Design and Implementation of Family Polymorphism for Interactive Theorem Proving

by

Ende Jin

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Author’s Declaration

This thesis consists of material all of which I authored or co-authored: see Statement of Contributions included in the thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.
Statement of contributions

Ende Jin was the sole author for Section 6, which were written under the supervision of Dr. Yizhou Zhang.


This thesis consists in part of a manuscript written for publication. The exception to sole authorship of material is as follows:

Research presented in the rest of the thesis: The research was conducted at the University of Waterloo by Ende Jin under the supervision of Dr. Yizhou Zhang. Ende Jin proposed the primary design of the language, prototyped the Coq plugin for realizing the language, implemented and evaluated the case studies, and formalized and proved meta-theoretic arguments for the core type theory. Ende Jin established the complete language design with consultations from Dr. Yizhou Zhang.

With the growing practice of mechanizing language metatheories, it has become ever more pressing that interactive theorem provers make it easy to write reusable, extensible code and proofs. This thesis presents a novel language design geared towards extensible metatheory mechanization in a proof assistant. The new design achieves reuse and extensibility via a form of family polymorphism, an object-oriented idea, that allows code and proofs to be polymorphic to their enclosing families. Our development addresses technical challenges that arise from the underlying language of a proof assistant being simultaneously functional, dependently typed, a logic, and an interactive tool. Our results include (1) a prototypical implementation of the language design as a Coq plugin, (2) a dependent type theory capturing the essence of the language mechanism and its consistency and canonicity results, and (3) case studies showing how the new expressiveness naturally addresses real programming challenges in metatheory mechanization.
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List of Abbreviations

EP Expression Problem .................................................. 1
OO object-oriented .......................................................... 1
STLC simply typed λ-calculus .......................................... 1
FPOP Family Polymorphism for a Proof assistant ................. 5
FMLTT Family Type Theory .............................................. 18
QIIT Quotient Inductive-Inductive Type ............................ 23
DTC data types à la carte ................................................ 41
MTC meta-theory à la carte ............................................. 41
1 INTRODUCTION

There is a growing trend among programming languages researchers to use proof assistants to mechanize metatheories. However, the programmer runs into an old problem in the new setting of proof engineering: the Expression Problem (EP) [Wadler et al. 1998].

The EP is a programming challenge that epitomizes the difficulty of writing type-safe, extensible code. To define an expression language that can be reused for future extensions, the programmer faces a fundamental tension [Reynolds 1975] between adding new constructors to a data type (e.g., new abstract syntax) and adding new functions over the data type (e.g., new compiler passes).

The EP is well studied in the setting of ordinary functional programming and object-oriented (OO) programming. Modern languages, such as Scala [Odersky and Zenger 2005], have a good supply of linguistic features that offer expressive power to solve the EP.

In contrast, proof assistants offer few linguistic solutions to the EP. But the challenge of writing extensible, type-safe code is as real as in any other language. Metatheory mechanization epitomizes the difficulty: the programmer faces a tension between adding new constructors to an inductive type (e.g., new abstract syntax) and adding new functions and theorems over the inductive type (e.g., new metatheoretical results).

In the Coq proof assistant, for instance, inductive types, as well as functions and theorems over inductive types, are closed to extension. So to reuse mechanized metatheories, the common practice is still to copy code and proofs and then modify them in each extension. But having to maintain multiple copies is highly non-modular and antithetical to good software engineering. The programmer could also turn to design patterns for structuring developments and tool support for cutting down on boilerplate [Delaware et al. 2011, 2013a; Schwaab and Siek 2013; Keuchel and Schrijvers 2013; Forster and Stark 2020]. But these solutions tend to require heavy lifting from the programmer to make code extensible and often lead to non-idiomatic programming styles.

We thus set out to answer the following question: can extensible metatheory mechanization be made easier by having a proof assistant support new linguistic features that address the EP?

At the core of many linguistic solutions to the EP is inheritance. Inheritance is sometimes interpreted narrowly as a subclass’ inheriting methods and instance variables from its superclass. But the language-theoretic essence of inheritance is more general: it is a linguistic approach to incrementally modifying record-like definitions by allowing late binding [Cook et al. 1990].

Language mechanisms including virtual classes [Madsen and Moller-Pedersen 1989; Ernst et al. 2006], mixins [Bracha and Cook 1990], virtual types [Thorup 1997], and extensible cases [Blume et al. 2006] are based on this essential idea of inheritance. In particular, when a language mechanism allows late binding of the meaning of nested types and terms, it is said to support family polymorphism [Ernst 2001]: types and terms are polymorphic to a family they are nested within.

Contributions. We contribute a language design that integrates family polymorphism into a proof assistant. Because code and proofs are polymorphic to a family they are nested within, they can be inherited and reused by a derived family. Hence, family polymorphism allows for extensible metatheory mechanization.

As an example, the diagram to the right depicts an extensible mechanization of the simply typed $\lambda$-calculus (STLC), using family polymorphism. An extension of STLC with products and another with fixpoints can both inherit from the base STLC family: they reuse mechanized metatheories, from abstract syntax all the way to the type-safety theorem, only adding new constructors to inductive types and adding new cases to recursive functions and induction proofs as needed by an extension.
Integrating family polymorphism into a dependent type theory for logical reasoning, however, poses significant technical challenges. As our analysis will show, pillars of dependent type theories—including inductive types, definitional equality, and logical consistency—are all inimical to the kind of extensibility and family polymorphism found in existing OO language designs. Thus, our contributions include novel design recipes for dealing with these challenges and foundational meta-theoretical guarantees on the underlying logic. Specifically, we make the following contributions.

- We present a language design that enables extensible metatheory mechanization in a higher-order, dependent type theory with inductive types (Section 3). The language design reconciles the expressiveness enabled by family polymorphism with the rigor of a proof assistant, while largely retaining an idiomatic programming style.

- We contribute a prototypical implementation of our language mechanism as a Coq plugin (Section 4), available at https://github.com/DKXXXL/FPOP. The plugin works by compiling surface-language definitions into Coq modules parameterized by explicit extensibility hooks.

- We capture the essence of the new language mechanism formally by extending Martin-Löf type theory with facilities to express family polymorphism (Section 5). We prove foundational metatheoretical results including consistency and canonicity.

- We present case studies of using our Coq plugin to mechanize language metatheories (Section 7). They show how our language design naturally solves the EP and enables a good amount of reuse and extensibility for mechanizing proofs.
2 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Integrating family polymorphism into a proof assistant presents challenges far beyond those found in an object-oriented setting, as the underlying programming language is simultaneously functional, dependently typed, a logic, and an interactive tool.

C1. Extensible inductive types vs. exhaustive inductive reasoning. Inductive types, generalizing algebraic data types found in functional languages, are a central feature of any proof assistant in use for mechanizing language metatheories. They offer a means to define abstract syntax and inference rules. But unfortunately, inductive types are closed to extension by design.

A family-polymorphism design could potentially support extensible inductive types, by allowing a derived family to add new constructors to inductive types inherited from a base family. Such a feature would be useful for extending mechanized languages. As an example, Figure 1 shows an STLC extension, the mechanization of which would be made easier by extensible inductive types. Code would be organized into two families, with the derived family inheriting constructors from the base family (e.g., the ellipse under “Typing rules”) and adding new constructors to model the syntax and semantics of a fixpoint construct.

However, there is a tension between extensibility of inductive types and exhaustivity of inductive reasoning. In Figure 1, all the lemmas and theorems, as well as the substitution function, require induction (i.e., elimination of inductive types). A language design must enforce that induction remains exhaustive in the face of the new constructors in the derived family. For modularity, the

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The tension reflects a duality between variants and records. With record-like language constructs (e.g., objects and families), it is safe for an extension to add new fields: existing fields can still be projected. But variant-like constructs (e.g., inductive types) do not automatically enjoy safe, modular addition of constructors: existing pattern matches could become

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Mechanization of terms, types, typing rules, value forms, and reduction rules is via inductive types. Mechanization of the substitution function and all the lemmas and theorems is by induction over inductive types.

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Figure 1. STLC metatheories (left) and its extension with fixpoints (right).
type system should do so without requiring redefinition or rechecking of those cases already handled by the base family.

**C2. Late binding vs. definitional equality.** Family polymorphism enables modular reuse via late binding: the code of a base family can be reused by a derived family, because fields referenced by that code have meanings polymorphic to the enclosing family.

This flexibility, however, prevents *definitional equality* that one takes for granted when programming in a proof assistant. In Figure 1, a proof assistant supporting family polymorphism cannot unfold references to the substitution function into a pattern match against four cases, as a derived family may modify the definition of the function by adding new cases. Without the ability to unfold the substitution function, how can the programmer even prove the substitution lemma? The problem is compounded by the occasional need in derived families to override fields, which is potentially at odds with being able to use equalities over the fields.

**C3. Self reference vs. logical consistency.** The language-theoretic essence of late binding is self reference; inheritance and family polymorphism are mechanisms for incrementally modifying self-referential definitions [Cook et al. 1990]. However, self reference could easily lead to divergence. Divergence is not a concern for the design of ordinary OO or functional languages, but it would mean logical inconsistency—and hence unsoundness!—for a language aimed at logical reasoning. A family-polymorphism design must tame self reference to guarantee consistency.

**C4. User experience and system implementation.** Interactive theorem proving and tactic programming are central to a typical programming experience with a proof assistant. A language design integrating family polymorphism should be compatible with these forms of programming. In particular, it should be possible in our system to incrementally navigate through vernacular commands and, moreover, construct proofs with common tactics while getting instant feedback on the proof state, even in the middle of a family definition. Last but not least, in addition to proving theorems, it should be possible for terms defined with families to possess computational content.
3 LANGUAGE DESIGN

We present the key ingredients of our design as an extension to the Coq proof assistant, though we believe the design could be adapted to other proof assistants such as Lean. We call our design and implementation Family POlymorphism for a Proof assistant (FPOP). In this section, we focus on the language design of FPOP. Section 4 describes its implementation as a Coq plugin.

Figure 2 shows how STLC and its extension with fixpoints can be mechanized using FPOP, in a style envisioned in Figure 1. The base family STLC hosts the STLC metatheories, from abstract syntax to the type-safety theorem. Family STLCfix, derived from STLC, makes adjustments as needed by a fixpoints extension: it adds new constructors to the inductive types (FInductive) and adds new cases to the recursive functions (FRecursion) and induction proofs (FInduction). Existing constructors and cases, as well as those definitions and theorems that need no adjustments (ty, env, empty, steps, and typesafe), are automatically inherited and reused. In particular, executing the last command, Check STLCFix.typesafe, displays the type-safety theorem of the fixpoints extension.

3.1 Extensible Inductive Types and Exhaustive Recursion/Induction

Extending inductive types. In family STLCFix, the FInductive tm further binds the tm type in family STLC. It has five constructors: four inherited from STLC and a fifth called tm_fix.

Crucially, the meanings of tm and its constructors are late bound, depending on the family in which they are referenced. Consider tm_app. It is defined in family STLC and is thus unaware of tm_fix. Yet in family STLCFix, we can use tm_app to construct applications of fixpoints, as in tm_app (tm_fix "f" t1) t2. This use is justified by tm_app’s type, tm → tm → tm. It allows tm_app to be applied to anything of type tm, which in family STLCFix include those constructed from tm_fix.

Ensuring exhaustivity of induction. Ordinarily, an inductive type is not extensible: it is exhaustively generated by its constructors and has no more inhabitants beyond those they construct. This idea is captured by the eliminator (aka recursor) associated with an inductive type. For example, if tm were defined as an ordinary inductive type, then its eliminator would have the following type:

\[
\text{tm_rect} : \forall (P : \text{tm} \rightarrow \text{Type}), P \text{tm_unit} \rightarrow (\forall x, P (\text{tm_var} x)) \rightarrow \forall t_1, P t_1 \rightarrow \forall t_2, P t_2 \rightarrow P (\text{tm_app} t_1 t_2) \rightarrow \forall t, P t
\]

The eliminator would enable function definitions by recursion and proofs by induction, over tm, that exhaustively handle the four cases corresponding to each constructor. The (dependent) return type P is called the motive of the recursion.

With inductive types made extensible, exhaustivity of induction is now in question, however. In particular, the recursor tm_rect should no longer be allowed, because its type mentions tm, whose meaning is late bound, yet tm_rect purports to claim \( \forall t, P t \) given only four case handlers.

To reconcile the tension without requiring redefinition or rechecking of case handlers (C1), our design introduces the FRecursion and FInduction commands. The key idea is to allow case handlers to be added retroactively, should inductive types be extended, and to allow recursion and induction (which are defined in terms of case handlers) to be late bound.

