` and \in . We will define them here.

Definition 7 (`List`). In this paper we will work with two equivalent definitions of lists. The first is the standard definition as an inductive type:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data List } (A : \text{Type } a) : \text{Type } a \text{ where} \\ [] : \text{List } A \\ _::_ : A \rightarrow \text{List } A \rightarrow \text{List } A \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The second way to define lists is to define them as a *container*:

$$List = [[\mathbb{N}, Fin]] \quad (15)$$

The reason we use this second strange definition is that it turns out to be quite useful in some later proofs. We have proven the two types equivalent in our formalisation, however, so we can switch between them freely without loss of generality.

In defining lists we have introduced another concept which needs defining: `Fin`.

Definition 8 (`Fin`). `Fin n` is the type of natural numbers smaller than n . We define it the standard way:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fin zero} &= \perp \\ \text{Fin (suc } n) &= \top \uplus \text{Fin } n \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Here \uplus refers to the disjoint union of two types.

Definition 9 (Disjoint Union). We define disjoint union as an inductive type.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data } _ \uplus _ (A : \text{Type } a) (B : \text{Type } b) : \text{Type } (a \sqcup b) \text{ where} \\ \text{inl} : A \rightarrow A \uplus B \\ \text{inr} : B \rightarrow A \uplus B \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

It is also expressible with only Σ :

$$A \uplus B = \Sigma [x : \text{Bool}] \text{ if } x \text{ then } A \text{ else } B \quad (18)$$

Although the inductive type definition is slightly more ergonomic.

After that interlude, we can get back to defining containers.

Definition 10 (Containers). A container [Abbott et al. 2005] is a pair S, P where S is a type, the elements of which are called the *shapes* of the container, and P is a type family on S , where the elements of $P(s)$ are called the *positions* of a container. We “interpret” a container into a functor defined like so:

$$\llbracket S, P \rrbracket X = \Sigma [s : S] (P s \rightarrow X) \quad (19)$$

The definition of container is a little abstract: it is instructive to think of it more concretely for the case of lists. The container representing finite lists is a pair of a natural number n representing the length of the list, and a function $\text{Fin } n \rightarrow A$, representing the indexing function into the list.

Definition 11 (Container Membership). Membership of a container can be defined like so:

$$x \in xs = \text{fiber}(\text{snd } xs) x \quad (20)$$

Where $x \in xs$ is to be read as “ x is in xs ”.

Definition 12 (Fibers). A fiber [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 4.2.4] is defined over some function $f : A \rightarrow B$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fiber} : (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow B \rightarrow \text{Type } _ \\ \text{fiber } f y = \Sigma [x] (f x \equiv y) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Membership also makes more sense when described concretely in terms of lists. Understood this way, $x \in xs$ means “there is an index into xs such that the index points at an item equal to x ”.

2.1.2 Split Surjections. We will now look at how this predicate relates to more traditional, classical notions of finiteness. In a classical setting we likely wouldn’t mention “lists” or the like, and would instead define finiteness based on the existence of some injection or surjection. As it turns out, our definition of finiteness here is precisely the same as the surjection-based one, in quite a deep way!

First, we will need to define our terms: in HoTT, surjections are a little more complex than what you’d find in either MLTT or classical mathematics.

Definition 13 (Split Surjections). We define *split* surjections here [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 4.6.1].

$$\text{SplitSurjective } f = \forall y \rightarrow \text{fiber } f y \quad (22)$$

$$A \twoheadrightarrow! B = \Sigma (A \rightarrow B) \text{ SplitSurjective} \quad (23)$$

Over sets, the surjections and split surjections are the same thing, but there is a difference one we involve non-set types like the circle.

We will now see that split enumerability is in fact a split surjection in another form:

Lemma 1. A proof of split enumerability is equivalent to a split surjection from a finite prefix of the natural numbers.

$$\mathcal{E}! A \Leftrightarrow \Sigma [n : \mathbb{N}] (\text{Fin } n \twoheadrightarrow! A) \quad (24)$$

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PROOF.  $\mathcal{E}! A$   $\equiv \langle \rangle$  Def. 6 ( $\mathcal{E}!$ )
 $\Sigma[ xs : \text{List } A ] ((x : A) \rightarrow x \in xs)$   $\equiv \langle \rangle$  Eqn. 11 ( $\in$ )
 $\Sigma[ xs : \text{List } A ] ((x : A) \rightarrow \text{fiber } (\text{snd } xs) x)$   $\equiv \langle \rangle$  Eqn. 22
 $\Sigma[ xs : \text{List } A ] \text{SplitSurjective } (\text{snd } xs)$   $\equiv \langle \rangle$  Def. 7 ( $\text{List}$ )
 $\Sigma[ xs : [\mathbb{N}, \text{Fin}] A ] \text{SplitSurjective } (\text{snd } xs)$   $\equiv \langle \rangle$  Eqn. 19
 $\Sigma[ xs : \Sigma[ n : \mathbb{N} ] (\text{Fin } n \rightarrow A) ] \text{SplitSurjective } (\text{snd } xs) \equiv \langle \text{reassoc} \rangle$  Reassociation
 $\Sigma[ n : \mathbb{N} ] \Sigma[ f : (\text{Fin } n \rightarrow A) ] \text{SplitSurjective } f \equiv \langle \rangle$  Eqn. 23
 $\Sigma[ n : \mathbb{N} ] (\text{Fin } n \rightarrow! A) \blacksquare$ 

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In the above proof syntax the $\equiv \langle \rangle$ connects lines which are definitionally equal, i.e. they are “obviously” equal from the type checker’s perspective. Clearly, only one line isn’t a definitional equality:

$$\text{reassoc} : \Sigma (\Sigma A B) C \Leftrightarrow \Sigma[x : A] \Sigma[y : B x] C(x, y) \quad (25)$$

(The simplicity of this proof, by the way, is why we preferred the container-based definition of lists over the traditional one.)

2.1.3 Instances. We have now characterised the informativeness of split enumerability (it’s the same as a split surjection), so we should also look at its *restrictiveness*. For this we’ll first look at some simple types which are clearly finite, and we’ll see how to prove that’s the fact using split enumerability.

Lemma 2. \perp , \top , and Bool are split enumerable.

PROOF. These three types are quite obviously finite: we will show only the proof of finiteness for Bool here for brevity’s sake.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle : \mathcal{E}! \text{Bool} \\
\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{fst} &= [\text{false} , \text{true}] \\
\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd } \text{false} &= 0 , \text{refl} \\
\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd } \text{true} &= 1 , \text{refl}
\end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

■

As a slightly more complex example, consider the Fin type we’ve been using. Remember that split enumerability is in fact the same as a split surjection from Fin (Lemma 1): to show that Fin is split enumerable, then, we need only show that it has a split surjection from itself. We’ll prove the following slightly more general statement:

Lemma 3. Every type has a split surjection into itself: the identity function.

PROOF. We provide the simple proof here in Agda:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rightarrow!-\text{id} : A \rightarrow! A \\
\rightarrow!-\text{id} .\text{fst} &= \text{id} \\
\rightarrow!-\text{id} .\text{snd } y .\text{fst} &= y \\
\rightarrow!-\text{id} .\text{snd } y .\text{snd } _ &= y
\end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

■

2.1.4 *Decidable Equality*. We have seen now some examples of types which *are* split enumerable, but we haven't yet explored the space of types which *aren't*. Clearly this includes obviously infinite types like \mathbb{N} , but it's the non-set types we're interested in for now. Certainly these can be finite in some sense, but can they be split enumerable?

As our running example of a non-set type we will use the circle:

Definition 14 (S^1). The circle, S^1 , can be represented in HoTT as a higher inductive type.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data } S^1 : \text{Type}_0 \text{ where} \\ \text{base} : S^1 \\ \text{loop} : \text{base} \equiv \text{base} \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

HITs are introduced later on. The definition should be moved to here

The presence of the `loop` constructor is what precludes this type from being a set. In sets, all paths are equal: in this type, `loop` is a path which is not equal to the usual identity path.

Any attempt to prove that this type is split enumerable will run into trouble: our task here, then, is to show that such a proof is impossible. To do so we will first remember Hedberg's theorem [Hedberg 1998]:

Theorem 4 (Hedberg's Theorem). Every discrete type is a set.

We will in a moment explain what "discrete" means, but first we should notice that his theorem gives us a possible avenue to prove that the circle is not split enumerable. We know, for instance, that the circle is *not* a set. If we can show, then, that every split enumerable type is discrete, we will have excluded the circle (and indeed any other non-set type).

proof/reference for this?

Of course this doesn't make much sense without defining discrete: it turns out it's just HoTT-specific language for a concept more usually known as "decidable equality".

