Directed equality with dinaturality

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TYPES 2025 9th June, 2025 Type theories with refl/J are intrinsically about symmetric equality. **Directed type theory** is the generalization to "directed equality".

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The interpretation of directed type theory with (1-)categories:

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathsf{Types} \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{Categories} \\ \mathsf{Terms} \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{Functors} \\ \mathsf{Points} \text{ of a type} \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{Objects} \text{ of a category} \\ \mathsf{Equalities} \ e: a = b \rightsquigarrow \mathsf{Morphisms} \ e: \hom(a, b) \\ =_A: A \times A \rightarrow \mathsf{Type} \rightsquigarrow \hom_{\mathbb{C}}: \mathbb{C}^{\mathsf{op}} \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} \end{array}$

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 \rightarrow Now types have a *polarity*, \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{C}^{op} , i.e., the opposite category. \rightarrow Now equalities e : hom(a, b) have *directionality*.

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However, directed type theory is not so straightforward:

 $a:\mathbb{C}$ refl_a ...? : $\operatorname{hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(a, a)$

• *Problem:* rule is not functorial w.r.t. variance of $\hom_{\mathbb{C}} : \mathbb{C}^{op} \times \mathbb{C} \to \mathbf{Set}$, since $a : \mathbb{C}$ appears both contravariantly and covariantly.

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 $[a: \mathbb{C}^{\mathsf{op}}, b: \mathbb{C}, c: \mathbb{C}] \ \mathrm{hom}(a, b), \ \mathrm{hom}(\overline{b}, c) \vdash \mathrm{hom}(a, c)$

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- Problem: rule is not functorial w.r.t. variance of hom_C : C^{op} × C → Set, since a : C appears both contravariantly and covariantly.
- A possible approach to DTT in **Cat**: use groupoids!
 - \rightarrow Use the maximal subgroupoid $\mathbb{C}^{\mathsf{core}}$ to collapse the two variances.

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- A possible approach to DTT in Cat: use groupoids!
 → Use the maximal subgroupoid C^{core} to collapse the two variances.
- Then a *J*-like rule is validated, but *again using groupoidal structure*.

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Syntax \rightsquigarrow Semantics Types \rightsquigarrow Categories Contexts \rightsquigarrow Product of categories Terms \rightsquigarrow Functors $F : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$

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- Dinaturality solves the variance issue without groupoids, and tells what syntactic restriction to put on J to avoid symmetry.
- We give "logical rules" to (co)ends as the *directed quantifiers* of DTT: ~> rules of DTT give *simple proofs* in category theory, with hom as =.
- We do first-order because (co)end calculus is typically first-order.

• Judgement
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 type for types:

$$\frac{C \text{ type }}{C^{\text{op}} \text{ type }} \frac{C \text{ type } D \text{ type }}{C \times D \text{ type }} \frac{C \text{ type } D \text{ type }}{[C, D] \text{ type }} = T \text{ type }$$

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• Definitional equality on types $\left| C = C' \right|$ type is such that

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$$\llbracket \Gamma := [C_1, \dots C_n] \rrbracket := \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket \times \dots \times \llbracket C_n \rrbracket$$

Directed type theory: judgements for terms

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Definitional equality on terms $|\Gamma \vdash t = t' : C|$ is such that $(t^{op})^{op} = t$.

- A judgement $[\Gamma] P$ prop for predicates.
- Semantics: dipresheaves, i.e., functors $\llbracket P \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket^{\mathsf{op}} \times \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \to \mathbf{Set}$.

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$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline{\Gamma} & P & \text{prop} & [\Gamma] & Q & \text{prop} \\ \hline{\Gamma} & P \times Q & \text{prop} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \hline{\Gamma} & P & \text{prop} & [\Gamma] & Q & \text{prop} \\ \hline{\Gamma} & P \Rightarrow Q & \text{prop} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \hline{\Gamma} & \top & \text{prop} \\ \hline{\Gamma} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} \end{array} \\ \hline{\Gamma} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} & \frac{\Gamma}{r} \end{array} \\ \end{array}$$

Semantics: × is the pointwise product of dipresheaves in Set,
 ⇒ is the pointwise hom in Set, (co)ends are always taken in Set.

• Directed equality predicates:

$$\frac{\Gamma^{\mathsf{op}}, \Gamma \vdash s : C^{\mathsf{op}} \quad \Gamma^{\mathsf{op}}, \Gamma \vdash t : C}{[\Gamma] \quad \hom_C(s, t) \text{ prop}}$$

• Key idea: I can use variables from Γ or from Γ^{op} in the terms s, t.

