

Logical framework-like encoding of inference rules¹

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March, 2017

For an inference rule with premises $\Gamma \triangleright T_1 \text{ type}$ and $\Gamma, x_1 : T_1 \triangleright T_2 \text{ type}$ and product of the form $\Gamma \triangleright \text{Sum}(T_1, x_1.T_2) \text{ type}$ the format of the LF-style encoding is

$$\text{Sum} : \prod_{T_1:\text{Type}} \prod_{T_2:T_1 \rightarrow \text{Type}} \text{Type}$$

Therefore, types of the structure

$$(A_1 \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow (A_n \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

where A_i are small type expressions, should be allowed.

Let us check something else. Suppose the premises are $\Gamma \triangleright T_1 \text{ type}$, $\Gamma, x_1 : \text{Sum}(T_1, T_1) \triangleright T_2 \text{ type}$ and the product is $\Gamma \triangleright \text{Sum}_2(T_1, x_1.T_2) \text{ type}$. Then

$$\text{Sum}_2 : \prod_{T_1:\text{Type}} \prod_{\text{Sum}(T_1, T_1) \rightarrow \text{Type}} \text{Type}$$

The fact that types of structure

$$(\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

are not necessary, somehow corresponds with the fact that in the syntax of type theory, variables are always elements of types and never types. If I could have as the premise $\Gamma, X : \text{Type} \triangleright T : \text{Type}$ and as the product $\Gamma \triangleright S(X.T) \text{ type}$ then for the LF-style encoding I would have

$$S : \prod_{T:\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}} \text{Type}$$

which is the same as

$$S : (\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$$

If we had it, it would be the following - $T(X)$ would be any construction that from a type expression A makes another type expression $T(A)$ while S will be a construction that from any such construction makes a type. For example, S could be evaluating T on *nat*. If we add $\Gamma \triangleright T_0 \text{ type}$ as another premise then we can have $S(T_0, X.T) = T(T(T_0/X)/X)$.

What is interesting however is that the structure **(RR, LM)** is directly related to the fact that the premises of the inference rules generating types or elements of types in the Agda-LF-style encoding can only have the form Type , $(\vec{x} : \vec{A}) \rightarrow \text{Type}$, B or $(\vec{x} : \vec{A}) \rightarrow B$, but never $\text{Type} \rightarrow \text{Type}$.

¹2000 *Mathematical Subject Classification*: 18D99, 18C50

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To follow further with the LF-style encodings one needs to provide encodings of the inference rules for the type and element equalities. Suppose you have a universe U with the Ty constructor that produces a type from an element of the universe. One needs the rule with the premise $\Gamma \triangleright a \equiv b : U$ and the product $\Gamma \triangleright Ty(a) \equiv Ty(b)$.

One can encode a type equality rule as a pair of the problem is in how to use such equality rules in the subsequent inference rules