Definition 15 (Discrete Types). A discrete type is one with decidable equality.

$$\text{Discrete } A = (x \ y : A) \rightarrow \text{Dec } (x \equiv y) \quad (29)$$

Of course we also will need to explain what we mean by "decidable".

Definition 16 (Decidable Types). If some proposition is decidable it means that it is proven true or false. We can encapsulate this with a data type³:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data Dec } (A : \text{Type } a) : \text{Type } a \text{ where} \\ \text{yes} : A \rightarrow \text{Dec } A \\ \text{no} : \neg A \rightarrow \text{Dec } A \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

A proof of type `Dec A` is a proof that A is either true or false.

So now we have our task in focus: we need to prove that split enumerability implies decidable equality. We will do that by first describing split enumerability in terms of injections.

Definition 17 (Injections). Injective functions are more straightforward to define constructively than surjective ones:

$$\text{Injective } f = \forall x \ y \rightarrow f x \equiv f y \rightarrow x \equiv y \quad (31)$$

$$A \hookrightarrow B = \Sigma[f : (A \rightarrow B)] (\text{Injective } f) \quad (32)$$

This proof could be presented a lot better, I think

³This is not, as it happens, the definition of `Dec` you will find in Agda's standard library. The version of the type that exists there is a good deal more complicated (for computational reasons), although its interface behaves

Lemma 5. A split-surjection from A to B implies an injection from B to A .

$$A \twoheadrightarrow! B \rightarrow B \hookrightarrow A \quad (33)$$

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} A \twoheadrightarrow! B &\Rightarrow B \rightarrow A \text{ (f, surj) .fst } x = \text{surj } x \text{ .fst} \\ A \twoheadrightarrow! B &\Rightarrow B \rightarrow A \text{ (f, surj) .snd } x \text{ y } f^1 \langle x \rangle \equiv f^1 \langle y \rangle = \\ &x \quad \quad \quad \equiv \langle \text{surj } x \text{ .snd} \rangle \\ f(\text{surj } x \text{ .fst}) &\equiv \langle \text{cong } f f^1 \langle x \rangle \equiv f^1 \langle y \rangle \rangle \\ f(\text{surj } y \text{ .fst}) &\equiv \langle \text{surj } y \text{ .snd} \rangle \\ y &\blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 6. For any type A which injects into a discrete type B , A is discrete.

$$A \hookrightarrow B \rightarrow \text{Discrete } B \rightarrow \text{Discrete } A \quad (34)$$

Lemma 7. If a discrete type A has a split surjection into some type B , B is discrete.

$$A \twoheadrightarrow! B \rightarrow \text{Discrete } A \rightarrow \text{Discrete } B \quad (35)$$

PROOF. This proof is can be straightforwardly derived from lemmas 5 and 6. ■

Lemma 8. Every split enumerable type is discrete.

PROOF. Let A be a split enumerable type. By lemma 1, there is a surjection from $\text{Fin } n$ for some n . Also, we know that $\text{Fin } n$ is discrete (proven in our formalisation). Therefore, by lemma 7, A is discrete. ■

2.2 Manifest Bishop Finiteness

We mentioned in the introduction that occasionally in constructive mathematics proofs will contain “too much” information. With split enumerability we can see an instance of this. Consider the following proof of the finiteness of `bool`:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}! \langle 2 \rangle &: \mathcal{E}! \text{ Bool} \\ \mathcal{E}! \langle 2 \rangle \text{ .fst} &= [\text{false} , \text{true} , \text{false}] \\ \mathcal{E}! \langle 2 \rangle \text{ .snd false} &= 0 , \text{ refl} \\ \mathcal{E}! \langle 2 \rangle \text{ .snd true} &= 1 , \text{ refl} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

There is an extra `false` at the end of the support list. There’s nothing terribly wrong with that: it is still a valid proof of finiteness, after all, but it does mean that this proof has some extra information which we didn’t necessarily intend to encode.

There is “slop” in the type of split enumerability: there are more distinct values than there are *usefully* distinct values. To reconcile this, we will disallow duplicates in the support list.

This is where manifest Bishop finiteness comes in: this is a definition of finiteness quite similar to split enumerability in other regards, except that it does not allow for duplicates in the support list.

How exactly to prohibit duplicates is the next question. One approach might be to change the definition of `List`, or introduce a new type `NoDupList`, and use it in the predicate instead. However, this would mean we lose access to the functions we have defined on lists, and we have to change the definition of `∈` as well.

There is a much simpler and more elegant solution: we insist that every *membership proof* must be unique. This would disallow a definition of $\mathcal{E}! \text{ Bool}$ with duplicates, as there are multiple values which inhabit the type $\text{false} \in [\text{false}, \text{true}, \text{false}]$. It also allows us to keep most of the split enumerability definition unchanged, just adding a condition to the returned membership proof in the cover proof.

To specify that a value must exist uniquely in HoTT we can use the concept of a *contraction*.

Definition 18 (Homotopy Levels). Types in HoTT and CuTT are not necessarily sets, as they are in MLTT. Some have higher homotopies (paths which aren't unique). We actually have a hierarchy of complexity of structure of path spaces in types, starting with the contractions [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 3.11.1], then the mere propositions [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 3.3.1], and the sets [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 3.1.1].

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isContr } A &= \Sigma[x : A] \forall y \rightarrow x \equiv y \\ \text{isProp } A &= (x y : A) \rightarrow x \equiv y \\ \text{isSet } A &= (x y : A) \rightarrow \text{isProp } (x \equiv y) \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Definition 19 (Unique Membership). Unique list membership is defined in terms of list membership: it is a contraction of it.

$$x \in! xs = \text{isContr } (x \in xs) \tag{38}$$

With this we can define manifest Bishop finiteness:

Definition 20 (Manifest Bishop Finiteness). A type is manifest Bishop finite if there exists a list which contains each value in the type once.

$$\mathcal{B} A = \Sigma[xs : \text{List } A] ((x : A) \rightarrow x \in! xs) \tag{39}$$

The only difference between manifest Bishop finiteness and split enumerability is the membership term: here we require unique membership ($\in!$), rather than simple membership (\in).

We use the word “manifest” here to distinguish from another common interpretation of Bishop finiteness, which we have called cardinal finiteness in this paper. The “manifest” refers to the fact that we have a concrete, non-truncated list of the elements in the proof.

2.2.1 The Relationship Between Manifest Bishop Finiteness and Split Enumerability. While manifest Bishop finiteness might seem stronger than split enumerability, it turns out this is not the case. Both predicates imply the other.

Lemma 9. Any manifest Bishop finite type is split enumerable.

PROOF. To construct a proof of split enumerability from one of manifest Bishop finiteness, it suffices to convert a proof of $x \in! xs$ to one of $x \in xs$, for all x and xs . Since $\in!$ is defined as a contraction of \in , such a conversion is simply the fst function. ■

Lemma 10. Any split enumerable set is manifest Bishop finite.

This proof takes significantly more work. The “unique membership” condition in \mathcal{B} means that we are not permitted duplicates in the support list. The first step in the proof, then, is to filter those duplicates out from the support list of the $\mathcal{E}!$ proof: we can do this using the decidable equality

provided by $\mathcal{E}!$ (lemma 8). From there, we need to show that the membership proof carries over appropriately.

We have now proved that every manifestly Bishop finite type is split enumerable, and vice versa. While the types are not *equivalent* (there are more split enumerable proofs than there are manifest Bishop finite proofs), they are of equal power.

2.2.2 From Manifest Bishop Finiteness to Equivalence. We have seen that split enumerability was in fact a split-surjection in disguise. We will now see that manifest Bishop finiteness is in fact an *equivalence* in disguise.

Definition 21 (Equivalences). We will take contractible maps [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 4.4.1] as our “default” definition of equivalences.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{isEquiv} &: (f: A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \text{Type } _ \\ \text{isEquiv } f &= (y: B) \rightarrow \text{isContr}(\text{fiber } f y) \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

$$A \simeq B = \Sigma[f: (A \rightarrow B)] \text{isEquiv } f \quad (41)$$

Lemma 11. Manifest bishop finiteness is equivalent to an equivalence to a finite prefix of the natural numbers.

(42)

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}(A) &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), x \in! xs && \text{def. 20 } (\mathcal{B}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), \text{isContr}(x \in xs) && \text{eqn. 19 } (\in!) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), \text{isContr}(\text{fib}_{\text{snd}(xs)}(x)) && \text{eqn. 11 } (\in) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \text{isEquiv}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{eqn. 40 } (\text{isEquiv}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : [\mathbb{N}, \mathbf{Fin}](A)), \text{isEquiv}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{def. 7 } (\mathbf{List}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), \Pi(i : \mathbf{Fin } n), A), \text{isEquiv}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{eqn. 19 } ([\cdot]) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), \Sigma(f : \mathbf{Fin } n \rightarrow A), \text{isEquiv}(f) && \text{Reassociation of } \Sigma \\ &\simeq \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), (\mathbf{Fin } n \simeq A) && \text{eqn. 41 } (\simeq) \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

This proof is almost identical⁴ to the proof for lemma 1: it reveals that enumeration-based finiteness predicates are simply another perspective on relation-based ones.

