

Foundations of Type theory for HoTT

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Foundations overview

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- We must include a module statement, matching the file name.

open import Base

module Foundations where



Axioms and Rules

- Usual *rigorous* mathematics is based on definitions and axioms, for example *a function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be continuous at x if*

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- We will instead give rules for what are valid expressions, and what are their types. We will need very few axioms.



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- A *Universe* is a type \mathcal{U} so that all terms with type \mathcal{U} are themselves types.



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- give a collection of universes, which are present in all contexts.



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- If a type T has type \mathcal{U}_i , it also has type \mathcal{U}_{i+1} .



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- In Agda, this is

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data N : Type where
  zero : N
  succ  : N → N
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- We can view this as a *lambda*-expression with variable $A : \mathcal{U}$, with the right hand side given by the rules for constructing inductive types.



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- For instance, for $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow X$, we can define $f(\text{succ } n) = m$, with m a term formed using all the terms in the context, the term $n : \mathbb{N}$ and the term $f(n) : X$. Thus the data giving $f(\text{succ } _)$ is a term of type $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X \rightarrow X$, which we apply to n and then $f(n)$.



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- Similarly, for a type A , when defining $f : \text{List}(A) \rightarrow X$, we can define $f(\text{cons}(a)(l))$ in terms of a , l and $f(l)$. Thus the data giving $f(\text{cons}(a)(l))$ is a term of type $A \rightarrow \text{List}(A) \rightarrow X \rightarrow X$, which we apply to a , then l and finally $f(l)$.



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- The analogue of recursive definitions for defining dependent functions are called inductive definitions.



Recursion functions

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- We also have identities saying that function built from $rec_{W,X}$, when applied to the data for a constructor, has the appropriate value.



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- For a term $n : \mathbb{N}$, the constructor applied to $succ(n)$ gives the identity $rec_{\mathbb{N},X}(z)(g)(succ(n)) \equiv g(n)(rec_{\mathbb{N},X}(z)(g)(n))$.



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- We can recursively define a *member of a family*, which is a term of type W .



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- In all cases, the type of the induced function on a family-type W' depends only on the type F of f . We denote this $Ind_F W'$



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- We call a term of a constructor type for W a quasi-constructor for W .



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- Domains of Induction are similar.
- We now see examples.



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- We get identities for each constructor recursively.



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- For an inductive type W and a type X (or type family on W), we have recursion/induction functions.
- Finally, we can simply introduce a term with a given type as an *axiom*.