As an example, consider the substitution function subst, defined using FRecursion. The on clause specifies that recursion is over tm. The motive clause suggests that the recursive function being defined has type tm → id → tm → tm. The subst function in STLC is further bound by the subst in STLCFix: the four cases from STLC are automatically inherited and reused, with STLCFix adding a fifth case retroactively to form a new subst function. For exhaustivity, it is a static error if the programmer fails to further bind subst and define this fifth case. The type system does this check in family STLCFix by examining if the inductive type tm, over which subst is recursively defined, is further bound in the same family.
Family STLC.  (* The base STLC *)

FInductive tm : Set :=
| tm_unit : tm
| tm_var : id → tm
| tm_abs : id → tm → tm
| tm_app : tm → tm → tm.

FRecursion subst on tm (*/ Substitution function */)
motive λ(_, _ : tm), id → tm → tm.

Case tm_unit := λ x t, tm_unit.
Case tm_var := λ y x t, if (eqb x y) then t else (tm_var y).
Case tm_abs := λ y t' Iht' x t, tm_abs y (if (eqb x y) then t' else Iht' x t).
Case tm_app := λ tl Iht1 t2 Iht2 x t, tm_app (Iht1 x t) (Iht2 x t).
End subst.

FInductive ty : Set :=
| ty_unit : ty
| ty_arrow : ty
| ty_unit : ty

FInductive value : tm → Prop :=
| v_abs : id → value tm_unit
| v_unit : value tm_unit

FInductive step : tm → tm → Prop :=
| st_app1 : ...
| st_app2 : ...

End subst.

FRecursion subst on tm (*/ Substitution function */)
motive λ Dự, id → tm → tm.

Case tm_unit := λ x t, tm_unit.
Case tm_var := λ y x t, if (eqb x y) then t else (tm_var y).
Case tm_abs := λ y t' Iht' x t, tm_abs y (if (eqb x y) then t' else Iht' x t).
Case tm_app := λ tl Iht1 t2 Iht2 x t, tm_app (Iht1 x t) (Iht2 x t).
End subst.

FInductive preserve on hasty (*/ Preserv. theorem */)
motive λ G t T (_, _ : hasty G t T),
G = empty → ∀ t' t', step t t' →
hasty empty t' T.

Case ht_unit. ... Qed.
Case ht_var. ... Qed.
Case ht_abs. ... Qed.
End preserve.

FInductive step (tm_fix x t) (subst t x (tm_fix x t)).

FTheorem typesafe : (* Type-safety theorem *)
∀ t t' T, steps t t' → hasty empty t T →
value t' ∨ ∃ t'', step t' t''.
Proof. ... Qed.

End STLC.

Family STLCFix extends STLC.

FInductive tm : Set :=
| tm_fix : id → tm.

FRecursion subst on tm (*/ Substitution function */)
motive λ Dự, id → tm → tm.

Case tm_fix := λ x t, tm_fix.
End subst.

FInductive hasty : env → tm → ty → Prop :=
| ht_var := ∀ G, hasty G tm_unit ty_unit
| ht_abs := ...
| ht_app := ...

FInductive value : tm → Prop :=
| v_abs : value tm_unit
| v_unit : value tm_unit

FInductive step : tm → tm → Prop :=
| st_app1 : ...
| st_app2 : ...

End subst.

FInductive preserve on hasty (*/ Preserv. theorem */)
motive λ G t T (_, _ : hasty G t T),
G = empty → ∀ t' t', step t t' →
hasty empty t' T.

Case ht_unit. ... Qed.
Case ht_var. ... Qed.
Case ht_abs. ... Qed.
Case ht_app. ... Qed.
End preserve.

FInductive progress on hasty (*/ Progress theorem */)
motive λ G t T (_, _ : hasty G t T),
G = empty → value t ∨ ∃ t', step t t'.

Case ht_unit. ... Qed.
Case ht_var. ... Qed.
Case ht_abs. ... Qed.
Case ht_app. ... Qed.
End progress.

FTheorem typesafe : (* Type-safety theorem *)
∀ t t' T, steps t t' → hasty empty t T →
value t' ∨ ∃ t'', step t' t''.
Proof. ... Qed.

End STLCFix.

Check STLCFix.typesafe.

Figure 2. Using fpop to mechanize STLC and the fixpoints extension, as envisioned in Figure 1.
The FInduction command is similar to FRecursion but allows cases to be defined in proof mode. Consider weakenlem as an example. It is proven by induction on the typing relation hasty. Its motive clause shows that the lemma reads as \( \forall G T, \text{hasty } G T \rightarrow \forall G', \text{includedin } G G' \rightarrow \text{hasty } G' T \). Upon entering case ht_abs, for instance, Coq enters proof mode with the goal
\[
\forall G', \text{includedin } G G' \rightarrow \text{hasty } G' (\text{tm_abs } x t) (\text{ty_arrow } T1 T2)
\]
and with the induction hypothesis \( \forall G', \text{includedin } (\text{extend } G x T1) G' \rightarrow \text{hasty } G' T2 \). The programmer can use tactic programming to discharge the goal. Because the lemma is by FInduction on hasty and because STLCFix adds a constructor ht_fix to hasty, the programmer is required in family STLCFix to extend the proof of weakenlem to handle this extra case.

### 3.2 Late Binding and Equalities

**Late binding of nested names.** OO inheritance allows the late binding of method names. Family polymorphism generalizes the power of OO inheritance by allowing the late binding of all names nested within families, including those referring to types. We have seen that late binding of \( \text{tm} \) allows the \( \text{tm} \) constructors in STLC to be reused in STLCFix to construct terms containing \( \text{tm_fix} \).

As another example, consider the type of \( \text{st_beta} \) in family STLC. It refers to \( \text{subst} \), whose meaning is late bound. When \( \text{st_beta} \) is inherited into family STLCFix, \( \text{st_beta} \) has a type that now refers to the \( \text{subst} \) function in STLCFix, where \( \text{subst} \) is defined by handling all the five cases known to that family. Thus, late binding of \( \text{subst} \) allows the derived family to reuse \( \text{st_beta} \) as the \( \beta \)-reduction rule for applications possibly constructed from \( \text{tm_fix} \).

Importantly, a name is late bound only within a family that defines or further binds it. Outside such families, the name can be accessed only by explicitly specifying a family that contains it. For example, the last line of Figure 2 accesses typesafe with a qualifier STLCFix. The command prints
\[
\text{STLCFix.typesafe: } \forall t t' T, \text{STLCFix.steps } t t' \rightarrow \text{STLCFix.hasty STLCFix.empty } t T \rightarrow \text{STLCFix.value } t' \lor \exists t'', \text{STLCFix.step } t' t''.
\]
In this type, all references to nested names are qualified by STLCFix, as desired.

**Equality on late bound names.** Consider proving the \( \text{ht_unit} \) case of the substitution lemma, weakenlem. The goal is seemingly trivial: the programmer is asked to prove
\[
\forall G' G x t' T', G' = \text{extend } G x T' \rightarrow \text{empty } t' T' \rightarrow \text{hasty } G (\text{subst } \text{tm_unit } x t') \text{ ty_unit}.
\]
If \( \text{subst} \) were an ordinary Coq function, then the programmer could discharge the goal with intros; simpl subst; apply ht_unit. The Ltac term simpl subst unfolds subst using its definition and simplifies subst \( \text{tm_unit } x t' \) to \( \text{tm_unit} \).

But with \( \text{subst} \) being late bound, subst cannot and should not be unfolded (C2): the definition of subst, as a recursive function, varies across families, yet a derived family should be able to reuse the proof of the \( \text{ht_unit} \) case even when it has to modify the definition of subst. Without the ability to unfold subst, how can the programmer make progress in this proof, then?

A key observation is that although late binding prevents *definitional equality* on subst, it does not affect *propositional equality*. That is, \( \forall x t, \text{subst } \text{tm_unit } x t = \text{tm_unit}, \) as a proposition (Prop) about the computational behavior of subst, should still hold. After all, how subst is defined on \( \text{tm_unit} \) does not vary from a base family to a derived family; what can vary is subst itself as a recursive function combining the case handlers.

Based on this insight, FPOp automatically generates a propositional equality for each case handler defined within FRecursion, making the equalities and the recursive function available as axioms for use by the rest of the current family. FPOp also provides a tactic fsimpl that enables, for instance, simplifying subst \( \text{tm_unit } x t' \) to \( \text{tm_unit} \). fsimpl works by rewriting applications of the axiomatized recursive function using the axiomatized equalities about its computational behaviors.
Note that the definitional equality on \texttt{subst} is available outside those families that contain \texttt{subst}. Within those families, the meaning of \texttt{subst} is late bound (i.e., polymorphic to the enclosing family), so only propositional equality is available. In contrast, outside those families, \texttt{subst} is always referenced by specifying a family that contains it, as in \texttt{STLC.subst} and \texttt{STLCFix.subst}. As far as the type checker is concerned, \texttt{tm_unit} and \texttt{STLCFix.subst tm_unit x t'} are the same thing—the type checker equates them definitionally by unfolding \texttt{STLCFix.subst} and performing normalization.

### 3.3 Overriding

In an OO language, a subclass can override methods of a superclass. Similar expressivity is useful for mechanizing proofs, too. For example, in a derived family, rather than adding new cases to an induction proof, the programmer may prefer overriding the proof entirely, as we observe in our case studies (Section 7).

Overriding is potentially incompatible with having equalities on late bound names, however. Coq distinguishes \textit{opaque} definitions from \textit{transparent} ones. \texttt{fpop} supports the overriding of opaque definitions, which include most proofs. It is safe to override opaque definitions, because the type checker will never attempt to unfold them. For transparent definitions, the common case is that the programmer does not want to override them. In Figure 2, \texttt{env}, \texttt{empty}, \texttt{subst}, and \texttt{steps} are transparent—that is, they are not defined with \texttt{Qed}. \texttt{fpop} treats transparent definitions as non-overridable by default. Thus, the definitional equalities on \texttt{env}, \texttt{empty}, and \texttt{steps}, as well as the propositional equality on \texttt{subst}, are available to the type checker for type-checking the families.

\texttt{fpop} does allow the overriding of transparent definitions explicitly marked as \textit{Overridable} by the programmer. Overriding is made safe by requiring that when an overridable field is overridden, code whose type checking involves unfolding that field should be overridden too. We expect this feature to be used occasionally.

### 3.4 Sound Logical Reasoning

In Figure 2, just because the \texttt{typesafe} theorem in \texttt{STLC} is inherited and reused by \texttt{STLCFix}, it does not follow that in \texttt{STLCFix} the programmer can use \texttt{typesafe} to prove progress. If the programmer did, then they would be committing the logical fallacy of circular reasoning: the proof of progress would depend on \texttt{typesafe}, yet the proof of \texttt{typesafe} depends on progress. Such circularity would easily lead to logical inconsistency. Consider the following two families, where \texttt{B} extends \texttt{A}:

\begin{verbatim}
FLemma g : False. Proof. apply f. Qed.
End A.
Family B extends A.
FLemma f : False. Proof. apply g. Qed.
End B.
\end{verbatim}

\texttt{B} overrides \texttt{f} by proving it using \texttt{g}. \texttt{Lemma g} is in turn inherited from family \texttt{A}, where it is proven using a late bound reference to \texttt{lemma f}. Circularity between \texttt{f} and \texttt{g} allows proving \texttt{False}!

To ensure the soundness of logical reasoning (C3), the type system requires that in a derived family, the context in which a field is defined be preserved from the base family. In \texttt{STLC}, progress is in the context of \texttt{typesafe}. Per the requirement, this relationship must be preserved into \texttt{STLCFix}, which prevents the proof of progress from depending on \texttt{typesafe} in \texttt{STLCFix}.

Note that the requirement still allows a derived family to introduce new declarations into the context of a field. For example, the left column of Figure 3 shows an extension of \texttt{STLC} with iso-recursive types, where \texttt{tysubst} is introduced into the context of \texttt{hasty}. In the event that \texttt{fpop} cannot infer where the programmer intends to place a new field, an annotation is required.

### 3.5 Composing Families as Mixins

Families can be readily reused to construct larger extensions that \textit{mix in} [Bracha and Cook 1990] the functionalities of the individual families. A family like \texttt{STLCFix} can be viewed as a family-to-family
functor—and hence a mixin, in the sense of [Flatt et al. 1998]—that transforms any family providing the base STLC functionalities (i.e., STLC or a derived family there of) into a new family additionally supporting fixpoints.

In Figure 3, STLCFixIsorec is declared as an STLC extension that mixes in STLCFix and STLCIsorec. The family is declared with minimal verbiage, yet STLCFixIsorec.typesafe is automatically a proof of the type-safety theorem of an STLC equipped with fixpoints and iso-recursive types.

Mixin composition is a form of multiple inheritance, which may cause name conflicts in general. FPOP requires the programmer to resolve conflicts by overriding conflicted overridable fields. In the presence of extensible inductive types, mixin composition may also create an obligation to retrofit the mixins with new case handlers. In Figure 3, family STLCProdIsorec is composed of two mixins: STLCProd, which extends the inductive type ty with a new constructor ty_prod, and STLCIsorec, which introduces a function tysubst recursively defined on ty. Hence, for exhaustivity, it is required that a composition of STLCProd and STLCIsorec should additionally handle the ty_prod case in tysubst.