As we are working in CuTT, a proof of equivalence between two types gives us the ability to *transport* proofs from one type to the other. This is extremely powerful, as we will see.

2.3 Cardinal Finiteness

While we have removed some of the unnecessary information from our finiteness predicates, one piece still remains. The two following proofs are both valid proofs of the finiteness of \mathbf{Bool} , and both do not include any duplicates:

⁴Unfortunately in our formalisation this proof cannot be a single line: for performance reasons \simeq is defined as a record type with eta-equality disabled, instead of the definition here which uses Σ .

Provide more info on this proof?

Convert to Agda

$\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle : \mathcal{E}! \text{ Bool}$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{fst} = [\text{false} , \text{true}]$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd false} = 0 , \text{refl}$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd true} = 1 , \text{refl}$	$\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle : \mathcal{E}! \text{ Bool}$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{fst} = [\text{true} , \text{false}]$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd false} = 1 , \text{refl}$ $\mathcal{E}!\langle 2 \rangle .\text{snd true} = 0 , \text{refl}$
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Clearly they're not the same though: the order of their support lists differs. Each finiteness predicate so far has contained an *ordering* of the underlying type. For our purposes, this is too much information: it means that when constructing the “category of finite sets” later on, instead of each type having one canonical representative, it will have $n!$, where n is the cardinality of the type⁵.

To remedy the problem, we will use propositional truncation (def. 23).

Definition 22 (Higher Inductive Types). Normal inductive types have *point* constructors: constructors which construct values of the type. Higher Inductive Types (HITs) also have *path* constructors: ways to construct paths in the type.

Definition 23 (Propositional Truncation). The type $\|A\|$ on some type A is a propositionally truncated proof of A [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, 3.7]. In other words, it is a proof that some A exists, but it does not tell you *which* A .

It is defined as a Higher Inductive Type:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{data } \|_ \| \ (A : \text{Type } a) : \text{Type } a \text{ where} \\
 &\quad \lfloor _ \rfloor : A \rightarrow \|A\| \\
 &\quad \text{squash} : (x\ y : \|A\|) \rightarrow x \equiv y
 \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

We will use two eliminators from $\|A\|$ in this paper.

- (1) For any function $A \rightarrow B$, where $\text{isProp}(B)$, we have a function $\|A\| \rightarrow B$.
- (2) We can eliminate from $\|A\|$ with a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ iff f “doesn’t care” about the choice of A :

$$\Pi(x, y : A), f(x) \equiv f(y)$$

Formally speaking, f needs to be “coherently constant” [Kraus 2015], and B needs to be an n -type for some finite n .

Definition 24 (Cardinal Finiteness). A type A is cardinally finite if there exists a propositionally truncated proof that A is manifest Bishop finite or equivalent to a finite prefix of the natural numbers.

$$C(A) := \|\mathcal{B}(A)\| \simeq \|\Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), (\text{Fin } n \simeq A)\| \tag{44}$$

At first glance, it might seem that we lose any useful properties we could derive from \mathcal{B} . Luckily, this is not the case: by eliminator 2 of def. 23, we need only show that the output is uniquely determined.

2.3.1 Deriving Uniquely-Determined Quantities. The following two lemmas are proven in [Yorgey 2014] (Proposition 2.4.9 and 2.4.10, respectively), in much the same way as we have done here. Our contribution for this section is simply the formalisation.

Lemma 12. Given a cardinally finite type, we can derive the type’s cardinality, as well as a propositionally truncated proof of equivalence with **Fins** of the same cardinality.

$$C(A) \rightarrow \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), \|\text{Fin}(n) \simeq A\| \tag{45}$$

⁵We actually do get a category (a groupoid, even) from manifest Bishop finiteness [Yorgey 2014]: it’s the groupoid of finite sets equipped with a linear order, whose morphisms are order-preserving bijections. We do not explore this particular construction in any detail.

PROOF. Let A be a cardinal-finite type, with proof $F : C(A)$. Our task is to extract a natural number $n : \mathbb{N}$ representing the cardinality of A , and a propositionally-truncated proof that A is equivalent to $\text{Fin } n$.

Extracting the second component of the pair is trivial, as it itself is truncated. We will now focus on extracting the cardinality.

Without the propositional truncation, fst would suffice for this task. Given that the pair is hidden under the truncation, then, we need a way to convert a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ to $g : \|A\| \rightarrow B$. This is precisely what eliminator 2 gives us. For our case, we need to show the following:

$$\frac{(n : \mathbb{N}) \quad (p : \text{Fin } n \simeq A) \quad (m : \mathbb{N}) \quad (q : \text{Fin}(m) \simeq A)}{n \equiv m} \quad (46)$$

Immediately we can construct the following term:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fin } n &\simeq A & (p) \\ &\simeq \text{Fin}(m)(q) \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

Given univalence we have $\text{Fin } n \equiv \text{Fin}(m)$, and the rest of our task is to prove:

$$\frac{\text{Fin } n \equiv \text{Fin}(m)}{n \equiv m} \quad (48)$$

This is a well-known chestnut in dependently-typed programming, and one that has a surprisingly tricky and complex proof. We do not include it here, since it has already been explored elsewhere, but it is present in our formalisation. ■

In order to prove that cardinal finiteness implies decidable equality, we will need to show that decidable equality itself is a proposition. In doing that we will use the following lemma:

Lemma 13. We can “refute” a propositionally-truncated proof of some proposition with a proof that the non-truncated proposition is false.

$$\frac{\neg A \quad \|A\|}{\perp} \quad (49)$$

PROOF. We know we can eliminate from any value of type $\|A\|$ into some B with a function $A \rightarrow B$ if B is a proposition. That’s precisely what we do in this case: $\neg A$ is a function of type $A \rightarrow \perp$, and we know that \perp is a proposition. ■

Lemma 14. Any cardinal-finite set has decidable equality.

PROOF. Since we can already derive decidable equality from a proof of manifest Bishop finiteness, it suffices to show that decidable equality is itself a proposition.

$$\text{isProp}(\Pi(x, y : A), \text{Dec}(x \equiv y)) \quad (50)$$

First, it is clear that $x \equiv y$ is a proposition: since the type A has decidable equality, by Hedburg’s theorem it is a set, meaning precisely that $x \equiv y$ is a proposition.

Secondly, we know that any decision over a proposition is itself a proposition. For any two terms $x, y : \text{Dec}(A)$ we cannot have the case that one is a yes decision and the other is no: from that we could derive \perp . If both are no then they are both equal since $A \rightarrow \perp$ is a proposition through function extensionality. And finally if both are yes then we know they must be equal because the type decided over is itself a proposition.

Finally, since we know that $\text{Dec}(x \equiv y)$ is a proposition, we can derive that $\Pi(x, y : A), \text{Dec}(x \equiv y)$ is a proposition (through function extensionality), proving our goal. ■

2.3.2 *Restrictiveness*. So far our explorations into finiteness predicates have pushed us in the direction of “less informative”: however, as mentioned in the introduction, we can *also* ask how *restrictive* certain predicates are. Since split enumerability and manifest Bishop finiteness imply each other we know that there can be no type which satisfies one but not the other. We also know that manifest Bishop finiteness implies cardinal finiteness, but we do *not* have a function in the other direction:

$$C(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(A) \quad (51)$$

So the question arises naturally: is there a cardinally finite type which is *not* manifest Bishop finite?

It turns out the answer is no!

Lemma 15.

$$\neg(\Sigma(A : \text{Type}), C(A) \times \neg \mathcal{B}(A)) \quad (52)$$

PROOF. We will actually prove a slightly more general statement. For any type A , the following holds:

$$\neg(\|A\| \times \neg A) \quad (53)$$

The solution becomes more clear if we write out the definition of \neg :

$$\frac{\|A\| \quad A \rightarrow \perp}{\perp} \quad (54)$$

We clearly need to apply a function of type $A \rightarrow \perp$ to a value of type $\|A\|$. Luckily, this is permissible, as \perp is a mere proposition. ■

2.3.3 *Going from Cardinal Finiteness to Manifest Bishop Finiteness*.

Lemma 16. Any manifest Bishop finite type is cardinal finite.

Theorem 17. Any cardinal finite type with a total order is Bishop finite.

The proof for this particular theorem is quite involved in the formalisation, so we only give its sketch here. First, note that we actually convert to manifest enumerability first: this can be converted to split enumerability with decidable equality, which is provided by cardinal finiteness.