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- This is what allows us to *write* these entailments:

$$\begin{array}{c} [x:C] & \Phi \vdash \mathsf{refl} & :\hom(\overline{x},x) \\ [a:C^\mathsf{op},b:C,c:C] & \hom(a,b), \ \hom(\overline{b},c), \Phi \vdash \mathsf{trans} : \hom(a,c) \\ & [a:C^\mathsf{op},b:C] & \hom(a,b), \Phi \vdash \mathsf{sym} & :\hom(\overline{b},\overline{a}) \end{array}$$

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- Polarity of a position: positive when taken from Γ , negative when Γ^{op} .
- Variance of a variable: *natural* when always taken from Γ,

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- **Polarity of a position**: *positive* when taken from Γ , *negative* when Γ^{op} .
- Variance of a variable: *natural* when always taken from Γ, *dinatural* (i.e., mixed-variance) when sometimes from Γ, sometimes Γ^{op}.

Syntax – entailments

• A judgement $[\Gamma] \Phi \vdash \alpha : P$ for entailments (Φ is a list of predicates). $[x : C, y : D, \Gamma] \Phi(\overline{x}, x, \overline{y}, y, ...) \vdash \alpha : P(\overline{x}, x, \overline{y}, y, ...)$

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- Semantics: interpreted as dinatural transformations $\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket : \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket \xrightarrow{\bullet \bullet} \llbracket P \rrbracket$: $\forall x \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \alpha_x : \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket (x, x) \longrightarrow \llbracket P \rrbracket (x, x)$

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- Semantics: interpreted as dinatural transformations [[α]] : [[Φ]] → [[P]]:
 ∀x ∈ [[Γ]], α_x : [[Φ]](x, x) → [[P]](x, x)
- Dinaturals do not always compose; they do with natural transformations.

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Dinaturals do not always compose; they do with natural transformations.

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• We capture left/right cut rules with naturals, e.g.: nat on the right:

$$\begin{array}{c} P, Q \text{ do not depend on } \Gamma\\ [z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi(\overline{z},z) \vdash \gamma & :P(\overline{z},z)\\ \hline \\ \underline{[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C,\Gamma] \ k:P(a,b), \Phi(\overline{a},\overline{b}) \vdash \alpha[k]:Q(a,b)}\\ \hline \\ [z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi(\overline{z},z) \vdash \alpha[\gamma]:Q(\overline{z},z) \end{array} \text{ (cut-nat)}$$

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- A judgement $[\Gamma] \Phi \vdash \alpha : P$ for entailments (Φ is a list of predicates). $[x : C, y : D, \Gamma] \Phi(\overline{x}, x, \overline{y}, y, ...) \vdash \alpha : P(\overline{x}, x, \overline{y}, y, ...)$
- Semantics: interpreted as dinatural transformations $\llbracket \alpha \rrbracket : \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket \xrightarrow{\bullet \bullet} \llbracket P \rrbracket$:

$$\forall x \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \alpha_x : \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket(x, x) \longrightarrow \llbracket P \rrbracket(x, x)$$

Dinaturals do not always compose; they do with natural transformations.

$$\frac{P \longrightarrow Q \xrightarrow{\bullet \bullet} R \longrightarrow T}{P \xrightarrow{\bullet \bullet} T}$$

• We capture left/right cut rules with naturals, e.g.: nat on the right:

$$\begin{array}{c} P, Q \text{ do not depend on } \Gamma\\ [z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi(\overline{z},z) \vdash \gamma & :P(\overline{z},z)\\ \hline \\ \frac{[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C,\Gamma] \ k:P(a,b), \Phi(\overline{a},\overline{b}) \vdash \alpha[k]:Q(a,b)}{[z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi(\overline{z},z) \vdash \alpha[\gamma]:Q(\overline{z},z)} \ \text{(cut-nat)} \end{array}$$

Takeaway: whenever we need dinats to compose, they do because of this.

• Directed equality introduction:

$$\overline{[x:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash \mathsf{refl}_x: \hom_C(\overline{x},x)} \ (\mathsf{refl})$$

• Semantics: refl is validated precisely by identity morphisms in $\llbracket C \rrbracket$.