3.6 Injectivity and Disjointness of Constructors via Partial Recursors

Tactics support for constructors. Coq provides tactics for proving injectivity and disjointness of constructors (i.e., injection and discriminate). The proof terms generated by the tactics involve exhaustively matching on the constructors of an inductive type, so they do not work for extensible inductive types (C1). In principle, the programmer could use FInduction to prove injectivity and disjointness. But this workaround is unsatisfying: it is tedious, it forces the programmer to revisit the induction proofs every time an inductive type is extended, and above all, why should a property like ¬(tm_var "x" = tm_abs "y" t) have anything to do with tm_fix?

To provide a streamlined programming experience (C4), FPOP offers two tactics, finjection and fdiscriminate. For example, in a proof state that contains a manifestly false assumption
**Partial recursors.** We make the observation that injectivity and disjointness of existing constructors ought to hold regardless of future addition of constructors. This insight motivates the design of partial recursors, which power the \texttt{finjection} and \texttt{fdiscriminate} tactics. Partial recursors can be automatically generated for inductive types defined with \texttt{FInductive}.

As analyzed earlier, ordinary recursors, such as \texttt{tm_rect}, are impossible within a family in which the name of the inductive type is late bound. However, a key observation is that extensible inductive types still admit a weakened elimination principle where the motive is an \texttt{option} type. For example, within family \texttt{STLC}, the partial recursor for \texttt{tm} has the following type, with extra equations describing its behavior on each constructor:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{tm_prect_STLC} : & \forall (P : \text{tm} \to \text{Type}), \text{option} (P \text{tm_unit}) \to (\forall x, \text{option} (P (\text{tm_var} x))) \to \\
& (\forall t, \text{option} (P t) \to \text{option} (P (\text{tm_abs} x t))) \to \\
& (\forall t_1, \text{option} (P t_1) \to \forall t_2, \text{option} (P t_2) \to \text{option} (P (\text{tm_app} t_1 t_2))) \to \forall t, \text{option} (P t)
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{tm_prect_STLC} \text{ cannot be a trivial function even though its return type has option. Because these four equations uniquely describe the tm_prect_STLC on the four constructors and make tm_prect_STLC behave similarly to the ordinary dependent eliminator of the non-extensible version of tm.}
\]

**Property about Partial Recursors.** A partial recursor is simply adding partiality into the signature of the ordinary eliminator—by wrapping each motive with \texttt{option}—together with the equations describing its computational behaviors inherited from the ordinary eliminators.

This partial recursor seems non-canonical compared to the (dependent) eliminator for inductive types as the latter can be considered a universal property. This extensionality makes dependent eliminator one of the most powerful reasoning tools around inductive type.

Even though we cannot prove partial recursors are the most powerful reasoning tool for extensible inductive types, the fact that propositional partial recursors can derive injectivity already demonstrates itself as a good \textit{extensional characterization} of (non-indexed) extensible inductive type (under certain constraints)—because we can “embed” vanilla inductive types into types supporting a partial recursor: a bit more formally speaking, and restricting our focus to non-indexed inductive types:

**Theorem 3.1.** Given a list of \(n\) pairs of types \(\{x : A_i \vdash B_i(x)\}_i\) s.t.

- (Detectable Partiality) for each pair \(x : A_i \vdash B_i(x)\),
  \[
  \text{Axiom detectable:} \\
  \forall \{\text{T} \vdash \text{a}\} \ (f : B_i a \to \text{option} \ T), \\
  \{\forall x, f x \neq \text{None}\} + \{\exists x, f x = \text{None}\}.
  \]
- Define \(C\) as the inductive type using this list, i.e.,
  \[
  \text{Inductive } C : \text{Set} := \ldots | c_i : \forall x : A_i, (B_i x \to C) \to C | \ldots
  \]
- Assume an arbitrary type \(D : \text{Set} with\)
  \[
  - n \text{ functions } d_i : \forall x : A_i, (B_i x \to D) \to D
  - a \text{ partial recursor}
  \]

\[\]

prec : \forall (R : \text{Set}), \ldots,
(r_i : \forall (x : A_i), (B_i x \rightarrow \text{option } R) \rightarrow \text{option } R), \ldots,
D \rightarrow \text{option } R
− and \(n\) (propositional) computational axioms: for all \(i\),
\text{Prec} \{R\} r_1 r_2 \ldots r_n (d_i a_i b_i)
= r_i a_i (\text{fun } x \Rightarrow \text{prec} \{R\} r_1 r_2 \ldots r_n (b_i x))

Then there exists an \textbf{embedding} from \(C\) to \(D\). More concretely, we can have \(\text{inj} : C \rightarrow D\) and \(\text{linv} : D \rightarrow \text{option } C\) defined using the eliminator of \(C\) and \text{prec} of \(D\) (both acting like identity) such that
\[
\forall c : C, \text{linv} (\text{inj} c) = \text{some } c
\]

\textbf{Proof.} First, for a fixed \(x : A_i\), given \(f_i : B_i x \rightarrow T\),
we have \(\text{lift } f_i : B_i x \rightarrow \text{option } T\), simply wrapping \text{option} around the returning result.
Second, with (Detectable Partiality) we can construct

\textbf{Definition} \texttt{unlift}:
\[
\forall \{a\} \{T \in \text{Set}\} (f : \forall c : B a, \text{option } T),
\begin{align*}
& (h : \forall x, f x \neq \text{None}), \\
& \{g : \forall c : B a, T | f = \text{lift } g\}.
\end{align*}
\]

\textbf{Theorem} \texttt{detect_lifted}:
\[
\forall \{a\} \{T \in \text{Set}\} (f : \forall c : B a, \text{option } T),
\begin{align*}
& \{\{g | f = \text{lift } g\} + \{\text{exists } x, f x = \text{None}\}\}.
\end{align*}
\]

The idea of \texttt{unlift} is that if \(f\) never returns \text{None}, then it is always a result of a \texttt{lift}. \texttt{detect_lifted} is just another way of saying (Detectable Partiality).

Then we can construct \texttt{inj} and \texttt{linv} as follows, using eliminator and partial recursor.

\textbf{Definition} \texttt{inj} : \(C \rightarrow D :=
\begin{align*}
\text{C_rect} (\text{fun } (_ : C) \Rightarrow D) \\
\ldots
\end{align*}
\]
\[
(\text{fun} (x_i : A_i) (\_ : B_i x \rightarrow C_i) (X_i : B_i x \rightarrow D) \Rightarrow d_i x_i X_i)
\ldots
\]

\textbf{Definition} \texttt{linv} : \(D \rightarrow \text{option } C :=
\begin{align*}
\text{prec } C \\
\ldots
\end{align*}
\]
\[
(\text{fun} (a_i : A_i) (b_i' : B_i a_i \rightarrow \text{option } C) \Rightarrow
\begin{align*}
\text{match } (\text{detectable } b_i') \text{ with} \\
| \text{left } h \Rightarrow \\
\quad \text{let } (b_i, \_ ) := \text{unlift } b_i' h \text{ in } \text{Some } (c_i a_i b_i) \\
| \text{right } _ \Rightarrow \text{None}
\end{align*}
\end{align*}
\]

Since each “constructor” in \(C\) and \(D\) are well-corresponded, when invoking \texttt{C_rect} and \texttt{prec}, each case is handled similarly, and they only vary along the \(\{A_i + B_i\}\)_\(i\) types.

The definition of \texttt{inj} and \texttt{linv} is well-formed but their behavior is still buried in this complicated formulation. The following two equations can clarify them.

(* \texttt{inj_compute} can be proved thanks to
the computational behaviour about \texttt{C_rect} built-in Coq *)

11
Lemma inj_compute : \forall a b, inj (c \_ a b) = d_i a (fun x \Rightarrow inj (b x)).

(* linv_compute can be proved thanks to
the n (propositional) computational axioms about prec *)

Lemma linv_compute : \forall a b, linv (d_i a b) =

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{let } b' := \text{fun } x \Rightarrow \text{linv } (b x) \text{ in} \\
&\text{match detect_lifted } b' \text{ with} \\
&\mid \text{inleft } (\text{exist } \_ x \_ ) \Rightarrow \text{Some } (c_i a x) \\
&\mid \text{inright } _ \Rightarrow \text{None} \\
&e\end{align*}
\]

Finally, these two equations are enough to prove that linv is really a left inverse, via induction

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{linv } (\text{inj } (c_i a b)) &= \text{linv } (d_i a (\text{fun } x \Rightarrow \text{inj } (b x))) \quad (\text{by inj_compute} *) \\
&= \text{Some } (c_i a (\text{fun } x \Rightarrow \text{linv } (\text{inj } (b x)))) \quad (\text{by linv_compute} *) \\
&= \text{Some } (c_i a (\text{fun } x \Rightarrow b x)) \quad (\text{by I.H.} *) \\
&= \text{Some } (c_i a b) \quad (\text{by eta rule} *)
\end{align*}
\]

□

(Detectable Partiality) is derivable for all the finitary branching inductive type—that includes all of the examples shown in this paper.

(Detectable Partiality) is not generally supported when using a function (infinitary branching) in the constructors, for example, the case of using higher order abstract syntax to represent functions in \texttt{tm}. However, in those cases, we still have the partial recursor provable and useful—we just cannot see the partial recursor as a strong toolkit anymore.

We emphasize that in Theorem 3.1, each function \(d_i\) can actually be considered a constructor because they can be reflected to real constructors of \(C\) using the left inverse \(\text{linv}\). Thus, Theorem 3.1 implies that (1) every future extension of the inductive type can support this partial recursion (trivially); (2) every type supporting this partial recursor with its computational axioms at least supports these constructors because of the embedding. In other words, a type (at least) supports these constructors if and only if this type supports the corresponding partial recursor (with the computational axioms). Thus, we can argue that the partial recursor gives a sound and complete characterization of all the extensions of a given (non-indexed) inductive type.

We can support a partial dependent eliminator as well. Though the partial dependent eliminator can deduce \(\text{prec}\), our \(\text{prec}\) is enough to construct this left inverse for (non-indexed) inductive type.

\[
\begin{align*}
pdelim : & \forall (P : D \rightarrow \text{Set}), \ldots, \\
&\left.\left((r_i : (\forall (x : A_i) (w : B_i x \rightarrow D), (\forall (b : B_i x), \text{option } (P (w b)))) \rightarrow \text{option } (P (d_i x w)))) , \ldots, \forall (d : D) \rightarrow \text{option } (P d)\right.\right)
\end{align*}
\]

To generalize to indexed inductive type, we need to base on indexed W type [Martin-Löf 1982; Morris and Altenkirch 2009; Hugunin 2017]. We have mechanized the argument for indexed W type and dependent eliminator, but for the case with only one constructor in \(C\) and \(D\). This mechanization is a direct generalization of the proof for Theorem 3.1.

\[\text{3By simply enumerating through the finite domain } B_i \_ a.\]

\[\text{3https://gist.github.com/DKXXXL/99e48350b966fa3739cfb71f1a9a852}\]
As mentioned earlier, \( \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \) is axiomatized along with four equalities describing its computational behaviors, one for each constructor. After unfolding the definition of \( \text{tmPR} \), the equality for constructor \( \text{tm\_abs} \) is as follows:

\[
\text{tm\_abs\_eq\_STLC}: \forall x \ t \ P \ H1 \ H2 \ H3 \ H4, \quad \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \ P \ H1 \ H2 \ H3 \ H4 \ (\text{tm\_abs} \ x \ t) = H3 \ x \ t \ (\text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \ P \ H1 \ H2 \ H3 \ H4 \ t)
\]

Importantly, unlike the standard \( \text{tm\_rect} \) recursor, the partial recursor \( \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \) is compatible with the late binding of \( \text{tm} \) in its type. When \( \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \) is inherited into family \( \text{STLCFix} \), all the previous four equalities still hold, and a trivial, fifth equality is made available:

\[
\text{tm\_fix\_eq\_STLC} : \forall x \ t \ P \ H1 \ H2 \ H3 \ H4, \quad \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \ P \ H1 \ H2 \ H3 \ H4 \ (\text{tm\_fix} \ x \ t) = \text{None}
\]

Partial recursors appear weaker than ordinary recursors, but there is power in restraint. In particular, they offer a principled, uniform way to derive injectivity and disjointness of constructors, while supporting future extension: they enable injective mappings from a late bound inductive type, like \( \text{tm} \), to an ordinary inductive type, like \( \mathbb{N} \), the injectivity and disjointness of whose constructors are readily available. For example, in a proof state with the assumption \( H : \text{tm\_var} \ "x" = \text{tm\_abs} \ "y" \ t \), running \texttt{fdiscriminate} \( H \) first applies an injective mapping to both sides of \( H \), obtaining

\[
\text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \ (\lambda _ _ \ , \mathbb{N}) \ (\lambda _ _ , \text{Some} \ 1) \ (\text{Some} \ 2) \ (\lambda _ _ _ , \text{Some} \ 3) \ (\lambda _ _ _ _ , \text{Some} \ 4) \ (\text{tm\_var} \ "x") = \\
\text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \ (\lambda _ _ \ , \mathbb{N}) \ (\lambda _ _ , \text{Some} \ 1) \ (\text{Some} \ 2) \ (\lambda _ _ _ , \text{Some} \ 3) \ (\lambda _ _ _ _ , \text{Some} \ 4) \ (\text{tm\_abs} \ "y" \ t)
\]

and then rewrites the above equality using the axiomatized computational behaviors of \( \text{tm\_prect\_STLC} \), obtaining \( \text{Some} \ 1 = \text{Some} \ 3 \), from which \texttt{False} easily follows. Note that the proof term generated by \texttt{fdiscriminate} \( H \) in \( \text{STLC} \) is reusable by family \( \text{STLCFix} \), because the partial recursor and its computational behaviors are compatible with the late binding of \( \text{tm} \).