Next, we define permutations.

Definition 25 (List Permutations). Two lists are permutations of each other if their membership proofs are all equivalent⁶[Danielsson 2012].

$$xs \rightsquigarrow ys = \Pi(x : A), x \in xs \simeq x \in ys \quad (55)$$

Next, we define a sort function which relies on the provided total order. We further prove the following fact about this sort function:

$$\Pi(xs, ys : \text{List}(A)), xs \rightsquigarrow ys \rightarrow \text{sort}(xs) \equiv \text{sort}(ys) \quad (56)$$

Next, notice that the support lists of any two proofs of manifest Bishop finiteness must be permutations of each other. This will allow us to sort the support list of a proof of cardinal finiteness in a coherently constant (definition 23, eliminator 2) way, pulling the support list out from the truncation. The cover proof emerges naturally from the definition of the permutation.

⁶The definition in [Danielsson 2012] and our formalisation is slightly different: we say permutations are lists with *isomorphic* membership proofs. The distinction, as it happens, does not affect our work here.

2.4 Manifest Enumerability

We have now explored quite far in the “less informative” direction. However, all three predicates we have examined are equally *restrictive*: in this section we will see a predicate which is much less restrictive. In particular, this predicate ranges over non-set types.

Definition 26 (Manifest Enumerability). Manifest enumerability is an enumeration predicate like Bishop finiteness or split enumerability with the only difference being a propositionally truncated membership proof.

$$\mathcal{E}(A) := \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), \|x \in xs\| \quad (57)$$

As a function-based definition, this predicate represents surjections.

Definition 27 (Surjections). We define proper surjections (not split surjections) here [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, definition 4.6.1].

$$\text{surj}(f) := \Pi(y : B), \|\text{fib}_f(y)\| \quad (58)$$

$$A \twoheadrightarrow B := \Sigma(f : A \rightarrow B), \text{surj}(f) \quad (59)$$

Lemma 18. Manifest enumerability is equivalent to a surjection from a finite prefix of the natural numbers.

$$\mathcal{E}(A) \simeq \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), (\mathbf{Fin} \, n \twoheadrightarrow A) \quad (60)$$

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}(A) &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), \|x \in xs\| && \text{def. 6 } (\mathcal{E}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \Pi(x : A), \|\text{fib}_{\text{snd}(xs)}(x)\| && \text{eqn. 11 } (\in) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{List}(A)), \text{surj}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{eqn. 58 } (\text{surj}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \llbracket \mathbb{N}, \mathbf{Fin} \rrbracket(A)), \text{surj}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{def. 7 } (\mathbf{List}) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(xs : \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), \Pi(i : \mathbf{Fin} \, n), A), \text{surj}(\text{snd}(xs)) && \text{eqn. 19 } (\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket) \\ &\simeq \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), \Sigma(f : \mathbf{Fin} \, n \rightarrow A), \text{surj}(f) && \text{Reassociation of } \Sigma \\ &\simeq \Sigma(n : \mathbb{N}), (\mathbf{Fin} \, n \twoheadrightarrow A) && \text{eqn. 59 } (\twoheadrightarrow) \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

2.4.1 Instances for Non-Set Types. The truncation has another very important implication: it means that the predicate doesn’t provide decidable equality on the underlying type. Remember, this is how we knew that our previous predicates wouldn’t allow for non-set types: because they implied decidable equality, they also implied that all conforming types had homotopy levels of at most 2. This suggests that non-set types like the circle could conform to this finiteness predicate.

Lemma 19. The circle S^1 is manifestly enumerable.

PROOF. The support list firstly is a list containing the point constructor for the circle. Since the cover proof is truncated, we need only consider the point constructors of the circle: as such, the cover proof is essentially the same as the one for $\mathcal{E}!(\mathbb{T})$. \blacksquare

2.4.2 Relation To Split Enumerability. It is trivially easy to construct a proof that any split enumerable type is manifest enumerable: we simply truncate the membership proof. Going the other way requires us to extract a non-truncated proof from a truncated one. This proof relies on the following lemma:

Lemma 20. We can “recompute” a truncated proof given a decision over a proof of the same type.

$$\frac{\|A\| \quad \mathbf{Dec}(A)}{A} \quad (61)$$

PROOF. We proceed by case-analysis over the decision over A . In the case where A is proven, we are done. In the case where A is disproven, we use lemma 13 to derive impossibility. ■

Lemma 21. A manifestly enumerable type with decidable equality is split enumerable.

PROOF. The only difference between manifest enumerability and split enumerability is the membership proof: therefor our goal for this proof is to construct a function of the following type:

$$\|x \in xs\| \rightarrow x \in xs \quad (62)$$

Given decidable equality over the type of x .

We do this using the previous recompute lemma: that tells us that all we need to construct is a decision for $x \in xs$, and it will be able to derive the proof itself. Such a decision procedure is not difficult to construct: for any value x and list xs , we proceed through the list xs , testing if x is equal to any of its contents. If it is, we return that we have proven the goal, and that x is indeed present in xs . Otherwise, we know that x cannot be in xs (since we've tested every value), so we return that the goal has been disproven. ■

2.5 Kuratowski Finiteness

The one big missing definition of finiteness to cover is *Kuratowski* finiteness. While it's quite important, it's also quite different from the definitions we've seen so far. It starts with an encoding of the free join semilattice.

Definition 28 (Free Join Semilattice). $\mathcal{K}(A)$ is the free join semilattice, or, alternatively, the type of Kuratowski-finite subsets of A .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}(A) := [] & : \mathcal{K}(A); \\ | \cdot :: \cdot & : A \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(A); \\ | \text{com} : \Pi(x, y : A), \Pi(xs : \mathcal{K}(A)), x :: y :: xs \equiv y :: x :: xs; \\ | \text{dup} : \Pi(x : A), \Pi(xs : \mathcal{K}(A)), x :: x :: xs \equiv x :: xs; \\ | \text{trunc} : \Pi(xs, ys : \mathcal{K}(A)), \Pi(p, q : xs \equiv ys), p \equiv q; \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

We define it as a HIT (definition 22). The first two constructors are point constructors, giving ways to create values of type $\mathcal{K}(A)$. They are also recognisable as the two constructors for finite lists, a type which represents the free monoid.

The next two constructors add extra paths to the type: equations that usage of the type must obey. These extra paths turn the free monoid into the free *commutative* (com) *idempotent* (dup) monoid.

The final constructor enforces that the type $\mathcal{K}(A)$ must be a set.

The Kuratowski finite subset is a free join semilattice (or, equivalently, a free commutative idempotent monoid). More prosaically, \mathcal{K} is the abstract data type for finite sets, as defined in the Boom hierarchy [Boom 1981; Bunkenburg 1994]. However, rather than just being a specification, \mathcal{K} is fully usable as a data type in its own right, thanks to HITs.

Other definitions of \mathcal{K} exist (such as the one in [Frumin et al. 2018]) which make the fact that \mathcal{K} is the free join semilattice more obvious. We have included such a definition in our formalisation, and proven it equivalent to the one above.

Next, we need a way to say that an entire type is Kuratowski finite. For that, we will need to define membership of \mathcal{K} .

Definition 29 (Membership of \mathcal{K}). Membership is defined by pattern-matching on \mathcal{K} . The two point constructors are handled like so:

$$\begin{aligned} x \in [] &:= \perp; \\ x \in y :: ys &:= \|x \equiv y \uplus x \in ys\|; \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

The com and dup constructors are handled by proving that the truncated form of \uplus is itself commutative and idempotent. The type of propositions is itself a set, satisfying the trunc constructor.

Finally, we have enough background to define Kuratowski finiteness.

Definition 30 (Kuratowski Finiteness).

$$\mathcal{K}^f(A) = \Sigma(xs : \mathcal{K}(A)), \Pi(x : A), x \in xs \quad (65)$$

We also have the following two lemmas, proven in both [Frumin et al. 2018] and our formalisation.

Lemma 22. \mathcal{K}^f is a mere proposition.

Lemma 23. This circle S^1 is Kuratowski finite.

2.5.1 Relation to Cardinal Finiteness.

Lemma 24. Cardinal finiteness is equivalent to Kuratowski finiteness over a discrete set.

$$C(A) \simeq \mathcal{K}^f(A) \times \text{Discrete}(A) \quad (66)$$

This proof is constructed by providing a pair of functions: one from $C(A)$ to $\mathcal{K}^f(A) \times \text{Discrete}(A)$, and one the other way. This pair implies an equivalence, because both source and target are propositions. The actual functions themselves are proven in our formalisation, as well as in [Frumin et al. 2018].

