

1 Dependent Type Theory

1.1 Equalities

Definition 1.1. Definitional equality is a syntactic notion of equality decided by the normalization or reduction rules of a type theory. If two terms are definitionally equal, they can be freely substituted for each other in any context without changing the meaning of the program.

Definition 1.2. Propositional equality is a semantic notion of equality that is a proposition or type in the type theory. Two terms are propositionally equal if there exists a proof or a witness inhabiting a type expressing propositional equality between the two terms.

Remark 1.3. Definitional equality is automated in Agda through the normalization of terms, while proving propositional equality is a task for the user. Definitional equality is a stronger notion than propositional equality and is usually decidable. The main distinction is that definitional equality is a syntactic notion built into the type theory, while propositional equality is a semantic notion expressed within the type theory itself.

2 Homotopy Type Theory

2.1 Path Induction

2.2 Contractible Types

Definition 2.1. The type A is *contractible* if it comes equipped with an element of the type

$$is - Contr(A) =: \Sigma_{(c:A)} \Pi_{(x:A)} a = x$$

Given $(c, C) : is - Contr(A)$, $c : A$ is the *center of contraction* for A and $C : \Pi_{(x:A)}$ is the *contraction of* A .

Remark 2.2. A type is contractible if there exists $a : A$ such that for every term $x : A$, there is a path $p : a = x$. We can say that a type is contractible if it is equivalent to the unit type, $\mathbf{1}$. A contractible type can be thought of as a type that contains only one unique element up to homotopy [?].