Within family \( \text{STLCFix} \), a second partial recursor (called \( \text{tm\_prect\_STLCFix} \)) and its computational behaviors are automatically axiomatized, which allows properties of \( \text{tm\_fix} \), such as \( \text{tm\_fix} \ x \ t1 = \text{tm\_fix} \ x \ t2 \rightarrow t1 = t2 \), to be proved.
4 Compiling Family Polymorphism to Parameterized Modules

We implement our language design as a Coq plugin. It works by translating programs in FPOP syntax into programs that can be checked and evaluated by Coq. The translation is compatible with interactive theorem proving (C4), in that a family is translated piece by piece, allowing each field to be defined and checked separately. The translation is modular and efficient, in that code compiled for fields of a base family can be shared with derived families without having to be rechecked.

Explicit self parameterization. The spirit of the translation is to take “family polymorphism” literally: every field is translated into a Coq definition that is polymorphic to (i.e., universally quantified over) a representation of its enclosing family. While this universal quantification has been implicit with the FPOP syntax, it has to be made explicit in the translated Coq code.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the translation of the STLC and STLCfix families from Figure 2. Fields of a family are translated into parameterized Coq modules (or parameterized module types).

As an example, consider field env in family STLC. It is translated into a top-level module named STLC\(\circ\)env. This module has a parameter called self representing the enclosing family: fields of the current family in the context of env can be referenced through self. In particular, env is defined as id → option ty, where ty is a late-bound reference to the ty field of the enclosing family. Hence, this reference to ty is translated to self.ty, which is manifestly polymorphic to the enclosing family. This translation of the env field can be shared with a derived family even if it extends ty (e.g., STLCProd)—no recompilation is needed because self.ty is not tied to any concrete definition of ty.

The type of STLC\(\circ\)env’s self parameter is STLC\(\circ\)env\(\circ\)Ctx, a module type constructed from STLC\(\circ\)ty (i.e., the translation of the field before env) and its context STLC\(\circ\)ty\(\circ\)Ctx. In turn, STLC\(\circ\)ty\(\circ\)Ctx (not shown in Figure 4) is constructed from STLC\(\circ\)self, the translation of the field before ty, and its context STLC\(\circ\)self\(\circ\)Ctx. Thus, the self parameter can be used to reference those and only those fields in the current family’s typing context, which echoes the discussion in Section 3.4.

Translating extensible inductive types. An FInductive definition is translated to a parameterized module type. Consider the inductive type tm. In Figure 4, it is translated to a top-level module type STLC\(\circ\)tm that declares a tm type, four functions standing for the constructors, a partial recursor (tm_prect_STLC), and the computational behaviors of the partial recursor (e.g., tm_abs_eq_STLC).

Importantly, STLC\(\circ\)tm merely declares the existence of these names and their types; it does not specify their definitions. Having these names and their types available through the context parameters (self) suffices for the translations of the subsequent fields to be type-checked by Coq. Leaving the definitions unspecified enables STLC and STLCfix to instantiate tm differently upon End STLC and upon End STLCfix. In particular, non-exhaustive pattern matching is prevented because an ordinary recursor like tm_rect is not available.

The command FInductive tm : Set += tm_fix : ... in family STLCfix is again translated to a module type STLCfix\(\circ\)tm (Figure 5). It includes all the names declared by STLC\(\circ\)tm via command Include STLC\(\circ\)tm(self), and additionally declares tm_fix, a partial recursor, and related equalities.

Translating recursion and induction. An FRecursion definition is translated in two parts: first a module containing the definitions of all the case handlers, and then a module type declaring the existence of the recursive function as well as its computational behaviors.

Consider the translation of subst in family STLC. First, a module named STLC\(\circ\)self\(\circ\)Cases is generated on the fly. Importantly, programming remains interactive, as the programmer need not wait until the entire FRecursion definition is completed to have a Case command type-checked.

Upon End subst, a module type named STLC\(\circ\)subst is generated. As discussed in Section 3.2, subst can be further bound, so its definition is not exposed to the fields that come after it. Accordingly, the
Figure 4. Compilation of family STLC (Figure 2).

The translation STLC^C subst merely declares the types of subst and the equalities about its computational behaviors, leaving subst undefined and the equalities unproven. The equalities are stated in terms of the case handlers, whose definitions are available through the self parameter. So Coq can simplify, for example, the type of subst_tm_unit_eq to ∀ x t, self.subst self.tm_unit x t = self.tm_unit. These equalities about the computational behaviors of subst will be included and available for use in the translations of the subsequent fields through their self parameters.

Importantly, code generated for the case handlers is shared with derived families. In Figure 5, module STLCFix^C subst^C Cases reuses—without rechecking—all the case handlers in STLC^C subst^C Cases via command Include STLC^C subst^C Cases(self).

The translation of Finduction is similar, except that there is no need to register computational behaviors, as Finduction proofs are considered opaque.

**Translation of further-bindables vs. non-further-bindables.** In family STLC, field env and the case handlers for subst are not further-bindable by derived families. In contrast, tm, subst, and the related equalities can be further bound. The distinction is reflected in the translations. The further-bindable fields are translated to module types that export only types of the fields. The non-further-bindable fields are translated to modules that export definitional equalities on the
fields. Opaque fields in FPPOP can be further bound (Section 3.3); they are translated to Coq modules that export opaque fields.

Eliminating self by aggregation. Upon the conclusion of a family definition, a representation of the family is created. For example, module STLC in Figure 4 is generated upon End STLC. This module can be viewed as the “fixed point” of the self-parameterized translations. The “fixed point” is taken step by step, by adding the translation of each field to this module in the same order as they appear in the family definition.

For the non-further-bindables, the translated modules are directly included (e.g., Include STLC\textcopyright env and Include STLC\textcopyright subst\textcopyright Cases in Figure 4). The instantiation of selfs for these modules is implicit, thanks to a Coq nicety: when including a higher-order module, Coq automatically instantiates its parameter with the current interactive module environment. For instance, command Include STLC\textcopyright subst\textcopyright Cases is successfully executed, because Coq automatically instantiates the self parameter using the current module environment, which by construction contains all the fields required by STLC\textcopyright subst\textcopyright Cases\textcopyright Ctx.

For the further-bindables, Axioms declared in the module types must be instantiated.

• In Figure 4, an inductive type tm is generated, instantiating the axiomatized tm type and its constructors. The partial recursor tm\textunderscore prect\textunderscore STLC is defined with the help of tm\textunderscore rect, the recursor Coq generates for tm. The computational behaviors of tm\textunderscore prect\textunderscore STLC are immediate, by reflexivity.

• Similarly, subst is instantiated by applying the recursor tm\textunderscore rect to the (already included) case handlers. The computational behaviors of subst are then immediate, by reflexivity.

Module STLC\textcopyright in Figure 5 is emitted upon End STLC\textcopyright, in the same way as described above for STLC. The translation makes sharing evident. In particular, case handlers compiled for STLC are...
reused to instantiate subst, substlem, and alike. STLC$^\circ$env and STLC$^\circ$typesafe are also reused in the construction of module STLCFix. One may argue that since the first four constructors of $tm$ are repeated in STLCFix, the translation does not satisfy the modular compilation requirement. We could address this concern by using wrapper types, but we consider restating constructors a small price to pay in return for the clarity and concision of implementation. We emphasize that compiled case handlers, such as subst$^\circ$$tm$Abs, are entirely reusable without rechecking, even with restated constructors. Finally, the reference STLCFix.typesafe (where STLCFix is a family) can simply be translated to STLCFix.typesafe (where STLCFix is a Coq module), as the last line of Figure 5 shows.

**Trusted base.** Rather than modifying the Coq kernel to extend its core theory, a translation to Coq conveniently reduces the trusted base of any development using FPOP to Coq. In particular, once a family is closed, Print Assumptions can be used to verify that there are no lingering Axioms introduced by the translation. The ramifications of possible bugs in the FPOP implementation are limited to the usability of the plugin.

### 4.1 Limitations

The FPOP implementation currently does not yet bring extensibility to Coq’s full facility for inductive types. Mutually inductive types and parameterized inductive types are not yet extensible, though indexed inductive types are supported and can be used to encode parameterized ones. Partial recursors are automatically generated only for non-indexed inductive types. These features are not exercised by our case studies (Section 7) but may be useful for modeling other languages. We believe that they do not pose conceptual challenges and can be addressed with more engineering effort on the same level as the current FPOP implementation.

What seems to require more thought from a language-design perspective is the restriction that recursion and induction (on extensible types) cannot be nested. A possible solution is to make the plugin generate proof obligations for nested pattern matches when the inductive types acquire new constructors. Also interesting for future research is the support for automatically converting terms to propositionally equally typed forms using generated propositional equalities. The lack of this automation currently may cause inconveniences for developments using intrinsically typed syntax. Finally, work on nested inheritance [Nystrom et al. 2004; Zhang and Myers 2017] points to a direction to further increase the expressive power of our language design.
5 A PREVIEW OF FMLTT: A CORE DEPENDENT TYPE THEORY

We contribute FaMiLy Type Theory (FMLTT), a core type theory that extends Martin-Löf dependent type theory (MLTT) with facilities to express family polymorphism while maintaining consistency and canonicity.

For accessibility of the main text, Section 5 presents FMLTT using named variables and meta-level substitution. For clarity of proof details, Section 6 supplementing Section 5 instead uses de Bruijn indices and explicit substitution [Abadi et al. 1989]. We acknowledge that the presentation is dense for an audience without intimate knowledge of MLTT, so we summarize the salient points first.

Summary. FMLTT is intended as a foundational model. So unlike our programmer-facing plugin, fields automatically axiomatized by the plugin require explicit definitions in FMLTT. FMLTT provides MLTT-style constructs that can be used to express families and family polymorphism. Most notably, it extends MLTT with what we call linkages. Linkages are a namesake of the theoretical device through which Zhang and Myers [2017] model family polymorphism in an OO setting, but the technical details differ significantly from the prior work.

- Linkages model families, so they are like tuples composed of fields (with field names represented by variable bindings). But there is a twist: linkages support late binding. Unlike dependent tuples where a later component is existentially quantified over the earlier ones, a linkage component is universally quantified over—and thus polymorphic to—the components preceding it.
- FMLTT features linkage transformers, which model how a family can be inductively constructed by inheriting fields from another family, adding new fields, and overriding existing fields.
- Inductive types are modeled as W-types [Martin-Löf 1984] and their extension as overriding.
- Consistency and canonicity of FMLTT are proved by giving semantic interpretations to the syntactic typing judgments.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Contexts} & \quad \Gamma, \Delta \ ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, A \\
\text{Types} & \quad A, B, T \ ::= \ U \mid \bot \mid \top \mid \Pi(x : A).B \mid \Sigma(x : A).B \mid \text{Eq}(t_1, t_2) \mid \text{S}(t) \mid \text{El}(t) \\
\text{Terms} & \quad t \ ::= x \mid c(T) \mid () \mid \text{tt} \mid \text{ff} \mid \text{if}(t_1, t_2, t_3) \mid \lambda x.t \mid \text{app}(t_1, t_2) \\
& \quad \quad (t_1, t_2) \mid \text{fst} t \mid \text{snd} t \mid \text{refl}(t) \mid \text{J}(t_1, t_2)
\end{align*}
\]

Figure 6. Syntax and selected typing rules of MLTT, named variables and meta-level substitution

**Brief review of MLTT.** Figure 6 presents the syntax and selected typing rules of MLTT (and Figure 7 FMLTT). Dependent function types \(\Pi(x : A).B\), dependent pair types \(\Sigma(x : A).B\), and identity types \(\text{Eq}(t_1, t_2)\) are standard. So are their introduction and elimination forms. We use
Types $A, B, T := \ldots | \varpi_1^T(r) | \varpi_2^T(r) | L(\sigma) | P(\sigma) | \nu \varpi_1(\sigma) | \text{CaseTy}(A, B, T)$