3 TOPOS

In this section we will examine the categorical interpretation of finite sets. In particular, we will prove that decidable Kuratowski finite types form a Π -pretopos. A lot of the work for this proof has been done already: in Theorem 24 we saw that Kuratowski finite types were equivalent to Cardinally finite types. We will use the latter definition implementation-wise from now on, as it is slightly easier to work with: CuTT's transport means we can do this without loss of generality.

3.1 Categories in HoTT

3.2 Closure

3.2.1 Split Enumerability Closure. Now that we have a suitable definition of finiteness, we will next prove that some things are finite. With the most basic simple types out of the way, the obvious next choice is the (non-dependent) sums and products: \uplus and \times . Both of these types can be constructed from the *dependent* sum, however, so that is the type we will prove finite. From that we can derive a much wider array of finiteness proofs.

Lemma 25. Split enumerability is closed under Σ .

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}! A \quad (x : A) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}!(U x)}{\mathcal{E}!(\Sigma [x:A] U x)} \quad (67)$$

PROOF. Let A be a type which is split enumerable, and U be a type family over A which is split enumerable at every point. Formally, we have the following proofs:

$$\mathcal{E}!_A : \mathcal{E}!(A) \quad (68)$$

$$\mathcal{E}!_U : \Pi(x : A), \mathcal{E}!(U(x)) \quad (69)$$

This is just the closure bits pulled over from the finiteness predicates section. They need to be re-worked to fit in here.

Convert to Agda

Our task is to construct a proof of type:

$$\mathcal{E}!(\Sigma(x : A), U(x)) \quad (70)$$

This proof itself is composed of two components:

$$\text{support} : \text{List}(\Sigma(x : A), U(x)) \quad (71)$$

$$\text{cover} : \Pi(x : \Sigma(y : A), U(y)), x \in \text{support} \quad (72)$$

To construct the support list, we apply the function $\mathcal{E}!_U$ to every element in the support list of $\mathcal{E}!_A$, extract the support lists from the resulting finiteness proofs, and concatenate them.

To prove that this support list does in fact cover the entirety of the type $\Sigma A U$, we note that any element of type $\Sigma A U$ must have a first component in the support list of $\mathcal{E}!_A$, and its second component must be in the result of applying $\mathcal{E}!_U$ to that first element (since that support list contains every element of type $U(x)$). Therefore, the pair itself must be in our constructed support list. ■

This pattern of applying a function to each element in a list and concatenating the result is of course well-known in functional programming, and is in fact the pattern that makes lists a monad. While this insight isn't strictly relevant to our work here, it does mean the implementation of this function can use Agda's `do` notation, resulting in the following extremely clean implementation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sup-}\Sigma &: \text{List } A \rightarrow \\ &((x : A) \rightarrow \text{List } (U x)) \rightarrow \\ &\text{List } (\Sigma A U) \\ \text{sup-}\Sigma \text{ xs ys} &= \text{do } x \leftarrow \text{xs} \\ &\quad y \leftarrow \text{ys } x \\ &\quad [x, y] \end{aligned} \quad (73)$$

We now have two components we'll need for the proof that the countdown transformation is finite. The component we'll look at is step 2c: selection of the operators. We'll first need a type representing the operators available to us.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data Op} &: \text{Type}_0 \text{ where} \\ +', \times', -, \div' &: \text{Op} \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

Proving that this type is finite takes much the same form as the proof of finiteness for `bool`.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle &: \mathcal{E}! \text{ Op} \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle .\text{fst} &= +', \times', -, \div' :: \div' :: [] \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle .\text{snd } +' &= 0, \text{ refl} \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle .\text{snd } \times' &= 1, \text{ refl} \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle .\text{snd } -' &= 2, \text{ refl} \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Op} \rangle .\text{snd } \div' &= 3, \text{ refl} \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

Next, we will need to build a proof of finiteness for vectors of length n . This uses the proof of finiteness for Σ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Vec} \rangle &: \mathcal{E}! A \rightarrow \mathcal{E}! (\text{Vec } A n) \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Vec} \rangle \{n = \text{zero}\} \mathcal{E}!\langle A \rangle &= \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{PolyT} \rangle \\ \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Vec} \rangle \{n = \text{suc } n\} \mathcal{E}!\langle A \rangle &= \mathcal{E}!\langle A \rangle \times \mathcal{E}!\langle \text{Vec} \rangle \mathcal{E}!\langle A \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

3.2.2 *Manifest Bishop Closure Under Π* . The glaring omission from our closure proofs under type formers so far has been the Π type: we have not proved closure under functions, dependent or otherwise. In MLTT, this is of course not provable: since all of the finiteness predicates we have seen so far imply decidable equality, and since we don't have any kind of decidable equality on functions in MLTT, we know that we won't be able to show that any kind of function is finite; even one like $\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool}$.

CuTT is not so restricted. Since we have things like function extensionality and transport, we can indeed prove the finiteness of function types. Our proof here makes use directly of the univalence axiom, and makes use furthermore of all the previous closure proofs. We will prove this closure on split enumerability, rather than on manifest Bishop finiteness, as it requires slightly less legwork in the proof itself, but of course we can derive the proof on manifest Bishop finiteness in a few lines.

Theorem 26. Split enumerability is closed under dependent functions. (Π -types).

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}!(A) \quad \Pi(x : A), \mathcal{E}!(U(x))}{\mathcal{E}!(\Pi(x : A), U(x))} \quad (77)$$

PROOF. Let A be a split enumerable type, and U be a type family from A , which is split enumerable over all points of A .

As A is split enumerable, we know that it is also manifestly Bishop finite (lemma 10), and consequently we know $A \simeq \text{Fin } n$, for some n (lemma 11). We can therefore replace all occurrences of A with $\text{Fin } n$, changing our goal to:

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}!(\text{Fin } n) \quad \Pi(x : \text{Fin } n), \mathcal{E}!(U(x))}{\mathcal{E}!(\Pi(x : \text{Fin } n), U(x))} \quad (78)$$

We then define the type of n -tuples over some type family $T : \text{Fin } n \rightarrow \text{Type}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tuple}(0, T) &:= \top \\ \text{Tuple}(n+1, T) &:= T(0) \times \text{Tuple}(n, T \circ \text{suc}) \end{aligned} \quad (79)$$

We can show that this type is equivalent to functions (proven in our formalisation):

$$\Pi(x : \text{Fin } n), U(x) \simeq \text{Tuple}(n, U) \quad (80)$$

And therefore we can simplify again our goal to the following:

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}!(\text{Fin } n) \quad \Pi(x : \text{Fin } n), \mathcal{E}!(U(x))}{\mathcal{E}!(\text{Tuple}(n, U))} \quad (81)$$

We can prove this goal by showing that $\text{Tuple}(n, U)$ is split enumerable: it is made up of finitely many products of points of U , which are themselves split enumerable, and \top , which is also split enumerable. Lemma 25 shows us that the product of finitely many split enumerable types is itself split enumerable, proving our goal. ■

This proof can again give us insight into how to prove finiteness of our countdown transformation. In the first step (Fig. 2a), we need to select some numbers from an input list: this can be described with a function of type $\text{Fin } n \rightarrow \text{Bool}$, from indices in the original list into whether we keep the values or not. We now know that we can prove functions finite without difficulty: in this case, we can do it even more simply by proving that an n -tuple of booleans is finite.

3.2.3 *Closure on Cardinal Finiteness.* Since we don't have a function of type $C(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(A)$, closure proofs on \mathcal{B} do not transfer over to C trivially (unlike with $\mathcal{E}!$ and \mathcal{B}). The cases for \perp , \top , and Bool are simple to adapt: we can just propositionally truncate their Bishop finiteness proof.

Non-dependent operators like \times , \wr , and \rightarrow are also relatively straightforward: since $\|\cdot\|$ forms a monad, we can apply n -ary functions to values inside it, combining them together.

The fact that $\|\cdot\|$ forms a monad means that we can lift n -ary functions like the following:

$_|\times|_ : \mathcal{B} A \rightarrow$

$\mathcal{B} B \rightarrow$

$\mathcal{B} (A \times B)$

Into a truncated context:

$_||\times||_ : \mathcal{C} A \rightarrow$

$\mathcal{C} B \rightarrow$

$\mathcal{C} (A \times B)$

(82)

$xs \|\times\| ys = \text{do}$

$x \leftarrow xs$

$y \leftarrow ys$

$| x |\times| y |$

Unfortunately, for the dependent type formers like Σ and Π , the same trick does not work. We have closure proofs like:

$$\frac{\mathcal{B}(A) \quad \Pi(x : A), \mathcal{B}(U(x))}{\mathcal{B}(\Pi A U)} \quad (83)$$

If we apply the monadic truncation trick we can derive closure proofs like the following:

$$\frac{\|\mathcal{B}(A)\| \quad \|\Pi(x : A), \mathcal{B}(U(x))\|}{\|\mathcal{B}(\Pi A U)\|} \quad (84)$$

However our *desired* closure proof is the following:

$$\frac{\|\mathcal{B}(A)\| \quad \Pi(x : A), \|\mathcal{B}(U(x))\|}{\|\mathcal{B}(\Pi A U)\|} \quad (85)$$

They don't match!