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- Directed equality elimination:

$$\frac{[z:C,\Gamma] \quad \Phi(z,\overline{z}) \vdash h:P(\overline{z},z)}{[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C,\Gamma] \ e:\hom_C(a,b), \Phi(\overline{a},\overline{b}) \vdash J(h):P(a,b)} \ (J)$$

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• Semantics: functoriality of $\llbracket \Phi \rrbracket$ and $\llbracket P \rrbracket$.

Example (Transitivity of directed equality)

Composition is natural in $a : C^{op}, c : C$ and dinatural in b : C:

$$\frac{\overline{[z:C,c:C]} \quad g:\hom(\overline{z},c)\vdash g:\hom(\overline{z},c)}{(Var)}$$
(var)

 $[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C,c:C]\ f:\hom(a,b),\ g:\hom(\overline{b},c)\vdash J(g):\hom(a,c)$

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We contract f : hom(a, b). Rule (J) can be applied: a, b appear only negatively in ctx (a does not) and positively in conclusion (\overline{b} does not).

Example (Congruence)

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Functoriality of terms P is natural in $a: C^{op}, b: C$ for terms $C \vdash F: D$: $\frac{\overline{[z:D] \cdot \vdash \mathsf{refl}_x : \hom_D(\overline{x}, x)} \text{ (refl)}}{[z:C] \cdot \vdash F^*(\mathsf{refl}_x) : \hom_D(F(\overline{z}), F(z))} \text{ (idx)}}{[a:C^{\mathsf{op}}, b:C] e : \hom_C(a, b) \vdash J(F^*(\mathsf{refl}_x)) : \hom_D(F(a), F(b))} (J)$

Example (Transport)

Functoriality of predicates P is natural in b : C, dinatural in a : C: $\frac{1}{[z:C] \ p:P(z) \vdash p:P(z)} \quad \text{(var)}$

$$\overline{[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C]\ e: \hom(a,b), p:P(\overline{a}) \vdash J(p):P(b)} \ ($$

Failure of symmetry for directed equality

The restrictions do not allow us to obtain directed equality is symmetric:

$$[a: \mathbb{C}^{\mathsf{op}}, b: \mathbb{C}] \ e: \hom(a, b) \not\vdash \mathsf{sym} : \hom(\overline{b}, \overline{a})$$

hom(a, b) cannot be contracted: a, b must appear *positively* in conclusion.

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hom(a, b) cannot be contracted: a, b must appear *positively* in conclusion.

• Semantically, the interval $I := \{0 \rightarrow 1\}$ is a counterexample to derivability of this entailment in the syntax.

Directed type theory: equational theory

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- The computation rule for J is expressed using equality of entailments:

$$\overline{[z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash J(h)[\mathsf{refl}_z] = h:P} \ (J\text{-}\mathsf{comp})$$

where we used cut of dinaturals (with refl), which for J always works!

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Example (Left unitality for composition)

$$\overline{[z:C,c:C] \ g: \hom(\overline{z},c) \vdash \mathsf{comp}[\mathsf{refl}_z,g] = g:\hom(\overline{z},c)}$$

Example (Terms send identities to identities)

$$\frac{1}{[z:C] \Phi \vdash \mathsf{map}[\mathsf{refl}_z] = F^*(\mathsf{refl}_z) : \hom(F(\overline{z}), F(z))} (J\text{-comp})$$

(J-comp)

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- What if we want to prove unitality on the right, or associativity?
- There is a "dependent version of J" for equality of entailments:

$$\frac{[z:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi(z,\overline{z}) \vdash \alpha[\mathsf{refl}_z] = \beta[\mathsf{refl}_z] : P(\overline{z},z)}{C^{\mathsf{op}}, b:C,\Gamma] \ e:\hom_C(a,b), \Phi(\overline{a},\overline{b}) \vdash \alpha[e] = \beta[e] : P(a,b)} (J\text{-eq})$$

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Example (Unitality on the right, associativity)

$$\frac{\overline{[w:C]} \cdot \vdash \mathsf{refl}_w; \mathsf{refl}_w = \mathsf{refl}_w: \hom(\overline{w}, w)}{(J-\mathsf{comp})} (J-\mathsf{comp})}$$

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To prove associativity, simply contract f : hom(a, b):

 $\frac{\overline{[z,c,d:C]} \quad g: \hom(\overline{z},c), h: \hom(\overline{c},d) \vdash \mathsf{refl}_z \ ; \ (g\ ; h) = (\mathsf{refl}_z \ ; g) \ ; h: \hom(\overline{z},d)}{[a,b,c,d:C] \ f: \hom(\overline{a},b), g: \hom(\overline{b},c), h: \hom(\overline{c},d) \vdash f \ ; \ (g\ ; h) = (f\ ; g) \ ; h: \hom(\overline{a},d)} \begin{array}{c} (J\text{-comp}) \\ (J\text{-eq}) \end{array}$

(J-eq)

Example (Naturality of entailments)

Given a natural entailment α from P to Q,

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• This also works for dinaturality because *transport is a natural*.