Terms $t, s, t := \ldots | W(r) | Wsup_t(r, t_1, t_2) | \mu^T(\ell, t, x_1) | \text{inh}(h, t, \ell) | \text{Wrec}(r, \ell, t, \ell) | \mu \varpi_2(\ell) | \nu \varpi_3(\sigma) | P(\ell) | \text{Re} \varpi_3(\ell)$

W-type signatures $\tau := w^* | w^*(\tau, A, B) | w^-(\tau)$

Linkage signatures $\sigma := v^* | v^*(\sigma, x, s, \text{self} T) | \nu \varpi_1(\sigma) | \text{RecSig}(r, T)$

Linkage transformers $h := \text{Identity} | \text{Extend}(h, \text{self} T) | \text{Override}(h, \text{self} T) | \text{Inherit}(h)$

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Γ} \vdash T_1 \equiv T_2 \\
\text{Γ} \vdash t : T \\
\text{Γ} \vdash t_1 \equiv t_2 : T \\
\text{Γ} \vdash t : \text{El}(W(r)) \\
\text{Γ} \vdash \text{Wrec}(r, \ell, t, \ell) : T \\
\text{Γ} \vdash \text{CaseTy}(A, B, T) \equiv \Pi(x : A).E1(app(B, x)) \rightarrow T \\
\text{Γ} \vdash \ell : L(\sigma) \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\nu^* : L(\sigma) \\
\nu^*(\sigma, x, s, T) : \text{LSig}^{n+1} \\
\mu^* : L(\nu^*) \\
\mu^*(\ell, t, \text{self} T) : L(\nu^*(\sigma, x, s, \text{self} T)) \\
\mu^*(\ell, t, \text{self} T) : L(\nu^*(\sigma, x, s, \text{self} T)) \\
\end{array}
\]

Based path induction $J(\cdot, \cdot)$ as the elimination principle for a term $t$ of an identity type [UFP 2013]. Capture-avoiding substitution is notated $\bullet[\varnothing/x]$. We use $x$ and $\text{self}$ to denote variables. A singleton type $S(t)$ helps express the definition of a term $t$ in its type (rule $\text{tm/s}$) [Aspinall 1995; Stone 2000]. Definitional equalities have the forms $\Gamma_1 \equiv \Gamma_2, \Gamma \vdash T_1 \equiv T_2, \Gamma \vdash t_1 \equiv t_2 : T$, etc. Following Altenkirch and Kaposi [2016], we regard our (intrinsically typed) syntax as being quotiented by these equalities. Quoting facilitates coercion along equalities—given $\Gamma_1 \equiv \Gamma_2$ and $\Gamma_1 \vdash T_1 \equiv T_2$, the derivation of $\Gamma_1 \vdash t : T_1$ is considered definitionally equal to a derivation of $\Gamma_2 \vdash t : T_2$.

We use universes à la Coquand [2013], following Kaposi et al. [2019]. Unlike Russell-style ones, these universes are not inhabited by types directly, but rather by the codes of types, and arguably behave better due to its closeness to Tarski-style universes [Luo 2012]. The term $\text{c}(T)$ encodes type $T$ ($\text{tm/c}$) and thus inhabits universe $\cup$. The type $\text{El}(t)$ decodes term $t$ ($\text{ty/el}$). There is an infinite hierarchy of universes; we omit universe levels in the presentation to avoid clutter.

Figure 7. Syntax and selected typing rules of FMLTT, named variables and meta-level substitution.
For concision, typing rules omit obvious premises required for well-formedness. For example, \( \text{TM/LAM} \) implicitly requires \( \Gamma \vdash t \) (i.e., that the context be well-typed).

**Introducing and eliminating inductive types.** W-types [Martin-Löf 1984] are a succinct way to model inductive types in MLTT. Together with the identity type, they can express a whole host of inductive types [Hugunin 2020], including those with multiple constructors.

Our formulation of W-types differs from previous ones in that it is straightforward to identify constructors from what we call W-type signatures. A signature \( \Gamma \vdash \tau \ \text{WSig}^n \) is composed of \( n \) pairs of types (\( \text{WSIG/EMPTY} \) and \( \text{WSIG/ADD} \)), each modeling a constructor of the inductive type. The \( i \)-th pair, projected from the signature \( \tau \) using the forms \( \Gamma \vdash w\pi_1^i(\tau) \) and \( \Gamma \vdash w\pi_2^i(\tau) : w\pi_1^i(\tau) \rightarrow \top \), defines the \( i \)-th constructor. That is, given two arguments \( \Gamma \vdash t_1 : w\pi_1^i(\tau) \) and \( \Gamma, x : \text{El}(w\pi_2^i(\tau)(t_1)) \vdash t_2 : \text{El}(\tau) \), one can construct a term \( \text{Wsup}_i(\tau, t_1, x, t_2) \) of the W-type \( \text{El}(\tau) \) (TM/WSUP). \( \tau \) gives the code of the W-type \( \text{TM}/\text{W} \).

For each pair of types identifying a constructor, the first type models the non-inductive arguments of the constructor, and the second type models the *arity* of the inductive arguments. For example, the signature \( \tau_{tm} \) of the W-type modeling the inductive type \( tm \) (Figure 2) is constructed as follows, where \( \bot \) is the bottom type, \( \top \) the unit type, \( \perp \) the boolean type, and \( T_{id} \) a type encoding \( \text{id} \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{unit} & : \text{tm} \quad \text{var} : \text{id} \rightarrow \text{tm} \quad \text{abs} : \text{id} \rightarrow \text{tm} \quad \text{app} : \text{tm} \rightarrow \text{tm} \\
\tau_{tm}^0 & := w^*(w^*(\text{id}, \bot, \bot)) \quad \tau_{tm}^1 := w^*(\tau_{tm}^0, \text{Id}_d, \lambda \bot) \quad \tau_{tm}^2 := w^*(\tau_{tm}^1, \text{Id}_d, \lambda \bot) \quad \tau_{tm} := w^*(\tau_{tm}^2, \perp, \bot)
\end{align*}
\]

While \( \text{tm}_\text{unit} \) and \( \text{tm}_\text{var} \) have no inductive arguments, \( \text{tm}_\text{abs} \) has one and \( \text{tm}_\text{app} \) has two. The encoding of \( \text{tm}_\text{abs} \) has type \( T_{id} \rightarrow (\bot \rightarrow \text{El}(\text{W}(\tau_{tm}))) \rightarrow \text{El}(\text{W}(\tau_{tm}))) \), and that of \( \text{tm}_\text{app} \) has type \( \bot \rightarrow (\perp \rightarrow \text{El}(\text{W}(\tau_{tm}))) \rightarrow \text{El}(\text{W}(\tau_{tm})). \) These types are strictly positive by construction.

W-types are eliminated with the form \( \text{Wrec}(\tau, t, \ell) \), where \( \ell \) of a W-type \( \text{El}(\tau) \), and \( \ell \) is essentially an \( n \)-tuple of case handlers for the \( n \) constructors in \( \tau \) (TM/WREC). Each case handler has a type of the form \( \text{CaseTy}(A, B, T) \), where \( T \) is the motive of the recursion (\( \text{tyeq/casety} \)); for simplicity, we model only non-dependent motives. The collection of case handlers \( \ell \) encodes those defined and inherited by an FRecursion command in our plugin. We choose to type it with a linkage type \( \ell(\text{RecSig}(\tau, T)) \) to avoid introducing non-dependent \( n \)-tuples, which linkages generalize.

The rules TM/WSUP and TM/WREC require access to \( \tau \): the W-type is exhaustively generated by its constructors, and its elimination must exhaustively handle all the constructors in its signature.

In contrast, \( \tau \) should be hidden from the typing context of any term that does not invoke \( \text{Wsup}(\tau, \cdot, \cdot) \) or \( \text{Wrec}(\tau, \cdot, \cdot) \), so that the term can be reused—without being rechecked—for a different W-type signature \( \tau' \) that extends \( \tau \) with additional constructors. Moreover, the typing of the term should be made parametric to the definitions of those fields that invoke \( \text{Wsup} \) or \( \text{Wrec} \), so that the term can be reused—without being rechecked—when those fields are overridden to support the extended signature \( \tau' \). Such abstraction required by family polymorphism is supported via linkages, which we discuss next.

**Family polymorphism via linkages.** Family polymorphism requires late binding. In FMLTT, families are expressed through linkages, and late binding of field references is achieved by requiring that typing be polymorphic to the definition of that field.

**Linkage signatures** have the judgment form \( \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^n \). A linkage signature is a list of \( n \) types (\( \text{LSIG/EMPTY} \) and \( \text{LSIG/ADD} \)). Linkages have the judgment form \( \Gamma \vdash \ell : \text{L}(\sigma) \), where \( \text{L}(\sigma) \) is a type formed by \( \sigma \). A linkage is a list of \( n \) terms, each representing a field of the family modeled by the linkage (\( L/\text{EMPTY} \) and \( L/\text{ADD} \)).

In the rules \( L/\text{ADD} \) and \( \text{LSIG/ADD} \), the second premise \( \Gamma, \text{self} : A \vdash t : T \) is responsible for late binding. Here, \( A \) abstracts the context of the current field \( t \), controlling how the types of the fields prior to \( t \) are exposed to the typing of \( t \). As discussed later, the third premise \( \Gamma, x : P(\sigma) \vdash s : A \)
is responsible for creating the context type $A$ that possibly hides $W$-type signatures in $\sigma$, which records the types of the prior fields.

Crucially, the premise $\Gamma$, $\text{self} : A \vdash t : T$ makes clear that the typing of $t$ in $\text{L/ADD}$ is universally quantified—rather than existentially quantified as is in $\text{TM/PAIR}$—over how the fields in $t$’s context are defined. Late binding enables reuse. A different linkage $\ell'$ that overrides fields in $t$’s context (and thus models a derived family) can reuse $t$—without retyping it—by first projecting $t$ from $\mu^+(\ell, \text{self}.t)$ and then appending it to $\ell'$.

The type $A$ in $\text{L/ADD}$ and $\text{LSIG/ADD}$, abstracting the types of the prior fields, does not necessarily contain the same types as those recorded by $\mathbb{L} (\sigma)$, because a field defined as the code $\mathbb{W}(\tau)$ of a $W$-type has to expose different types to different fields that come after it. Later fields that invoke $\text{Wsup}(\tau, \cdot, \cdot)$ or $\text{Wrec}(\tau, \cdot, \cdot)$ should see the concrete signature $\tau$, as the rules $\text{TM/WSUP}$ and $\text{TM/WREC}$ stipulate. By contrast, $\tau$ should be hidden from all other fields, so that they can be reused in a different context where the $W$-type signature $\tau$ is replaced by an extended one $\tau'$.
We use Figure 8 to illustrate. On the left is code excerpted from Figure 2, and on the right is how the corresponding fields are modeled and typed in FMLTT. \( t_1 \) is the linkage that adds the \( i \)-th field \( \ell \) with the typing \( \text{self} : A_i + t_1 : T_i \). The context types \( A_i \) are a dependent tuple type, but for readability, we write them as dependent record types that give labels to the fields. Field accesses are notated, for example, as \( \text{self}_{\sigma_i} \).

- The first field \( t_1 \) is defined as \( W(\tau_{tm}) \) and given the singleton type \( S(W(\tau_{tm})) \), where \( \tau_{tm} \) is the W-type signature constructed earlier for the extensible inductive type \( tm \). This typing is recorded by \( \sigma_1 \) and is thus available in all \( \sigma_i \)’s.

- The next four fields model the four constructors of \( tm \). Constructor \( tm_{\text{unit}} \) is modeled as \( \text{Wsup}(\tau_{tm}, \Gamma, x : \top) \) and has type \( \text{El}(\text{self} \llcorner tm, \text{tm}) \), where \( \text{self} \) stands for the typing context containing the first field \( tm \). The W-type signature \( \tau_{tm} \) is exposed in this typing context; that is, \( \text{self} \llcorner tm \) has type \( S(W(\tau_{tm})) \). So \( \text{El}(\text{self} \llcorner tm, \text{tm}) \) can be equated, as required by rule \text{TM/WSUP}.

- Likewise, \( \tau_{tm} \) is exposed in the typing context of \( t_{10} \), which models the recursive function \( \text{subst} \) by invoking the recursor \( \text{Wrec}(\tau_{tm}, \cdot, \cdot) \). Like subst, partial recursors in \text{FFP} are axiomatized by the plugin (Sections 3.2 and 3.6), and they can similarly be defined in FMLTT using \( \text{Wrec} \).

- By contrast, \( \tau_{tm} \) is hidden from the typing of all other fields. Their typing should depend on the knowledge that \( tm \) has type \( U \), rather than \( S(W(\tau_{tm})) \), so that they can be reused in a context where \( tm \) is defined as \( W(\tau_{tm}) \), where \( \tau'_{tm} \) extends \( \tau_{tm} \) with additional constructors. For example, in Figure 8, the typing of the case handlers of subst (e.g., \( t_{53} \)) is oblivious to the definition of \( tm \)—it sees only \( tm : U \)—so the case handlers can be reused by a linkage modeling \text{STLCFix}.