The solution would be to find a function of the following type:

$$(\Pi(x : A), \|\mathcal{B}(U(x))\|) \rightarrow \|\Pi(x : A), \mathcal{B}(U(x))\| \quad (86)$$

However we might be disheartened at realising that this is a required goal: the above equation is *extremely* similar to the axiom of choice!

Definition 31 (Axiom of Choice). In HoTT, the axiom of choice is commonly defined as follows [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, lemma 3.8.2]. For any set A , and a type family U which is a set at all the points of A , the following function exists:

$$(\Pi(x : A), \|U(x)\|) \rightarrow \|\Pi(x : A), U(x)\| \quad (87)$$

Luckily the axiom of choice *does* hold for cardinally finite types, allowing us to prove the following:

Lemma 27.

$$C(A) \rightarrow (\Pi(x : A), \|U(x)\|) \rightarrow \|\Pi(x : A), U(x)\| \quad (88)$$

PROOF. Let A be a cardinally finite type, U be a type family on A , and f be a dependent function of type $\Pi(x : A), \|U(x)\|$.

First, since our goal is itself propositionally truncated, we have access to values under truncations: put another way, in the context of proving our goal, we can rely on the fact that A is manifestly Bishop finite. Using the same technique as we did in lemma 26, we can switch from working with dependent functions from A to n -tuples, where n is the cardinality of A . This changes our goal to the following:

$$\mathbf{Tuple}(n, \|\cdot\| \circ U) \rightarrow \|\mathbf{Tuple}(n, U)\| \quad (89)$$

Since $\|\cdot\|$ is closed under finite products, this function exists (in fact, using the fact that $\|\cdot\|$ forms a monad, we can recognise this function as `sequenceA` from the `Traversable` class in Haskell). ■

This gets us all of the necessary closure proofs on C .

3.3 The Absence of the Subobject Classifier

`filter-subobject :`

$$\begin{aligned} &(\forall x \rightarrow \mathbf{isProp} (P x)) \rightarrow \\ &(\forall x \rightarrow \mathbf{Dec} (P x)) \rightarrow \\ &\mathcal{C}! A \rightarrow \\ &\mathcal{C}! (\Sigma [x : A] P x) \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

3.4 Closure

For the first three closure proofs, we only consider split enumerability: as it is the strongest of the finiteness predicates, we can derive the other closure proofs from it.

3.5 The Category of Finite Sets

HoTT and CuTT seem to be especially suitable settings for formalisations of category theory. The univalence axiom in particular allows us to treat categorical isomorphisms as equalities, saving us from the dreaded “setoid hell”.

We follow [Univalent Foundations Program 2013, chapter 9] in its treatment of categories in HoTT, and in its proof that sets do indeed form a category. We will first briefly go through the construction of the category *Set*, as it differs slightly from the usual method in type theory.

First, the type of objects and arrows:

$$\mathbf{Obj}_{\mathbf{Set}} := \Sigma(x : \mathbf{Type}), \mathbf{isSet}(x) \quad (91)$$

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Set}}(x, y) := \mathbf{fst}(x) \rightarrow \mathbf{fst}(y) \quad (92)$$

As the type of objects makes clear, we have already departed slightly from the simpler $\mathbf{Obj}_{\mathbf{Set}} := \mathbf{Type}$ way of doing things: of course we have to, as HoTT allows non-set types. Furthermore, after proving the usual associativity and identity laws for composition (which are definitionally true in this case), we must further show $\mathbf{isSet}(\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Set}}(x, y))$; even then we only have a precategory.

To show that *Set* is a category, we must show that categorical isomorphisms are equivalent to equivalences. In a sense, we must give a univalence rule for the category we are working in.

We have provided formal proofs that *Set* does indeed form a category, and the following:

Theorem 28 (The Category of Finite Sets). Finite sets form a category in HoTT when defined like so:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Obj}_{\mathbf{FinSet}} &:= \Sigma(x : \mathbf{Type}), C(x) \\ \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{FinSet}}(x, y) &:= \mathbf{fst}(x) \rightarrow \mathbf{fst}(y) \end{aligned} \quad (93)$$

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We have proven the above statements for both *Set* and *FinSet*. As far as we know, this is the first formalisation of either.

4 SEARCH

```

_&_ : Bool → Bool → Bool
false & false = false
false & true  = false
true  & false = false
true  & true  = true

```

(94)

$$\begin{aligned} \wedge\text{-assoc} &: \forall x y z \rightarrow (x \wedge y) \wedge z \equiv x \wedge (y \wedge z) \\ \wedge\text{-assoc} &= \forall x y z \rightarrow (x \wedge y) \wedge z \stackrel{?}{=} x \wedge (y \wedge z) \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

Proc. ACM Program. Lang., Vol. 1, No. POPL, Article 1. Publication date: January 2018.

These examples so far are pretty focused on the bool associativity example. I'm not sure I can think of a good way to put count-down in instead: will we try switch? Or will we keep the bool for this short bit?

and foremost: our proofs of finiteness, constructed with the API we will describe, have all the power of full equalities. Put another way any proof over a finite type A can be lifted to any other type with the same cardinality. Secondly our proof search can range over functions: we could, for instance, have asked the prover to find if *any* function over `Bool` is associative, and if so return it to us.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{some-assoc} &: \Sigma [f : (\text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool} \rightarrow \text{Bool})] \forall x y z \rightarrow f(f x y) z \equiv f x (f y z) \\ \text{some-assoc} &= \exists \lambda^n 1 \lambda f \rightarrow \forall \lambda^n 3 \lambda x y z \rightarrow f(f x y) z \stackrel{?}{=} f x (f y z) \end{aligned} \quad (96)$$

The usefulness of which is dubious, but we will see a more interesting application soon.

4.1 Proof Automation And Search Techniques

For this prover we will not resort to reflection or similar techniques: instead, we will trick the type checker to do our automation for us. This is a relatively common technique, although not so much outside of Agda, so we will briefly explain it here.

To understand the technique we should first notice that some proof automation *already* happens in Agda, like the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{obvious} &: \text{true} \wedge \text{false} \equiv \text{false} \\ \text{obvious} &= \text{refl} \end{aligned} \quad (97)$$

The type checker does not require us to manually explain each step of evaluation of: `true ∧ false`. While it's not a particularly impressive example of automation, it does nonetheless demonstrate a principle we will exploit: closed terms will compute to a normal form if they're needed to type check.

So our task is to rewrite proof obligations like the one in Equation 95 into ones which can reduce completely. As it turns out, we have already described the type of proofs which can “reduce completely”: *decidable* proofs. If we have a decision procedure over some proposition P we can run that decision during type checking, because the decision procedure itself is a proof that the decision will terminate. In code, we capture this idea with the following pair of functions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Is-True} &: \text{Dec } A \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 & \text{from-true} &: (\text{decision} : \text{Dec } A) \rightarrow \\ \text{Is-True } (\text{inl } _) &= \top & \{ _ : \text{Is-True } \text{decision} \} &\rightarrow A \\ \text{Is-True } (\text{inr } _) &= \perp & \text{from-true } (\text{inl } x) &= x \end{aligned} \quad (98) \quad (99)$$

The first is a function which derives a type from whether a decision is successful or not. This function is important because if we use the output of this type at any point we will effectively force the unifier to run the decision computation. The second takes—as an implicit argument—an inhabitant of the type generated from the first, and uses it to prove that the decision can only be true, and the extracts the resulting proof from that decision. All in all, we can use it like this:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{extremely-obvious} &: \text{true} \neq \text{false} \\ \text{extremely-obvious} &= \text{from-true } (! (\text{true} \stackrel{?}{=} \text{false})) \end{aligned} \quad (100)$$

This technique will allow us to automatically compute any decidable predicate.

4.2 Omniscience

So we now know what is needed of us for proof automation: we need to take our proofs and make them decidable. In particular, we need to be able to “lift” decidability back over a function arrow. For instance, given x , y , and z we already have `Dec ((x ∧ y) ∧ z ≡ x ∧ (y ∧ z))` (because equality over booleans is decidable). In order to turn this into a proof that \wedge is associative we need

Dec $(\forall x y z \rightarrow (x \wedge y) \wedge z \equiv x \wedge (y \wedge z))$. The ability to do this is described formally by the notion of “Exhaustibility”.

