

## Outline

Lectures 1–3: Rules for type theory w/  $\Pi, \Sigma, \emptyset, \mathbb{I}, +, \mathbb{N}, =$   
(§1–5 of Rijke)

Today:

- Universes  $\mathcal{U}$  (§6)

- Propositions as types, Curry–Howard interpretation (§7)

## Why do we need universes?

1) To prove  $0 \neq 1$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , i.e.,  $(0 =_{\mathbb{N}} 1) \rightarrow \emptyset$ .

And, more generally, define type families by induction.

2) To write polymorphic terms, e.g., instead of defining

$\text{id}_A : A \rightarrow A$  for each type, we'll be able to define

$\text{id}^{\mathcal{U}} : \prod_{x:\mathcal{U}} \tau(x) \rightarrow \tau(x)$  for every universe  $\mathcal{U}$

3) To do category theory in a streamlined way,

compare Grothendieck universes.

Just as  $=$  is an internalization of  $\in$ ,

a universe  $\mathcal{U}$  is an internalization of the judgment  $A$  type

We get universes by reflection on what we do with types.

What is a universe?

Slogan: Whatever we can do with types, we can do 'inside' a universe.

So a universe better reflect what we've done so far!

$(\Pi, \Sigma, \emptyset, \top, +, \mathbb{N}, =)$

Def (at meta level) A universe is a type family

$U$  type,  $X:U \vdash \tau(X)$  type

together with:

- $\tilde{\Pi}: \prod_{X:U} ((\tau(X) \rightarrow U) \rightarrow U)$  s.t.  $\tau(\tilde{\Pi}(X, Y)) \doteq \prod_{x:\tau(X)} \tau(Y_x)$  for any  $Y:\tau(X) \rightarrow U$
- $\tilde{\Sigma}: \prod_{X:U} ((\tau(X) \rightarrow U) \rightarrow U)$  s.t.  $\tau(\tilde{\Sigma}(X, Y)) \doteq \sum_{x:\tau(X)} \tau(Y_x)$   $\longrightarrow \text{II}$
- $\tilde{\emptyset}, \tilde{\top}, \tilde{\mathbb{N}} : U$  s.t.  $\tau(\tilde{\emptyset}) \doteq \emptyset$ ,  $\tau(\tilde{\top}) \doteq \top$ ,  $\tau(\tilde{\mathbb{N}}) \doteq \mathbb{N}$
- $\tilde{+}: U \rightarrow U \rightarrow U$  s.t.  $\tau(X \tilde{+} Y) \doteq \tau(X) + \tau(Y)$  for  $X, Y:U$
- $\tilde{=} : \prod_{X:U} (\tau(X) \rightarrow \tau(X) \rightarrow U)$  s.t.  $\tau(x \tilde{=}_X y) \doteq (x =_{\tau(X)} y)$  for  $X:U$ ,  $x, y:\tau(X)$

Assuming enough universes.

To repeat: whatever we can do with types, we should be able to do in a universe.

Postulate (at meta-level) Whenever we have type families

$$\Gamma_1 \vdash A_1 \text{ type} \quad \dots \quad \Gamma_n \vdash A_n \text{ type}$$

there is a universe  $(\mathcal{U}, \tau)$  (in the empty context) containing these,

'<sup>lo</sup>) w/ terms  $\Gamma_i \vdash \check{A}_i : \mathcal{U}$  s.t.  $\Gamma_i \vdash \tau(\check{A}_i) \doteq A_i \text{ type}$  for  $i=1, \dots, n$

Examples •  $n=0$ : There is a base universe  $(\mathcal{U}_0, \tau_0)$

• If  $(\mathcal{U}, \tau)$  is a universe, there's a successor universe  $(\mathcal{U}^+, \tau^+)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U} \text{ type} \quad X : \mathcal{U} \vdash \tau(X) \text{ type} \rightsquigarrow & \quad \check{\mathcal{U}} : \mathcal{U}^+, \quad X : \mathcal{U} \vdash \check{\tau}(X) : \mathcal{U}^+ \\ & \tau^+(\mathcal{U}) \doteq \mathcal{U}, \quad X : \mathcal{U} \vdash \tau^+(\check{\tau}(X)) \doteq \tau(X) \end{aligned}$$

We get  $\text{Lift} : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}^+, \text{Lift}(X) := \check{\tau}(X)$

- If  $(U, \tau_U), (V, \tau_V)$  are universes, there is a join universe

$U \sqcup V$  :  $U$  type

$\vdash$

$X: U \vdash \tau_U(x)$  type

$V$  type

$X: V \vdash \tau_V(x)$  type

$\check{U} : U \sqcup V, \tau(\check{U}) = U$

$X: U \vdash \check{\tau}_U(x) : U \sqcup V, X: U \vdash \tau(\check{\tau}_U(x)) = \check{\tau}_U(x)$

—————||—————

NB no requirement that  $U_0, U^+$  or  $U \sqcup V$  are minimal!

Discussion • Universes are open-ended: If/when we add more type formers,  $(W, \text{HITs}, \dots)$   
we'll want universes to be closed under these too.