In \text{LADD} and \text{LSIG/ADD}, the third premise \( \Gamma, x : \mathbb{P}(\sigma) + s : A \) is responsible for hiding W-type signatures. Here, \( \mathbb{P}(\sigma) \) packages \( \sigma \)—recall that \( \sigma \) contains the (self-parameterized) types of all the fields preceding the current field \( \ell \)—into a dependent tuple type (\text{TYEQ/PK/ADD}). The term \( s \) turns a tuple of type \( \mathbb{P}(\sigma) \) into a new tuple of type \( A \) that hides W-type signatures behind \( U \), if necessary.\(^4\)

It is straightforward to find the \( s \) that fits the bill, though this process is not automated in FMLTT. In particular, when no hiding is needed (that is, when the field being checked invokes a W-type constructor or eliminator), \( s \) is simply \( x \), and \( A \) is \( \mathbb{P}(\sigma) \). In Figure 8, \( s_2 \) and \( s_{10} \) are \( x \). Otherwise, it is needed to hide W-type signatures. In Figure 8, \( s_6 \) hides \( \text{tm} : S(W(\tau_{tm})) \) as \( \text{tm} : U \) in \( A_6 \), so that \( t_6 \), typed under \( \text{self} \llcorner A_6 \), is oblivious to the concrete signature \( \tau_{tm} \) and therefore can be reused.

When a family is concluded (e.g., \text{End STLC}), a linkage \( \ell \) containing all the fields is available (e.g., \( \ell_{53} \) in Figure 8). Fields of the family can then be accessed by projecting them out of the tuple \( \mathbb{P}(\ell) \). As \text{TMEQ/PK/ADD} indicates, \( \mathbb{P}(\ell) \) ties the recursive knot: it packages the linkage \( \ell \) into a dependent tuple of type \( \mathbb{P}(\sigma) \), by instantiating the \text{self} parameters.

\textbf{Linkage transformers.} Inheritance and code reuse can already be expressed through the projection of fields out of linkages and their inclusion into new linkages. To make common patterns of linkage manipulations more convenient, FMLTT provides a “library” of \textit{linkage transformers}, whose well-formedness judgments have form \( \Gamma + h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \). The idea is that applying \( h \) to a linkage of type \( \mathbb{L}(\sigma_1) \) yields a linkage of type \( \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2) \) (\text{TM/NH}).

Derived families can be modeled as linkage transformers inductively constructed from the introduction forms \text{Identity}, \text{Extend}(h, \text{self} \llcorner \ell), \text{Override}(h, \text{self} \llcorner \ell), \text{etc}.. Figure 7 shows the \( \beta \)-rule of an example transformer, \text{TMEQ/OV/BETA}. It states that applying the transformer \text{Override}(h, \text{self} \llcorner \ell) to a linkage of form \( \mu^*(\ell, \text{self} \llcorner_{1,2} t_2) \) overrides the linkage’s last field \( t_1 \) with \( t_2 \). For instance, the construction below shows that \text{Override}(\text{Identity}, \text{self} \llcorner W(\tau_{tm})) is used as the first step in creating a linkage transformer modeling a derived family that overrides \( \tau_{tm} \) with an extended signature \( \tau'_{tm} \):

\(^4\)In the presence of hiding, it is important that the context type \( A \) be a dependent tuple type rather than a linkage type; we expand on this point in Section 6.
The typing judgment \( \cdot \vdash t : \bot \) is not derivable for any term \( t \).

Consistency says that the type \( \bot \) is not inhabited. Thus, it is safe to use the type theory for logical reasoning, as not every proposition is trivially provable.

A second property we prove is canonicity.

**Theorem 5.2 (Canonicity).** If \( \cdot \vdash t : \Box \), then either \( \cdot \vdash t \equiv \texttt{tt} : \Box \) or \( \cdot \vdash t \equiv \texttt{ff} : \Box \).

This canonicity theorem says that every closed term of the ground type \( \Box \) is convertible to one of the canonical forms \texttt{tt} and \texttt{ff}. When the canonicity theorem is proved in a constructive metalogic, its proof amounts to a normalization function for closed terms of the ground type. So canonicity serves to justify the computational nature of the type theory.
We prove Theorems 5.1 and 5.2 by constructing a logical-relations model for the well-formedness rules, following prior approaches [Coquand 2019; Kaposi et al. 2019; Sterling 2019]. The model interprets a linkage \( \mu^+(\ell, t) \) as a pair where the second component is a function (modeling late binding), as rule \textsc{L/Add} indicates. The model interprets the bottom type \( \bot \) as an empty set, from which Theorem 5.1 follows. A closed, well-formed type \( \cdot \vdash T \) is interpreted as a logical predicate on closed terms: the predicate includes all closed, “reducible” terms of type \( T \). Theorem 5.2 follows from this interpretation. The detailed construction of the logical-relations model is available in Section 6.4.
6 SYNTAX AND SEMANTIC MODELS OF FMLTT

This section supplements Section 5 with the details of the syntax and the proofs of the main results. Unlike in Section 5, which uses named binders, here we use de Bruijn indices and explicit substitutions [Abadi et al. 1989; Martin-Löf 1992]: substitutions γ and their applications (e.g., T[γ], which applies γ to the type T) are part of the syntax rather than meta-operations. We work in an intrinsically typed setting: terms are well typed by construction. Consequently, we omit without ambiguity some obvious premises needed for well-formedness. This style of syntax formulation follows a recent trend [Altenkirch and Kaposi 2016; Coquand 2019; Gratzer et al. 2019] known as the “algebraic presentation” of MLTT. Moreover, universe levels are explicit here. Other aspects of the syntax remain the same as in Section 5.

We still use based path induction as the elimination principle for identity types [Univalent Foundations Program 2013].

6.1 MLTT with Explicit Substitutions and Universe Levels

We review the base MLTT fragment of FMLTT first. The following rules are the fully expanded version of Figure 6, where each type (except universes) has four kinds of rules: introduction, elimination, computation and uniqueness rules. Computation rules (β-equations) indicate the judgements for expressing reduction when elimination rules apply to the introduction form. Uniqueness rules (η-equations) indicate how some terms are possibly uniquely constructed by introduction rules. The substitution rule is in the form of de Bruijn indices.

The first four rules are following the style of Univalent Foundations Program [2013]; Pfenning [2009], while the substitution rules are naturally required for any language with first-class functions.
**MLTT as a programming language.** Conventionally, the operational semantics sketches the interpreter of a given formalization of a programming language. However, compared to this traditional setup, a careful reader will notice the absence of operational semantics in our MLTT. It is no doubt that MLTT is a logical system where we can write proofs, but it is unclear if MLTT can really be considered as a programming language.
Indeed, for MLTT, we only have syntactic term and their judgemental equality (conversion rules) among them. However, we still can have an interpreter about our MLTT in our ambient meta-logic. For a programmer, this is like writing a Haskell meta-circular interpreter [Abelson and Sussman 1996] that interprets an abstract syntax tree into Haskell’s data structure. For a logician, this is interpreting the syntactic $\cdot \vdash t : B$ to an element $[t] \in \{tt, ff\}$. For a formal semanticist, this can be considered as a naive form of denotational semantic.

This interpreter is in the form of our canonicity theorem Theorem 5.2 in the light of Curry-Howard Correspondence, as any closed program of type $B$ is evaluated to either $tt$ or $ff$ under this theorem. What’s more, our canonicity theorem also reflects this computational traces into MLTT as a proof term of the derivation $t \equiv tt$ or $t \equiv ff$. From this perspective, we can see the similarity between the unidirectional small-step relation and the bidirectional conversion rules.

**Quotient upon the syntax.** As we mentioned in Section 5, the syntax is considered as being quotiented by the judgmental equalities, and quotienting facilitates type coercion along equalities.

By looking at our syntax as some sorts of abstract syntax tree (data), after quotient, each syntax piece is actually an equivalent class of unquotiented syntax, where the equivalence is exactly the judgemental equalities. A proper introduction of this quotient concept can be found in Altenkirch and Kaposi [2016]; Kaposi [2017], where a type-theoretic quotient formulation of MLTT is given.

Once it is clear that the syntax of our MLTT as a logic system is a quotiented data, then it is natural to consider model of this logic system as a function mapping from those quotiented data (syntax). The (semantic) model introduced below will follow this idea. More specifically, the semantic model as a function will have to respect judgemental equalities to be a well-defined function from quotiented data. In other words, for two judgementally equal syntax pieces, the model needs to map them into the same data.

**De Bruijn Indices and Explicit Substitution.** De Bruijn indices and explicit substitutions make details about binders and substitutions explicit. Using explicit substitutions obviates the need for special treatment of substitutions in the proofs, as substitutions are part of the syntax. The form $\text{var}_n$ represents a variable bound by the $n$-th closest enclosing binder. For example, $\lambda x. \lambda y. x$ is $\lambda (\text{var}_1)$. Substitutions are typed with the form $\Gamma \vdash \gamma : \Delta$. The idea is that applying $\gamma$ to terms valid in the context $\Delta$ yields terms valid in $\Gamma$ (tm/sub and ty/sub). The two main forms of substitutions are weakening (sub/wk) and extension (sub/ext): $t[p^n]$ introduces $n$ free variables into the context of $t$, and $t[y, t']$ substitutes $t'$ for $\text{var}_0$ in $t$ and then applies $y$. For example, rule tm/snd states that if $t$ is a dependent pair that has type $\Sigma(A, B)$, then $\text{snd} t$ has type $B[p^0, \text{fst} t]$, where $p^0$ is the identity substitution (sub/id). We occasionally use the notion $\text{id}$ for $p^0$.

To simplify, $p^n$ is a short hand for $\pi^n_1 \text{id}$ and $\text{var}_n$ is a short hand for $\pi_2 \pi^n_1$. Thus during meta-theoretic reasoning, we will only deal with $\pi_1$ and $\pi_2$.

Consequently, function application changes to an equivalent formulation, and becomes a “direct inverse” of typing rule for function abstraction. For example, the named notation $\text{app}(f, t)$ can be equivalently represented by $\text{app}(f)[p^0, t]$.

Finally, we have sub/dbj/shift defined using sub/wk and tm/var. This rule applying substitution $\gamma$ to the earlier portion of the context. We usually omit $A$ in the $\gamma^{\uparrow A}$ because it can be inferred from the context.

**Universe levels.** Universe levels address the size issue—it is unsound to have a set of all sets (or a universe of all types) [Hurkens 1995]. The level of a universe specifies “how large” that universe is.

The judgment form $\Gamma \vdash_i T$ indicates that (the code of) the type $T$ inhabits universe $U_i$. Similarly, $\Gamma \vdash_i$ indicates that (the codes of) the types in $\Gamma$ inhabit universe $U_i$. The notation $i \sqcup j$ denotes $\max(i, j)$.
6.2 FMLTT

FMLTT extends the MLTT in Section 6.1 with W-type signatures and W-types, linkage signatures and linkages, and linkage transformers. The following rules are the fully expanded version of Figure 7, where each type has five kinds of rules: introduction, elimination, computation, uniqueness rules and substitution lemma. Computation rules ($\beta$-equalities) indicate the judgemental equality for expressing reduction when elimination rules apply to the introduction form. Uniqueness rules ($\eta$-equalities) indicate how some terms are possibly uniquely constructed by introduction rules. The substitution rule is in the form of de Bruijn indices.

The first four rules are following the style of Univalent Foundations Program [2013]; Pfenning [2009], while the substitution rules are naturally required for any language with first-class functions.