Definition 32 (Exhaustibility). We say a type A is exhaustible if, for any decidable predicate P on A , the universal quantification of the predicate is decidable.

$$\text{Exhaustible } p A = \forall \{P : A \rightarrow \text{Type } p\} \rightarrow ((x : A) \rightarrow \text{Dec } (P x)) \rightarrow \text{Dec } ((x : A) \rightarrow P x) \quad (101)$$

This property of **Bool** would allow us to automate the proof of associativity, but it is in fact not strong enough to find individual representatives of a type which support some property. For that we need the more well-known, but related, property of *omniscience*.

Definition 33 (Limited Principle of Omniscience). For any type A and predicate P on A , the limited principle of omniscience [Myhill 1972] is as follows:

$$\text{Omniscient } p A = \forall \{P : A \rightarrow \text{Type } p\} \rightarrow ((x : A) \rightarrow \text{Dec } (P x)) \rightarrow \text{Dec } (\Sigma [x : A] P x) \quad (102)$$

In other words, for any decidable predicate the existential quantification of that predicate is also decidable.

Because we’re constructive, only a select few types are omniscient: finite types, for instance (the law of the excluded middle implies that all types are omniscient, meaning that all types are omniscient classically). Perhaps surprisingly, it is not *only* finite types which are exhaustible. Certain infinite types can be exhaustible [Escardo 2007], but an exploration of that is beyond the scope of this work.

Omniscience and exhaustibility are not interchangeable: every omniscient type is exhaustible, but the converse is not true. Conceptually, omniscience needs some kind of ordering on the underlying type. This is because omniscience returns a candidate satisfying the given predicate: there is no requirement, though, that only one element in the underlying type satisfies the decidable predicate. As a result, omniscience needs some way to choose among all possible candidates: this is the “order” we are referring to. This is also the same “order” that we referred to when talking about the finiteness predicates: all ordered predicates (in Figure 1) imply omniscience, whereas the unordered predicates only imply exhaustibility.

Lemma 30. Omniscience implies exhaustibility

PROOF. ■

Lemma 31. If exhaustibility implies omniscience, then the axiom of choice holds

PROOF. ■

And the relation to the finiteness predicates is straightforward: all of the finiteness predicates we have seen imply exhaustibility, and all of the ordered finiteness predicates imply omniscience. We can prove this by showing exhaustibility and omniscience for the weakest candidate of finiteness predicates.

Lemma 32. Kuratowski finiteness implies exhaustibility

Lemma 33. Manifest enumerability implies omniscience

Finally, we can get around the order requirement for prop-valued predicates for omniscience.

Lemma 34. Omniscience and exhaustibility coincide for prop-valued predicates.

4.3 Countdown

We have already introduced and described countdown: in this section, we will fill in the remaining parts of the solver, glue the pieces together, and show how the finiteness proofs can assist us to write the solver.

4.3.1 Finite Permutations. The first step of the transformation we will represent as a finite object is a *permutation*: once we choose the numbers we're going to use for the candidate for the solution, we have to order them in some way.

Our first attempt at representing permutations might look something like this:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Perm} &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 \\ \text{Perm } n &= \text{Fin } n \rightarrow \text{Fin } n \end{aligned} \quad (103)$$

the idea is that $\text{Perm } n$ represents a permutation of n things, as a function from positions to positions. Unfortunately such a simple answer won't work: there are no restrictions on the operation of the function, so it could (for instance), send more than one input position into the same output.

What we actually need is not just a function between positions, but an *isomorphism* between them. In types:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Perm} &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 \\ \text{Perm } n &= \text{Isomorphism } (\text{Fin } n) (\text{Fin } n) \end{aligned} \quad (104)$$

Where an isomorphism is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Isomorphism} &: \text{Type } a \rightarrow \text{Type } b \rightarrow \text{Type } (a \ell\sqcup b) \\ \text{Isomorphism } A B &= \Sigma[f : (A \rightarrow B)] \Sigma[g : (B \rightarrow A)] (f \circ g \equiv \text{id}) \times (g \circ f \equiv \text{id}) \end{aligned} \quad (105)$$

While it may look complex, this term is actually composed of individual components we've already proven finite. First we have $\text{Fin } n \rightarrow \text{Fin } n$: functions between finite types are, as we know, finite (Theorem 26). We take a pair of them: pairs of finite things are *also* finite (Lemma 25). To get the next two components we can filter to the subobject: this requires these predicates to be decidable. We will construct a term of the following type:

$$\text{Dec } (f \circ g \equiv \text{id}) \quad (106)$$

So can we construct such a term? Yes!

We basically need to construct decidable equality for functions between $\text{Fin } ns$: of course, this decidable equality is provided by the fact that such functions are themselves finite.

All in all we can now prove that the isomorphism, and by extension the permutation, is finite:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iso-finite} &: \mathcal{B} A \rightarrow \\ &\quad \mathcal{B} B \rightarrow \\ &\quad \mathcal{B} (\Sigma[f, g : (A \rightarrow B) \times (B \rightarrow A)] \\ &\quad \quad ((f.g.\text{fst} \circ f.g.\text{snd} \equiv \text{id}) \times \\ &\quad \quad (f.g.\text{snd} \circ f.g.\text{fst} \equiv \text{id}))) \\ \text{iso-finite } \mathcal{B}\langle A \rangle \mathcal{B}\langle B \rangle &= \\ \text{filter} & \\ (\lambda _ \rightarrow \text{isPropEqs}) & \\ (\lambda \{ (f, g) \rightarrow (f \circ g) \stackrel{?}{=} \text{id} \ \&\& \ (g \circ f) \stackrel{?}{=} \text{id} \}) & \\ ((\mathcal{B}\langle A \rangle \mapsto \mathcal{B}\langle B \rangle) \times (\mathcal{B}\langle B \rangle \mapsto \mathcal{B}\langle A \rangle)) & \end{aligned} \quad (107)$$

Unfortunately this implementation is too slow to be useful. As nice and declarative as it is, fundamentally it builds a list of all possible pairs of functions between $\text{Fin } n$ and itself (an operation

Should this isomorphism definition be put earlier in the intro with the equivalences etc?

Need to do filter subobject in topos section

which takes in the neighbourhood of $O(n^n)$ time), and then tests each for equality (which is likely worse than $O(n^2)$ time). We will instead use a factoriadic encoding: this is a relatively simple encoding of permutations which will reduce our time to a blazing fast $O(n!)$. It is expressed in Agda as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Perm} &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 \\ \text{Perm } \text{zero} &= \top \\ \text{Perm } (\text{suc } n) &= \text{Fin } (\text{suc } n) \times \text{Perm } n \end{aligned} \quad (108)$$

It is a vector of positions, each represented with a **Fin**. Each position can only refer to the length of the tail of the list at that point: this prevents two input positions mapping to the same output point, which was the problem with the naive encoding we had previously. And it also has a relatively simple proof of finiteness:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}!(\text{Perm}) &: \mathcal{E}!(\text{Perm } n) \\ \mathcal{E}!(\text{Perm}) \{n = \text{zero}\} &= \mathcal{E}!(\top) \\ \mathcal{E}!(\text{Perm}) \{n = \text{suc } n\} &= \mathcal{E}!(\text{Fin}) \times \mathcal{E}!(\text{Perm}) \end{aligned} \quad (109)$$

4.3.2 Parenthesising. Our next step is figuring out a way to encode the parenthesisation of the expression (Fig. 2d). At this point of the transformation, we already have our numbers picked out, we have ordered them a certain way, and we have also selected the operators we're interested in. We have, in other words, the following:

$$3 \times 7 \times 50 - 10 - 25 \quad (110)$$

Without parentheses, however, (or a religious adherence to BOMDAS) this expression is still ambiguous.

$$3 \times ((7 \times (50 - 10)) - 25) = 765 \quad (111)$$

$$(((3 \times 7) \times 50) - 10) - 25 = 1015 \quad (112)$$

The different ways to parenthesise the expression result in different outputs of evaluation.

So what data type encapsulates the “different ways to parenthesise” a given expression? That's what we will figure out in this section, and what we will prove finite.

One way to approach the problem is with a binary tree. A binary tree with n leaves corresponds in a straightforward way to a parenthesisation of n numbers (Fig. 2d). This doesn't get us much closer to a finiteness proof, however: for that we will need to rely on *Dyck* words.