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Naturality for free

Example (Natural transformations for terms)

Given a natural transformation α from F to $G_{\text{-}}$

$$[x:C] \cdot \vdash \alpha : \hom_D(F(\overline{x}), G(x))$$

We prove naturality of families simply by contracting f : hom(a, b):

$$\frac{\overline{[z:C] \vdash \alpha = \alpha : \hom(F(\overline{z}), G(z))} \quad (\text{I-comp})}{[z:C] \vdash \operatorname{refl}_{F(z)}; \alpha = \alpha ; \operatorname{refl}_{G(z)} : \hom(F(\overline{z}), G(z))} \quad (J\text{-comp})}{[z:C] \vdash \operatorname{map}_{F}[\operatorname{refl}_{z}]; \alpha = \alpha ; \operatorname{map}_{G}[\operatorname{refl}_{z}] : \hom(F(\overline{z}), G(z))} \quad (J\text{-comp})}{(J\text{-comp})} \quad (J\text{-comp})}_{(J\text{-eq})}$$

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• We can internalize all these transformations using ends:

$$\begin{split} [] \cdot \vdash \alpha : \mathsf{Nat}(F,G) &:= \int_{x:C} \hom_D(F(\overline{x}),G(x)) \\ [] \cdot \vdash \alpha : \mathsf{Nat}(P,Q) &:= \int_{x:C} P(\overline{x}) \Rightarrow Q(x) \end{split}$$

Directed type theory: logical rules

• Logical rules are given as isomorphisms in "adjoint form":

$$\frac{[\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash P \times Q}{[\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash P, \qquad [\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash Q} \ (\mathsf{prod})$$

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• Dinaturals can be curried: intuitively, all positions invert polarity:

$$\frac{[x:\Gamma] \ A(\overline{x},x), \Phi(\overline{x},x) \vdash B(\overline{x},x)}{[x:\Gamma] \ \Phi(\overline{x},x) \vdash A(x,\overline{x}) \Rightarrow B(\overline{x},x)} \text{ (exp)}$$

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• Rules for (co)ends in "adjoint" form:

$$\frac{[a:C,\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash Q(\overline{a},a)}{[\Gamma] \ \Phi \vdash \int_{a:C} Q(\overline{a},a)} \text{ (end) } \frac{[\Gamma] \ \left(\int^{a:C} Q(\overline{a},a)\right), \Phi \vdash P}{[a:C,\Gamma] \ Q(\overline{a},a), \Phi \vdash P} \text{ (coend)}$$

• This is the presentation \forall/\exists -as-adjoints, up to composition of dinaturals.

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Theorem

There is a bijection (natural in $P, Q : \mathbb{C}^{op} \times \mathbb{C} \to Set$) between sets of dinaturals and sets of **naturals** like this:

 $P \xrightarrow{\cdot \cdot} Q$

$$\hom(a,b) \longrightarrow P^{\mathsf{op}}(b,a) \Rightarrow Q(a,b)$$

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This is where J comes from:

$$z: C, \Gamma$$
] $\Phi(\overline{z}, z) \vdash P(\overline{z}, z)$

$$\frac{[z:C^{op},b:C,\Gamma] \quad \Phi(z,z) + \Gamma(z,z)}{[a:C^{op},b:C,\Gamma] \quad \hom_C(a,b) \vdash \Phi(b,a) \Rightarrow P(a,b)}$$
(exp)
$$\{ (J) \}$$

 $[a: C^{\mathsf{op}}, b: C, \Gamma] \operatorname{hom}_{C}(a, b), \Phi(\overline{b}, \overline{a}) \vdash P(a, b)$

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 $[a:C^{\mathsf{op}},b:C,\Gamma] \ \hom_C(a,b), \Phi(\overline{b},\overline{a}) \vdash P(a,b)$

• Syntax: all rules for hom are derivable $\iff (J)$ is an iso is derivable.
• Using our rules we can prove category theory theorems "logically".