Apart from types, we also lay out the complete version of judgements for signatures and linkage transformers. The signature judgements are also following these five parts—introduction, elimination, computation, uniqueness and substitution rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>( A, B, T ) [\vdash \cdots \mid w\pi^1_1(\tau) \mid w\pi^2_1(\tau) \mid \mathbb{L}(\sigma) \mid \mathbb{P}(\sigma) \mid v\pi_2(\sigma) \mid \text{CaseTy}(A, B, T) ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>( t, s, \ell ) [\vdash \cdots \mid W(\tau) \mid Wsup_1(\tau, t, t_2) \mid \mu^* \mid \mu^*(t, t) \mid \text{inh}(h, \ell) \mid \text{Wrec}(\tau, \ell, t) \mid \mu\pi_1(\ell) \mid \mu\pi_2(\ell) \mid v\pi_3(\sigma) \mid \mathbb{P}(\ell) \mid R\pi^1(\ell) ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-type signatures</td>
<td>( \tau ) [\vdash w^* \mid w^*(\tau, A, B) \mid \tau[y] \mid w^-(\tau) ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage signatures</td>
<td>( \sigma ) [\vdash v^* \mid v^+(\sigma, s, T) \mid v\pi_1(\sigma) \mid \text{RecSig}(\tau, T) \mid \sigma[y] ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage transformers</td>
<td>( h ) [\vdash \text{Identity} \mid \text{Extend}(h, t) \mid \text{Override}(h, t) \mid \text{Inherit}(h) \mid \text{Nest}(h, h') \mid h[y] ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad \text{WSig}^n & \quad \Gamma \vdash_\ell \sigma \quad \text{LSig}^n & \quad \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash_m w^* \quad \text{WSig}^0 & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad \text{WSig}^0 & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad \text{WSig}^n & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m A \quad \Gamma, A \vdash_m B \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash_m w^* \quad \text{WSig}^0 & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad \text{WSig}^0 & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad \text{WSig}^n & \quad j < n \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash_m w\pi^1_1(\tau) \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau) \vdash_m w\pi^2_1(\tau) \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) \\
\Gamma \vdash w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv A \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv A \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash w\pi^1_1(\tau) \quad \text{WSig}^n+1 & \quad \Gamma \vdash_m w\tau^* \quad \text{WSig}^n \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash w^* \equiv w^* \quad \text{WSig}^0 & \quad \Gamma \vdash w^*(\tau, A, B) \equiv w^*(\tau, A, B) \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) & \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) & \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau) \equiv w\pi^1_1(\tau) \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash_m w^* \quad \text{WSig}^n & \quad \Gamma \vdash t_1 : w\pi^1_1(\tau) \\
\hline
\Gamma \vdash W(\tau) : \mathbb{U}_{m+1} & \quad \Gamma, w\pi^1_1(\tau)[p^0, t_1] \vdash t_2 : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \\
\hline
\hline
\end{align*}
\]
\[\Gamma \vdash \gamma : \Theta\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu^\ast[y] \equiv \mu^\ast : \mathbb{L}(v^*)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash (\mu^\ast([t], t)[y]) \equiv \mu^\ast([t], t[y]) : \mathbb{L}(v^*(\sigma, s, T))[y]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash (\mu_{\pi_1}([t]))[y] \equiv \mu_{\pi_1}([t]) : \mathbb{L}(v_{\pi_1}(\sigma))[y]\]

\[\Gamma, v_{\pi_1}(\sigma)[y] \vdash (\mu_{\pi_2}([t]))[y] \equiv \mu_{\pi_2}([t]) : v_{\pi_2}(\sigma)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash P(v^*) \equiv \top\]

\[\Gamma \vdash P(v^*(\sigma, s, T)) \equiv \Sigma(P(\sigma), T[\pi_1, s])\]

\[\Gamma \vdash P(\mu^\ast([t])) \equiv () : \mathbb{F}(v^*)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash P(\mu^\ast([t]), t)[\pi_1, s](\mu^0, \mathbb{F}(\ell)) : \]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(v^*)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma \vdash B \quad \Gamma \vdash T\]

\[\Gamma \vdash_{\mu, \Lambda} CaseTy(A, B, R) \equiv \Pi(A, \Pi(B, R[p^2], R[p^2]))\]

\[\Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad WSig^{n+1} \quad \Gamma \vdash_j R\]

\[\Gamma \vdash_m \tau \quad WSig^0 \quad \Gamma \vdash_j R\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \tau \quad WSig^N\]

\[\Gamma \vdash_\mu \tau \quad WSig^0 \quad \Gamma \vdash_\mu \tau \quad WSig^N\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \ell : \mathbb{L}(RecSig(\tau, R)) \quad \Gamma \vdash \ell : \mathbb{L}(RecSig(\tau, R)) \quad j < N\]

\[\Gamma \vdash R\pi^1(\ell) : (CaseTy(w_{\pi_1}^0(\tau), w_{\pi_2}^0(\tau), R))[\pi_1]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash R\pi^{n+1}(\ell) \equiv R\pi^n(\mu_{\pi_1}(\ell)) : (CaseTy(w_{\pi_1}^{n+1}(\tau), w_{\pi_2}^{n+1}(\tau), R))[\pi_1]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash R\pi^0(\ell) \equiv \mu_{\pi_2}(\ell)(\mu^0, \mathbb{F}(\mu_{\pi_1}(\ell))) : (CaseTy(w_{\pi_1}^0(\tau), w_{\pi_2}^0(\tau), R))[\pi_1]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash h : \mathbb{L}(RecSig(\tau, R))\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Wrec(\tau, h, Wsup_j(\tau, a, b)) \equiv \text{app(app}(R\pi^1(h)[\mu], a))[\mu^0, \lambda(Wrec(\tau, h[\pi_1], b))][R\]

\[\Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \quad \Gamma, A_1 \vdash T_1 \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash T_2 \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash t : T_2\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Identity : \sigma \rightarrow \sigma\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)\]

\[\Gamma \vdash T_2\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Identity[y] \equiv Identity\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)[y]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)[y]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash \mu : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_2)[y]\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Nest(h, h_{inner})[y] = \text{Override}(h[y], t[y^1])\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Nest(h, h_{inner})[y] = \text{Override}(h[y], t[y^1])\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Nest(h, h_{inner})[y] = \text{Override}(h[y], t[y^1])\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Nest(h, h_{inner})[y] = \text{Override}(h[y], t[y^1])\]

\[\Gamma \vdash Nest(h, h_{inner})[y] = \text{Override}(h[y], t[y^1])\]

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We present a translation from the FMLTT syntax to the fragment of FMLTT without linkage

\( \Gamma \vdash \ell : \mathbb{L}(\sigma) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash \text{inh} (\text{Identity}, \ell) \equiv \ell : \mathbb{L}(\sigma) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \quad \Gamma, \mathcal{P}(\sigma_2) \vdash s_2 : A_2[\pi_1] \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash t : T \quad \Gamma \vdash \ell : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_1) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash \text{inh} (\text{Extend}(h, t), \ell) \equiv \mu^\ast (\text{inh}(h, \ell), t) : \mathbb{L}(v^\ast(\sigma_1, s_2, T)) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash m : \mathbb{L}(\sigma_1) \quad \Gamma, A_1 \vdash t : T \quad \Gamma, \mathcal{P}(\sigma_2) \vdash s_2 : A_2[\pi_1] \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash \uparrow^\ast : A_1[\pi_1] \)

\( \Gamma \vdash \text{inh} (\text{Inherit}(h), \mu^\ast (m, t)) \equiv \mu^\ast (\text{inh}(h, m), t[(\pi_1, \uparrow^\ast)]) : \mathbb{L}(v^\ast(\sigma_2, s_2, T[\pi_1, \uparrow^\ast])) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash t : N \quad \Gamma, \mathcal{P}(\sigma_2) \vdash s_2 : A_2[p^1] \)

\( \Gamma \vdash \text{inh} (\text{Override}(h, t_2), \mu^\ast (l, t_1)) \equiv \mu^\ast (\text{inh}(h, l), t_2) : \mathbb{L}(v^\ast(\sigma_2, s_2, T_2)) \)

\( \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash \uparrow^\ast : A_1[\pi_1] \quad \Gamma, A_2 \vdash h_{\text{inner}} : \tau_1[(\pi_1, \uparrow^\ast)] \rightarrow \tau_2 \)

\( \Gamma \vdash \text{inh} (\text{Nest}(h, h_{\text{inner}}), \mu^\ast (l, t)) \equiv \mu^\ast (\text{inh}(h, l), \text{inh}(h_{\text{inner}}, l[(\pi_1, \uparrow^\ast)])) : \mathbb{L}(v^\ast(\sigma_1, s_2, \tau_2)) \)

**Linkage transformers as syntactic sugar.** As mentioned in Section 5, the five forms of linkage transformers can be thought of as a library of functions that are used to construct linkages from other linkages. In particular, their typing rules are defined in terms of the rest of the typing rules in FMLTT. Thus, linkage transformers \( \Gamma \vdash h : \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \) can be defined as syntactic sugar via an inductive type (in the metalogic) with four constructors \( \text{Extend}, \text{Inherit}, \text{Override}, \text{Nest} \). Moreover, \( \text{inh}(h, \ell) \) and \( h[y] \) can be defined as recursive functions (in the metalogic) by induction on this inductive type. We will treat linkage transformers as syntactic sugar in the metatheoretic development in the rest of Section 6.

### 6.3 A Translation that Compiles Linkages Away

We present a translation from the FMLTT syntax to the fragment of FMLTT without linkage signatures or linkages. The translation echoes how the FPOP plugin is implemented (Section 4) as a translation to Coq without facilities for family polymorphism. The translation is type-preserving by construction, as we work in an intrinsically typed setting.

We define the translation \( [\_]_T \) below; the fragment of the syntax irrelevant to linkages is translated using the identity function and is thus elided. When the context \( \Gamma \) is clear, we use \( [T]_T \) to mean \( [[\Gamma \vdash T]]_T \).

We will first define two helpers

- A type \( \Gamma \vdash \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n \) where \( \Gamma \vdash \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n \in \mathbb{N} \). The idea is that \( \Gamma \vdash [[\Gamma \vdash \sigma \vdash \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n]]_T : \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n \)

- A function \( \mathcal{P} : \{ \sigma' \mid \Gamma \vdash \sigma' : \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n \} \rightarrow \{ T \mid \Gamma \vdash T \} \) mapping a term of type \( \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n \) to a type.

They are defined mutually inductively on \( n \), the signature length.

\[
\text{Sig}_j \Gamma (n + 1) = \Sigma (\text{Sig}_j \Gamma n) (\Sigma \cup_j) \\
\quad (\Sigma (\Pi(\mathcal{P}(\text{var}_0[p^1]), E1(\text{var}_0[p^1]))) \\
\quad \Pi(E1(\text{var}_0[p^1]), U_j))
\]

\[
\text{Sig}_j \Gamma 0 = \top
\]

\[
\mathcal{P}(\sigma') = \Sigma (\text{fst} \sigma') (E1(\text{app}(\text{snd}^3 \sigma')[(p^1, \text{app}(\text{fst} (\text{snd}^2 \sigma'))])))
\]

when \( \Gamma \vdash \sigma' : \text{Sig}_j \Gamma n + 1 \)

\[
\mathcal{P}(\sigma') = \top \
\]

when \( \Gamma \vdash \sigma' : \text{Sig}_j \Gamma 0 \)

\[31\]
With the above two helpers, we can define denotation $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_T$:

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^n \rrbracket_T \in \{ t \mid \Gamma \vdash t : \text{Sig}^n \Gamma n \}$

$\Gamma \vdash P(\sigma) = \mathcal{P}(\llbracket \sigma \rrbracket_T)$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash L(\sigma) \rrbracket_T$ is defined upon $\llbracket \sigma \rrbracket_T$ and inductively on the signature length

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash L(\sigma) \rrbracket_T = \llbracket L(v_1(\sigma)) \rrbracket_T \times \Pi(\text{El}(\text{fst}(\text{snd}(\llbracket \sigma \rrbracket_T))))(\text{El}(\text{app}(\text{snd}^3 \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket_T)))$

$\quad$ given $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^{n+1} \rrbracket_T$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash L(\sigma) \rrbracket_T = \top$ \quad given $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^0 \rrbracket_T$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash v^* \ \text{LSig}^0 \rrbracket_T = ()$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash v^*(\sigma, f, T) \ \text{LSig}^{n+1} \rrbracket_T = (\llbracket \sigma \rrbracket_T, c(A), \lambda(f), \lambda(c(T)))$

$\Gamma \vdash \mu^* : L(v^*) = ()$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \mu^+ m t : L(v^*(\sigma, s, T)) \rrbracket_T = (\llbracket m \rrbracket_T, \lambda(t))$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash P(m) : P(\sigma) \rrbracket_T$ is defined upon $\llbracket m \rrbracket_T$ and inductively on the signature length

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash P(m) : P(\sigma) \rrbracket_T = ()$ \quad given $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^0 \rrbracket_T$

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash P(m) : P(\sigma) \rrbracket_T = (\llbracket P(o) \rrbracket_T, t[(p^1, f)](\text{id}, [P(o) \rrbracket_T]))$

$\quad$ given $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash \sigma \ \text{LSig}^{n+1} \rrbracket_T$, where $o = v\pi_1(m), t = \text{app}(\text{snd} \llbracket m \rrbracket_T), f = v\pi_3(\sigma)$

The main idea is that a linkage $\Gamma \vdash \mu^+ \text{LSig}^{n+1}$ is translated to a non-dependent tuple while introducing explicit universal quantification to the second component of the tuple; the universal quantification achieves late binding. The translation for $P$ is given by the relevant $\beta$-rules.

We omit validating the equational rules ($\beta, \eta,$ and substitution) here. Note that, when we mutually recursively define the type $\text{Sig}^r \Gamma n$ (of signatures $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash t \ \text{LSig}^n \rrbracket_T$), and the function $\llbracket P \rrbracket_T = \mathcal{P}$ above, we actually have to prove the two substitution laws $(\text{El}(\sigma))_y \equiv \text{El}(\sigma|y)$ and $(\text{Sig}^r \Delta n)_y \equiv \text{Sig}^r \Gamma n$ together.