Definition 34 (Dyck words). A Dyck word is a string of balanced parentheses. In Agda, we can express it as the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data Dyck} &: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 \text{ where} \\ \text{done} &: \text{Dyck } \text{zero } \text{zero} \\ _ : \text{Dyck } (\text{suc } n) \ m \rightarrow \text{Dyck } n \ (\text{suc } m) \\ _ : \text{Dyck } n \ m \rightarrow \text{Dyck } (\text{suc } n) \ m \end{aligned} \quad (113)$$

A fully balanced string of n parentheses has the type **Dyck zero n** . Here are some example strings:

$$\begin{aligned} _ &: \text{Dyck } 0 \ 2 \\ _ &= \langle \rangle \langle \rangle \text{ done} \end{aligned} \quad (114)$$

$$\begin{aligned} _ &: \text{Dyck } 0 \ 3 \\ _ &= \langle \rangle \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \text{ done} \end{aligned} \quad (115)$$

The first parameter on the type represents the amount of unbalanced closing parens, for instance:

There's no way “parenthesisation” is a real word

Tree diagram? Or link to previous tree?

```

1324      _ : Dyck 1 2
1325      _ = > < > < done
1326
1327
1328

```

(116)

1328 Already Dyck words look easier to prove finite than straight binary trees, but for that proof to
 1329 be useful we'll have to relate Dyck words and binary trees somehow. As it happens, Dyck words of
 1330 length $2n$ are isomorphic to binary trees with $n - 1$ leaves, but we only need to show this relation
 1331 in one direction: from Dyck to binary tree. To demonstrate the algorithm we'll use a simple tree
 1332 definition:

```

1333 data Tree : Type0 where
1334   leaf : Tree
1335   _ * _ : Tree → Tree → Tree
1336
1337

```

(117)

1337 The algorithm itself is quite similar to stack-based parsing algorithms.

```

1338
1339 dyck→tree : Dyck zero n → Tree
1340 dyck→tree d = go d (leaf , _)
1341 where
1342   go : Dyck n m → Vec Tree (suc n) → Tree
1343   go (< d) ts = go d (leaf , ts)
1344   go (> d) (t1 , t2 , ts) = go d (t2 * t1 , ts)
1345   go done (t , _) = t
1346
1347

```

(118)

1348 4.3.3 Filtering to Correct Expressions.

1349 4.3.4 Putting It All Together.

1352 4.4 Automating Proofs

1353 One use for above constructions is the automation of certain proofs. In [Firsov and Uustalu 2015],
 1354 which uses a similar approach to ours, the **Pauli** group is used as an example.

```

1355 data Pauli : Type0 where X Y Z I : Pauli

```

1356 As **Pauli** has 4 constructors, n -ary functions on **Pauli** may require up to 4^n cases, making even
 1357 simple proofs prohibitively verbose.

1358 The alternative is to derive the things we need from omniscience, itself derived from a finiteness
 1359 predicate. For proof search, the procedure is a well-known one in Agda [Devriese and Piessens
 1360 2011]: we ask for the result of a decision procedure as an *instance argument*, which will demand
 1361 computation during typechecking. Our addition to this technique is a way to handle multiple
 1362 arguments based on fully level-polymorphic dependent currying and uncurrying, building on
 1363 [Allais 2019].

```

1364 assoc-· : ∀ x y z → (x · y) · z ≡ x · (y · z)

```

```

1365 assoc-· = ∀zn 3 λ x y z → (x · y) · z 2≡ x · (y · z)

```

1366 Finally, we can derive decidable equality on functions over finite types. We can also use functions
 1367 in our proof search. Here, for instance, is an automated procedure which finds the **not** function on
 1368 **Bool**, given a specification.

```

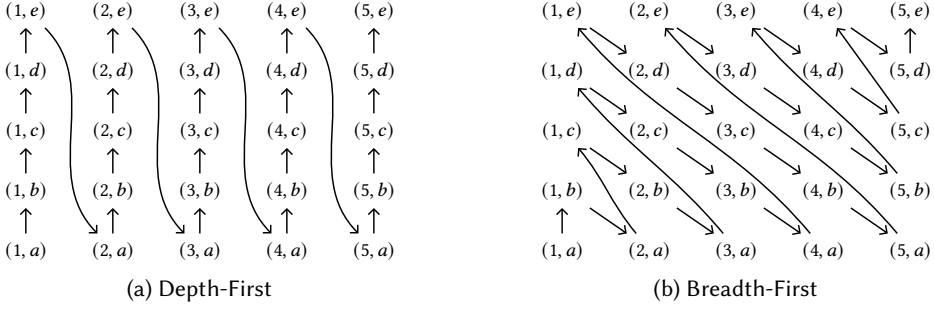
1369 not-spec : Σ[ f : (Bool → Bool) ] (f ∘ f ≡ id) × (f ≠ id)

```

```

1370 not-spec = ∃fn 1 λ f → (f ∘ f 2≡ id) && ! (f 2≡ id)

```

Fig. 3. Two possible products for the sets $[1 \dots 5]$ and $[a \dots e]$

5 COUNTABLY INFINITE TYPES

In the previous sections we saw different flavours of finiteness which were really just different flavours of relations to **Fin**. In this section we will see that we can construct a similar classification of relations to \mathbb{N} , in the form of the countably infinite types.

5.1 Two Countable Types

The two types for countability we will consider are analogous to split enumerability and cardinal finiteness. The change will be a simple one: we will swap out lists for streams.

Definition 35 (Streams).

$$\mathbf{Stream}(A) := (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A) \simeq \llbracket \top, \text{const}(\mathbb{N}) \rrbracket \quad (119)$$

Definition 36 (Split Countability).

$$\mathbb{N}_0!(A) := \Sigma(xs : \mathbf{Stream}(A)), \Pi(x : A), x \in xs \quad (120)$$

This type is definitionally equal to its surjection equivalent $(\mathbb{N} \twoheadrightarrow! A)$. We construct the unordered, propositional version of the predicate in much the same way as we constructed cardinal finiteness.

Definition 37 (Countability).

$$\mathbb{N}_0(A) := \|\mathbb{N}_0!(A)\| \quad (121)$$

From both of these types we can derive decidable equality.

Lemma 35. Any countable type has decidable equality.

5.2 Closure

We know that countable infinity is not closed under the exponential (function arrow), so the only closure we need to prove is Σ to cover all of what's left.

Theorem 36. Split countability is closed under Σ .

We know that countable infinity is not closed under the exponential (function arrow), so the only closure we need to prove is Σ to cover all of what's left. To do this we have to take a slightly different approach to the functions we defined before. Figure 3 illustrates the reason why: previously, we used the depth-first product pairing for each support list. This diverges if the first list is infinite, never exploring anything other than the first element in the second list. Instead, we use here the cantor pairing function, which performs a breadth-first search of the pairings of both lists.

Finally, while we have lost certain closure proofs by allowing for infinite types, we also *gain* some: in particular the Kleene star.

Theorem 37. Split countability is closed under Kleene star.

$$\aleph_0!(A) \rightarrow \aleph_0!(\text{List}(A)) \quad (122)$$

Again, this proof requires a particular pattern to ensure productivity. The pattern here builds an intermediate stream \mathcal{KV} of non-empty lists from the input support stream xs , which is subsequently flattened.

$$\mathcal{KV}_i := \left[[xs_{j-1} \mid j \in js] \mid js \in \text{List}(\mathbb{N}); \text{sum}(js) = i; 0 \notin js \right] \quad (123)$$

6 RELATED WORK

Homotopy Type Theory. [Univalent Foundations Program 2013]

Cubical Type Theory. [Cohen et al. 2016]

Cubical Agda. [Vezzosi et al. 2019]

Constructive Finiteness.

- First paper on the topic, defines 4 notions of finiteness (split enumerability, there called enumerated, bounded, Noetherian, streamless): [Coquand and Spiwack 2010]
- More exploration of Noetherianness [Firsov et al. 2016]
- More exploration of streamless sets [Parmann 2015] (in particular closure under product).
- Paper exploring programming with finite sets for e.g. proof search [Firsov and Uustalu 2015] (basically only enumerable sets though, only in MLTT)
- Finite sets in Homotopy Type Theory, especially Kuratowski [Frumin et al. 2018] (but no finite function arrows).
- Kuratowski's original paper on finiteness [Kuratowski 1920].
- [Smolka and Stark 2016].

Sets/Toposes.

- Paper that sets in HoTT form a topos (under certain conditions etc) [Rijke and Spitters 2015]. This paper is adapted into a chapter in the HoTT book.
- Category theory in cubical Agda [Iversen 2018].
- Topos from cardinal finite [Henry 2018].
- Category of finite sets [Solov'ev 1983].

Species.

- Brent Yorgey's thesis [Yorgey 2014].
- [Uzkay 2008]

Exhaustability.

- Definition of limited principle of omniscience: [Myhill 1972].
- [Escardo 2008]
- [Escardo 2007]
- [Escardó 2013]

Propositional Truncation algo. [Kraus 2015]

Countdown.

- [Hutton 2002]
- [Bird and Mu 2005]
- [Bird and Hinze 2003]

Generate and Test.

- [Claessen and Hughes 2011]
- [Runciman et al. 2008]
- [O'Connor 2016]
- (for the generator syntax) [Allais 2019].

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