• We get a hierarchy  $U_0, U_0^+ =: U_1, U_0^{++}, \dots$ , but a priori, there's no reason for these to exhaust all the types. OTOH, the reflection principle won't give us more than these.

• We might expect  $\text{Lift}(\check{N}_0) = \check{N}_1$  for  $\text{Lift}: U_0 \rightarrow U_1$  by reflection,  
etc - this is called cumulativity. Not assumed here or in Agda, but useful!

Girard's, Harkens' paradox:

In the 1971 version of his type theory, Martin-Löf had a universe  $\mathcal{U}$  w/  $\check{\mathcal{U}} : \mathcal{U}$  and  $T(\check{\mathcal{U}}) \doteq \mathcal{U}$ . ("type in type")

Girard showed in his 1972 thesis that this is inconsistent, by adapting Burali-Forti's Paradox: there can be no ordinal of all ordinals. This was simplified by Harkens in 1995 (see Agda file).

With general inductive types, it's possible to give a very short proof of  $\emptyset$  assuming such  $\mathcal{U}$ . (à la Russell's paradox).

## Larger universes / further research

Reflecting on the reflection process, we can propose even larger universes, e.g., Palmgren's super-universe, closed under the universe successor operation.

Partially superseded by general induction-recursion

## Universe polymorphism

Even w/  $\mathcal{U}$ , we only have a polymorphic identity function ranging over  $\mathcal{U}$ , not all types; so proof assistants (Agda, Coq, Lean, etc.) have mechanisms for universe polymorphism. Newer research suggests having a universe level judgment,  $\mathbb{I}$  Level, which can then be internalized as a type.

Convention: we'll leave out  $\top(-)$  and  $\vee$ 's for a universe  $(\mathcal{U}, \top)$  as they can always be inferred from context (no pun intended).

$$\underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \text{id} : \prod_{x:\mathcal{U}} X \rightarrow X$$

$$\text{id} = \lambda x. \lambda x. x.$$

$$\underline{\text{Ex}} \quad \begin{aligned} \text{is-true} &: \text{bool} \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \\ \text{is-true false} &\doteq \emptyset \\ \text{is-true true} &\doteq \mathbb{1} \end{aligned}$$

Ex true ≠ false in bool needs a universe

$$\text{Eq-bool} : \text{bool} \rightarrow \text{bool} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eq-bool } x \cdot y &= \text{ind-bool}^{\mathcal{U}}( \\ (\text{x false}) &\rightarrow \text{ind-bool}^{\mathcal{U}}(\mathbb{1}, \emptyset, y), \\ (\text{x true}) &\rightarrow \text{ind-bool}^{\mathcal{U}}(\emptyset, \mathbb{1}, y), x) \end{aligned}$$

↑      ↑  
y false    y true

(With no universes, we have a "types as propositions" model, where all terms  $x, y : X$  in a type are equal.)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \text{Eq-bool false false} &\doteq \mathbb{1} \\ \text{Eq-bool false true} &\doteq \emptyset \\ \text{Eq-bool true false} &\doteq \emptyset \\ \text{Eq-bool true true} &\doteq \mathbb{1} \end{aligned}$$

true ≠ false cont'd

$\text{Eq-bool}$  is reflexive:  $\text{refl-}\text{Eq}_{\text{bool}} : \prod_{b:\text{bool}} \text{Eq-bool } b \ b$   
by bool-induction.

Thm For all  $b \ b' : \text{bool}$ ,  $b = b' \leftrightarrow \text{Eq-bool } b \ b'$

Def  $f : \prod_{b, b'} (b = b' \rightarrow \text{Eq-bool } b \ b')$  by path induction;

$$f(b, b', p) = \text{ind-}\text{eq}_{\text{bool}}^{x_r. \text{Eq-bool } b \ b'} (\text{refl-}\text{Eq}_{\text{bool}}(b, b', p))$$

and  $g : \prod_{b, b'} (\text{Eq-bool } b \ b' \rightarrow b = b')$

$$g \text{ false false } t = \text{refl}_{\text{false}}$$

$$g \text{ false true } u = \text{ind-}\emptyset(u)$$

$$g \text{ true false } u = \text{ind-}\emptyset(u)$$

$$g \text{ true true } t = \text{refl}_{\text{true}}$$

Cor  $\text{true} = \text{false} \rightarrow \emptyset$

$f(\text{true}, \text{false})$  works.

