# Weak $\omega$-categories as models of a type theory 

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CEA LIST
Logic and higher structures
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## Dependent type theories and higher structures

## HoTT and weak $\omega$-groupoids

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$\triangleright$ This suggest a link between dependent type theories and higher structures.

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In this type theory, the identity types are not inductive, instead there is a family of term constructors that witnesses the algebraic structure.

## DTT and higher structures

The correspondence between dependent type theories and higher algebraic structure follows the principle

> type dependency $\rightsquigarrow$ higher dimensional shapes
> term constructors $\rightsquigarrow$ algebraic structure

Weak $\omega$-categories

## An Overview

Weak $\omega$-categories are higher structure with directed arrows in all levels
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Lots of other definitions, with other shapes.

## Weak $\omega$-categories

The Grothendieck-Maltsiniotis definition

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$\triangleright$ Extended by Maltsiniotis to weak $\omega$-categories [7] Intuition : enforce a privileged direction on the rules
$\triangleright$ Proven equivalent to Batanin-Leinster definition by Ara [1]

## A globular definition

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$\triangleright$ Presheaf category whose representables are disks


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$\triangleright$ The globular sums are exactly the pasting schemes. Define $\Theta_{0}$ to the full subcategory of globular sets whose objects are the globular sums.

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- Any two ways of composing a pasting scheme are connected by a higher cell
$\triangleright$ This should remind you of "contractibility as uniqueness" actually one has to do inifitely many steps to build $\Theta_{\infty}$


## Definition of weak $\omega$-categories

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$\triangleright$ We can define them as presheaves over the category $\Theta_{\infty}$.
$\triangleright$ We need to require those presheaves to preserve globular sums, to avoid having too much shapes allowed.

## The type theory CaTT

## Intuition

$\triangleright$ Introduced by Finster and Mimram [4] Intuition: It defines the following "pushout"

Grothendieck's $\omega$-groupoids $\xrightarrow{\text { direction }}$ G.-M. $\omega$-categories


## The type theory CaTT

Dependent type theories and their categorical semantics

## Building blocks of a dependent type theory

A dependent type theory $\mathcal{T}$ has syntactic objects:
$\triangleright$ Contexts $\Gamma, \Delta, \ldots$ : lists of pairs of variables and types

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$\triangleright$ Substitutions $\gamma, \delta, \ldots$ : lists of pairs of variables and terms

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\Delta \vdash \gamma: \Gamma
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## Structure of a dependent type theories

The dependent type theories the structure in common
$\triangleright$ A variable is a valid term in a context :

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## Categories with families (CwF)

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$\triangleright$ Define $\mathrm{Ty}_{\Gamma}=\{$ types in $\Gamma\}, \mathrm{Tm}_{\Gamma}^{A}=\{$ terms of type $A$ in $\Gamma\}$ Ty is a presheaf over $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}, \mathrm{Tm}$ is a presheaf over $\mathrm{El}(\mathrm{Ty})$

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$\triangleright$ A context extension : given a context $\Gamma$ and a type $\Gamma \vdash A$, an object of $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}$
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Defines a functor $\mathrm{El}(\mathrm{Ty}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}$ characterized by a universal property
A CwF is the collection of all this data
This presentation follows the style of Awodey's natural models

## Categorical semantics

The models are a way to incarnate the axioms defining a dependent type theory in sets

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$\triangleright$ There is a CwF structure on the category of sets
$\triangleright$ A model of the theory $\mathcal{T}$ is a morphism of $\mathrm{CwF} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}} \rightarrow$ Set

## The type theory CaTT

Presentation of the theory

## The theory GSeTT

$\triangleright$ Start with describing the type dependancies : higher dimensional shapes

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change the name to emphasize directionality
$\triangleright$ Denote GSeTT the theory with just these type constructors
$\triangleright \mathcal{S}_{\mathrm{GSeTT}}$ is the opposite of finite globular sets For instance, the following context and globular sets are in correspondence

$$
(x: *, y: *, z: *, f: x->y, g: y->z)
$$



## Ps-contexts

ps-contexts are context that represent pasting schemes

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$\triangleright$ We introduce the judgment $\Gamma \vdash_{\text {ps }}$ to recognize them To simplify the recognition, we require the ps-context to be in a specific order
$\triangleright$ Each ps-context $\Gamma$ has a source $\partial^{-} \Gamma$ and a target $\partial^{+} \Gamma$


## The theory CaTT

To the theory CaTT, add term constructors corresponding to the two principle expressing that the "space" of composition of each pasting scheme is "contractible".

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$\triangleright$ Each pasting has a composition

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\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathrm{ps}} \frac{\partial^{-} \Gamma \vdash t: A \quad \partial^{+} \Gamma \vdash u: A}{\Gamma \vdash \mathrm{op}_{\Gamma, t \rightarrow \rightarrow_{A} u}: t \rightarrow \underset{A}{ } u}}{}
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$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Var}(t: A) & =\operatorname{Var}\left(\partial^{-}(\Gamma)\right) \\
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$\triangleright$ Every two compositions of the same pasting scheme are related

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\begin{array}{rlrl}
\Gamma \vdash_{\mathrm{ps}} \Gamma \vdash t: A & \Gamma \vdash u: A \\
\Gamma \vdash \operatorname{coh}_{\Gamma, t \rightarrow u}: t \underset{A}{ } u & \operatorname{Var}(t: A) & =\operatorname{Var}(\Gamma) \\
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## Applying operations and coherences

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$\triangleright$ We get terms in generic context by action of substitutions Hence relax the previous rules to have

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\begin{gathered}
\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathrm{ps}}}{} \quad \partial^{-} \Gamma \vdash t: A \quad \partial^{+} \Gamma \vdash u: A \quad \Delta \vdash \gamma: \Gamma \\
\Delta \vdash \mathrm{op}_{\Gamma, t \rightarrow \mathrm{~A}}[\gamma]: t[\gamma] \rightarrow u[\gamma] \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathrm{ps}}}{} \quad \Gamma \vdash t: A \quad \Gamma \vdash u: A \quad \Delta \vdash \gamma: \Gamma \\
\end{gathered}
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(keeping the side condition)

## Examples of derivation

$\triangleright$ Composition :
Consider the ps-context
$\Gamma_{c}=(x: \star, y: \star, f: x \rightarrow y, z: \star, g: y \rightarrow z)$.

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$\triangleright$ Associativity :
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$\Gamma_{a} \vdash \operatorname{comp}(f, \operatorname{comp}(g, h)) \rightarrow \operatorname{comp}(\operatorname{comp}(f, g), h)$.

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Both sides use all the variables of $\Gamma_{a}$ (some are implicit). So we deduce the term $\Gamma_{c} \vdash \mathrm{op}_{\Gamma_{c}, x \rightarrow z}: x \rightarrow z$ (denoted comp).

## The type theory CaTT

## Semantics of the theory

## The subcategory of ps-contexts

Define PS : the full subcategory of $\mathcal{S}_{\text {CaTT }}$ whose objects are the ps-contexts

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Theorem (B., Finster, Mimram)
The category PS is equivalent to $\Theta_{\infty}^{\circ p}$

## Models of the theory

Theorem (B., Finster, Mimram)
The models of CaTT are equivalent to the G.-M. weak $\omega$-categories

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Theorem (B., Finster, Mimram)
The models of CaTT are equivalent to the G.-M. weak $\omega$-categories


Proved by showing the initiality theorem for the theory CaTT.

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$\triangleright$ There is work conducted around this conjecture and extension of CaTT.
Ongoing work related to this question and CaTT by Finster, Vicary, Markakis, Rice

Thank you!

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