(Co)end calculus

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- We use (co)end calculus-style reasoning, i.e., we show that two presheaves are isomorphic using Yoneda.
- Adjoint form is better suited to (co)end calculus style reasoning: term-based reasoning is hard because of dinaturality.
- Rules for (co)ends as quantifiers + directed equality:
 - (Co)Yoneda,
 - Adjointess of Kan extensions via (co)ends,
 - Presheaves are closed under exponentials,
 - Associativity of composition of profunctors,
 - Right lifts in profunctors,
 - (Co)ends preserve limits,
 - Adjointness of (co)ends in natural transformations,
 - Characterization of dinaturals as certain ends,
 - Frobenius property of (co)ends using exponentials.

(Co)end calculus with dinaturality (1)

Yoneda lemma:
$$(\llbracket P \rrbracket, \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket : \llbracket C \rrbracket \to \mathbf{Set})$$

$$\frac{[a:C] \ \Gamma(a) \vdash \int_{x:C} \hom_C(a, \overline{x}) \Rightarrow P(x)}{[a:C, x:C] \ \Gamma(a) \vdash \hom_C(a, \overline{x}) \Rightarrow P(x)} \quad \text{(end)}$$

$$\frac{\overline{[a:C, x:C] \ \hom_C(\overline{a}, x) \times \Gamma(a) \vdash P(x)}}{[z:C] \ \Gamma(z) \vdash P(z)} \quad \text{(hom)}$$

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$$\frac{\overline{[a:C, x:C] \ \hom_C(\overline{a}, x) \times \Gamma(a) \vdash P(x)}}{[z:C] \ \Pi(z) \vdash P(z)} \quad \text{(hom)}$$

CoYoneda lemma:

$$\frac{[a:C] \int^{x:C} \hom_C(\overline{x}, a) \times P(x) \vdash \Gamma(a)}{[a:C, x:C] \hom_C(\overline{a}, x) \times P(a) \vdash \Gamma(x)} (\text{coend})}_{[z:C] P(z) \vdash \Gamma(z)} (\text{hom})$$

(Co)end calculus with dinaturality (2)

Presheaves are cartesian closed: $(\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \llbracket A \rrbracket, \llbracket B \rrbracket : \llbracket C \rrbracket \to \mathbf{Set})$

$$\begin{split} [x:C] \ \Gamma(x) \vdash (A \Rightarrow B)(x) \\ &:= \operatorname{Nat}(\hom_C(x, -) \times A, B) \\ &\cong \int_{y:C} \hom_C(x, \overline{y}) \times A(\overline{y}) \Rightarrow B(y) \\ \hline \hline \overline{[x:C,y:C]} \ \Gamma(x) \vdash \hom_C(x, \overline{y}) \times A(\overline{y}) \Rightarrow B(y)} \quad (\text{end}) \\ \hline \hline \overline{[x:C,y:C]} \ A(y) \times \hom_C(\overline{x}, y) \times \Gamma(x) \vdash B(y)} \quad (\text{coend}) \\ \hline \hline \overline{[y:C]} \ A(y) \times \left(\int_{x:C}^{x:C} \hom_C(\overline{x}, y) \times \Gamma(x) \right) \vdash B(y)} \quad (\text{coYoneda}) \end{split}$$

Right Kan extensions via ends are right adjoints to precomposition with $F: C \to D$ ($P: C \to \mathbf{Set}, \Gamma: D \to \mathbf{Set}$):

$$[y:D] \ \Gamma(y) \vdash (\operatorname{Ran}_{F}P)(y) \\ := \int_{x:C} \hom_{D}(y, F(\overline{x})) \Rightarrow P(x) \\ \overline{[x:C,y:D] \ \Gamma(y) \vdash \hom_{D}(y, F(\overline{x})) \Rightarrow P(x)} \text{ (end)} \\ \overline{[x:C,y:D] \ \hom_{D}(\overline{y}, F(x)) \times \Gamma(y) \vdash P(x)} \\ \overline{[x:C] \ \int^{y:D} \hom_{D}(\overline{y}, F(x)) \times \Gamma(y) \vdash P(x)} \\ \overline{[x:C] \ \Gamma(F(x)) \vdash P(x)} \text{ (coYoneda)}$$

(Co)end calculus with dinaturality (5)

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- Immediate future: a working notion of *dinatural context extension* → towards *dependent dinatural directed type theory*.

The $\int dx$

Paper: "Directed equality with dinaturality" (arXiv:2409.10237) Website: iwilare.com (← updated version is here!)

Thank you for the attention!