$\text{Eq-bool } \text{false } \text{false} = 1$   
 $\text{Eq-bool } \text{false } \text{true} = \emptyset$   
 $\text{Eq-bool } \text{true } \text{false} = \emptyset$   
 $\text{Eq-bool } \text{true } \text{true} = 1$

## Observational equality on $\mathbb{N}$

Same principle, but we need recursion. We want  $\text{Eq-}\mathbb{N}: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$

$$\text{s.t. for all } n, m : \mathbb{N} : \text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} \ 0 \ 0 = \perp$$

$$\text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} \ 0 \ (\text{suc } m) = \emptyset$$

$$\text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} (\text{suc } n) \ 0 = \emptyset$$

$$\text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} (\text{suc } n) (\text{suc } m) = \text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} n \ m$$

We need double induction w/ strong IH for  $n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eq-}\mathbb{N}(n, m) &:= \text{ind-}\mathbb{N}^{\frac{x: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}}{\exists m. \text{ind-}\mathbb{N}^{\frac{y: \mathcal{U}}{(\perp, yx. \emptyset, m)}}}}, \quad \leftarrow n \neq 0 \\ &\quad \times f. \lambda m. \text{ind-}\mathbb{N}^{\frac{y: \mathcal{U}}{(\emptyset, yx. f y, m)}}, n \quad \leftarrow n = \text{suc } x \\ &\quad \text{repr. } \text{Eq-}\mathbb{N}(x, -) \end{aligned}$$

$\uparrow$   
 $m = 0$

$\uparrow$   
 $m = \text{suc } y$

Q: What if  
we put  
 $n = m$  here  
instead?

Again, we can prove  $\text{Eq-}\mathbb{N}$  is refl. by  $\mathbb{N}$ -induction,

then show  $(n = m) \leftrightarrow \text{Eq-}\mathbb{N} n m$

Cor  $\Pi_{n:\mathbb{N}} (0 = \text{succ } n \leftrightarrow P)$

Cor  $\Pi_{n,m:\mathbb{N}} (\text{succ } n = \text{succ } m \leftrightarrow n = m)$

# Curry-Howard interpretation, following BHK

---

We have already seen this in action many times:

---

propositions P	types A
proofs of P	terms/elements of A
red. of proofs	'judgmental eq.' of terms
T	$\perp$
L	$\emptyset$
$P \Rightarrow Q$	$A \rightarrow B$
$P \wedge Q$	$A \times B$
$\neg P$	$A \rightarrow \emptyset$
$P \vee Q$	$A + B$
$\forall_{x:A} P(x)$	$\prod_{x:A} B(x)$
$\exists_{x:A} P(x)$	$\sum_{x:A} B(x)$
$x =_A y$	$x =_A y$

---

## Brief history

---

- 1908 Brouwer: On the unreliability of logical laws
- 1920's, 30's: Heyting, Kolmogorov
- 1934: Curry  
(1936: Turing machines)
- 1958: Curry-Feys's combinatory logic
- 1969: Howard (inspired by Curry)  
Kreisel and Tait)
- Dana Scott,  
Per Martin-Löf  
↓  
independently  
de Bruijn.

In Howard's note, only for arithmetic, and aware that case of  $\vee, \exists$  was delicate.

E.g., in logic we don't have formulas/propositions that depend on proof of  $P \vee Q \quad / \quad \exists_{x:A} P(x)$

In this case, we need to worry about overlap, i.e.

both  $P$  and  $Q$  true or both  $P(x_1)$  and  $P(x_2)$  true.

Also, we need a refinement in order to ensure compatibility of classical logic with the types as spaces interpretation.  
(we'll return to this later)

## Example Divisibility on $\mathbb{N}$

Def  $k \mid n$  type if  $k \mid n: \mathbb{N}$

$$(k \mid n) := \sum_{d \in \mathbb{N}} k \mid d = n$$

Prop For all  $n$ ,  $1 \mid n$  and  $n \mid n$ .

$$(n, p_n) \quad (1, q_n)$$

$$p_n: 1 \cdot n = n \quad q_n: n \cdot 1 = n$$

Prop For all  $n$ ,  $n \mid 0$ . Use  $(0, r_n)$  where  $r_n: n \cdot 0 = 0$

NB For all  $n$ ,  $(n, s_n): 0 \mid 0$ , where  $s_n: 0 \cdot n = 0$

So we have " $\mathbb{N}$  many proofs that  $0 \mid 0$ "

(make precise w/ equivalences next lecture)

Ex If  $k \mid x$  and  $k \mid y$ , then  $k \mid (x+y)$ .

Example Type theoretic choice. Suppose  $A, B$  are types,  $x:A, y:B \vdash R(x,y)$  type  
 a correspondence/(typal) relation. Then  $(\prod_{x:A} \sum_{y:B} R(x,y)) \Leftrightarrow \sum_{f:A \rightarrow B} \prod_{x:A} R(x, f_x)$   
 is a G-H reading of the axiom of choice.

$$\text{"$\rightarrow$"} \quad H \mapsto (\lambda x. \text{pr}_1(H_x), \lambda x. \text{pr}_2(H_x))$$

$$\text{"$\leftarrow$"} \quad (f, h) \mapsto \lambda x. (f_x, h_x)$$

↑ by \$\Sigma\$-ind

(We'll return to the "real AC"  
 later.)

Example: Split surjections

Suppose  $f: A \rightarrow B$ . Apply G-H to the usual way of  
 saying " $f$  is surjective" gives the type

$$(\prod_{y:B} \sum_{x:A} f_x = b) =: \text{is-split-surjective}(f)$$

a homotopy!

By TTAC, this amounts to a map  $g: B \rightarrow A$  w/  $\text{h}: \prod_{y:B} (f \circ g)(y) = y$