We have constructed a model for the FMLTT syntax using only the linkage-irrelevant fragment of the syntax. We would have consistency and canonicity for FMLTT immediately, if we could assume the consistency and canonicity of the linkage-irrelevant fragment. However, because our formulation of W-types is unconventional, we choose to not take such an assumption for granted and choose to directly prove consistency and canonicity for FMLTT.

### 6.4 A Proof Relevant Logical-Relations Model for Canonicity

Now we prove canonicity (and consistency) for FMLTT using a logical-relations model. We follow the reducibility argument of Kaposi et al. [2019], Coquand [2019], and Sterling [2019] to construct our model. The metalanguages of these prior models are based on QIITs, categories with families [Dybjer 1995], and the generalized algebraic theory [Cartmell 1986], respectively. Without exposing the reader to too many technical details, our metalanguage should be understood as an instance of any of the above logical frameworks—the difference is that quotienting is manual in our formulation, whereas it is automatic with the logical frameworks.

We state the canonicity theorem first:

**Theorem 6.1 (Canonicity).** If $\cdot \vdash t : \mathbb{B}$, then either $\cdot \vdash t \equiv tt : \mathbb{B}$ or $\cdot \vdash t \equiv ff : \mathbb{B}$.

Canonicity is a key criterion for a dependent type theory to be considered as a programming language or as a computational foundation for mathematics.

First, we need the mathematical setup to interpret universe levels, following Sterling [2019]:
Assumption 6.1 (Set-theoretic Universe Assumption). We assume an infinite hierarchy of Grothendieck universes \( \text{Set}_i \) for \( i \in \mathbb{N} \) in our ambient metalogic.

We can roughly consider each Grothendieck universe \( \text{Set}_i \) as the \( \text{Set}_i \) in Agda:

- Each \( \text{Set}_i \) is closed under dependent function types and dependent pair types. For example, later, for our interpretation of dependent function types, when we have \( [A]_C, [B]_C \in \text{Set}_i \), we will have \( \Pi(A, B)_C \in \text{Set}_i \).
- The universe hierarchy is cumulative, as \( \text{Set}_i \subseteq \text{Set}_{i+1} \) and \( \text{Set}_i \subseteq \text{Set}_{i+1} \).
- Thus, if \( [A]_C \in \text{Set}_i, [B]_C \in \text{Set}_j \), we will have \( \Pi(A, B)_C \in \text{Set}_{i \cup j} \).

Like most logical-relations proofs, we interpret each judgment and inductively interpret each syntax piece. We are working in an intrinsic setting; thus, even if we omit contexts for brevity, the syntax piece is still well-typed. However, unlike most logical-relations proofs, our logical-relations model is proof-relevant, which is essential for modeling universes properly [Coquand 2019]. Our canonicity model for the base MLTT fragment follows the constructions in Coquand [2019] and Sterling [2019] in that it utilizes the facilitates of the ambient metalogic; for example, we use dependent functions and dependent tuples in the ambient metalogic to model dependent functions and tuples in FMLTT.

\[ [A \vdash k]_C \text{ is a function : } \{ y \mid \top : \Gamma \} \to \text{Set}_k \]

(i.e., sets indexed by closed substitution)

\[ [\Gamma \vdash j \vdash T]_C \text{ is a dependent function : } \prod_{y \vdash T} \prod_{y' \in \Pi(y)} \{ t \mid \top : T[y] \} \to \text{Set}_j \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \delta : \Delta]_C \text{ is a dependent function : } \prod_{y \vdash \Delta} \prod_{y' \in \Pi(y)} \Gamma \vdash \Delta \vdash (\delta \circ y) \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash t : T]_C \text{ is a dependent function : } \prod_{y \vdash T} \prod_{y' \in \Pi(y)} \Gamma \vdash (T[y](y')(t[y])) \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash T[\sigma]]_C(y)(y')(t) = [T]_C((\sigma \circ y)(([\sigma](y')(y'))(t)) \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash T]_C(y)(y')(t) = \{ \star \} \quad \text{a singleton set} \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \bot]_C(y)(y')(t) = \emptyset \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \mathbb{B}]_C(y)(y')(t) = \begin{cases} \{ \star^1 \} & \text{if } t = \text{tt} \\ \{ \star^2 \} & \text{if } t = \text{ff} \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \text{Eq}(a, b)]_C(y)(y')(t) = \begin{cases} \{ \star \} & \text{if } t = \text{refl}(a[y]) \text{ and } a[y] \equiv b[y] \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \Pi(A, B)]_C(y)(y')(t) = \prod_{y \in \text{A}} \prod_{y' \in \Pi(y)} [B]_C(y, u)((y', u'))(\text{app}(t)[\text{id}, u]) \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \Sigma(A, B)]_C(y)(y')(t) = \sum_{y' \in \text{A}} [B]_C(y, \text{fst } t)((y', u'))(\text{snd } t) \]

\[ [\vdash C]_C(y) = \{ \star \} \]

\[ [\Gamma, T \vdash \Delta]_C(y) = \{ (y', t') \mid y' \in \Gamma \} \]

\[ [\Gamma \vdash \pi_i \delta : \Delta]_C(y)(y') = [\delta]_C(y)(y'[0]) \quad \text{get the first element of the tuple} \]
we can have a function \( \Pi \) (substitution extension (and more for other constructions). Furthermore, given \( S \) JFMLTT. However, such a function above model. We hope to use this function when defining the logical-relations model for the rest of J. Type-theoretically speaking, this \( \Pi \) witnesses \( t \vdash u \) and \( u[y] \equiv v[y] \)

\[
\Gamma \vdash \text{refl}(t) : T \vdash c(y) \quad \Gamma \vdash J(w, t) : C[\text{id}, w, t] \vdash c(y) = w \quad \Gamma \vdash J(w, t) : C[\text{id}, w, t] \vdash c(y) = w
\]

Since \( T \vdash c(y) \) witnesses \( t[y] \equiv \text{refl}(u[y]) \) and \( u[y] \equiv v[y] \)

\[
\Gamma \vdash \lambda(t) : \Pi(A, B) \vdash c(y) = \lambda u \lambda u'. [T \vdash c(y, u') \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{app}(t) : B \vdash c(y) = [T \vdash c(y)] \quad \Gamma \vdash (a, b) : \Sigma(A, B) \vdash c(y) = [T \vdash c(y) \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{fst} t : T \vdash c(y) \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{snd} t : T \vdash c(y) \quad \Gamma \vdash r_{j+1} U_j \vdash c(y)(y'(T) = \{ t \mid t_0 : T \vdash c(T) \vdash c(y)(y'(t) \quad \Gamma \vdash J E1(T) \vdash c(y)(y'(t) = \{ t \mid t_0 : T \vdash c(T) \vdash c(y)(y'(t)
\]

Here, \( \star, \star^1, \star^2 \) are just some arbitrary fixed elements.

Given the above model for MLTT, there should be a function \( \Pi^c \) such that \( \Pi^c([A]_C, [B]_C) = \Pi(A, B)_C \). Type-theoretically speaking, this \( \Pi^c \) uses the internal dependent function type of the above model. We hope to use this function when defining the logical-relations model for the rest of FMLTT. However, such a function \( \Pi^c \) is not yet possible because the definition \( \Pi(A, B)_C \) is not based solely on \( [A]_C \) and \( [B]_C \), but also on the syntax \( \Gamma \vdash A \) and \( \Gamma, A \vdash B \).

Thus, we define a new denotation \( [S]_C^* \) as \( (S, [S]_C) \) that also returns the syntax piece \( S \). Then, we can have a function \( \Pi^* \) such that \( \Pi^*([A]_C^*, [B]_C^*) = \Pi(A, B)_C^* \) now that the syntax is available. Similarly, there are functions \( \Sigma^* \), \( (a, b) \), and \( y^* \) for dependent pair types, dependent pairs, and substitution extension (and more for other constructions). Furthermore, given \( S^* \) (i.e., the syntax and its semantic interpretation), we use \( (S^*)^c \) to mean the latter of the two.

We need more internal type-theoretic constructions:

We define \( \text{Con}^*_k \) := \( \sum_{T \vdash \Gamma} \{ y : \vdash (t : T) \rightarrow \text{Set}_k \}

\[
\text{Ty}_j^* \Gamma^* := \sum_{T : \vdash (t : T) \rightarrow \text{Set}_j} \{ y : \vdash (t : T) \rightarrow \text{Set}_k \}
\]

and \( \text{Sub}^*_k \Gamma^* \Delta^* := \sum_{T : \vdash \Delta \rightarrow \text{Set}_j} \{ y \vdash (t : T) \rightarrow \text{Set}_k \}
\]

This is also called the glued interpretation in Sterling [2019].
These four sets are collecting the glued interpretation. For each well-formed type $\Gamma \vdash_j T$, we have its denotation $[T]^*_C \in T^*_y$ $[\Gamma]^*_C$: for each well-typed term $\Gamma \vdash t : T$, we have its denotation $[t]^*_C \in T^*_y$ $[\Gamma]^*_C$: etc. These structures should remind the reader of the ones appearing at the beginning of the MLTT canonicity model.

Notice that $\prod_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \prod_{y \in (\Gamma^*)^c(\gamma)}$ is part of $T^*_y$, $\Gamma^*$, and $\text{Sub}^*$. A useful fact about them is: given a pair of arbitrary $\vdash y : \Gamma$ and $y' \in (\Gamma^*)^c(\gamma)$, we can consider $(y, y')$ as an element of $\text{Sub}^*: \Gamma^*$, and vice versa. Thus, we consider the pair $(y, y')$ the equivalent form of an element $y^* \in \text{Sub}^*: \Gamma^*.$

Then we define $\text{WSig}^{Cn}_{j} \Gamma^* := \text{vector}^n \sum_{A \in T^*_y} T^*_y \ (\Gamma^*, A^*)$ for $\Gamma^* \in \text{Cont}^*$, a length-$n$ list of pairs of types. As before, we can define glued interpretation $\text{WSig}^{*}_{j} \Gamma^* := \{ \tau : \vdash \text{WSig}^* \} \times \text{WSig}^{Cn}_{j} \Gamma^*$. This will be useful when we interpret judgments for W-type signatures.

Now we can extend the model above to include MLTT constructs. The key idea of this extension is similar to that of the syntactic translation: we interpret linkage types using the canonicity model of $\Sigma$-types (developed in the prior work). We use the inductive facility of the ambient metalogic to justify our W-types.

\[
\begin{align*}
[\Gamma \vdash \sigma \text{ LSig}^n]_C & \text{ is a list of 3-tuple of length } n \\
[\Gamma \vdash_j \tau \text{ WSig}^n]_C : \text{WSig}^{Cn}_{j} [\Gamma]^*_C \\
& \text{ i.e., a list of 2-tuple of length } n
\end{align*}
\]

we interpret $L(\cdot), P(\cdot)$ by induction on the input linkage signature, via $L$ and $P^*$

\[
L((A, s, T) :: tl)(y)(y')(t) = L(\text{tl})(y)(y')(\mu \pi_1(t)) \times (\Pi^*(A, T))^c(\gamma)(y')(\lambda(\mu \pi_2(t)))
\]

\[
P^*(\text{nil}) = (P(v^*), [T]_C)
\]

\[
P^*((A, s, T) :: tl) = \Sigma^*(P^*(\text{tl}), T([p^1]^*, s^*)^c) \quad \text{(doing substitution on } T)
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \ell \text{ LSig}^{n+1}]_C = [([A]^*_C, [s]^*_C, [T]^*_C) : [\sigma]_C] \quad \text{ given } \Gamma, P(\sigma) \vdash s : A
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \sigma[\gamma] \text{ LSig}^n]_C \text{ is done by point-wise/component-wise substitution}
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash v \pi_1(\sigma) \text{ LSig}^n]_C = \text{tl} [\sigma]_C
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \psi_*(\sigma) \text{ LSig}^n]_C = ((\text{hd} [\sigma]_C)[0])^c \quad \text{take the first element in the tuple, ...}
\]

\[
[\Gamma, P(v \pi_1(\sigma)) \vdash v \pi_2(\sigma) : v \pi_1(\sigma)]_C = ((\text{hd} [\sigma]_C)[1])^c \quad \text{... and discard syntax}
\]

\[
[\Gamma, v \pi_1(\sigma) \vdash v \pi_2(\sigma)]_C = ((\text{hd} [\sigma]_C)[2])^c
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \nu^* : \text{Sub}^*]_C = [0]_C
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \ell^*(\sigma, t) : \text{L}(\nu^*(\sigma, s, T)]_C = (\ell^*_C)(y)(y'), (\ell^*_C)[y](y')(\lambda(\ell^*_C))^c(\gamma)(y'(y'))
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash \ell : P(\sigma)]_C = [0]_C \quad \text{ when } \Gamma \vdash \sigma \text{ LSig}^0
\]

\[
[\Gamma \vdash P(\sigma) : P(\sigma)]_C = ([(\ell^*_C) : (p^1)^*, [s]^*])^c[(id)^*, \ell^*_C)^*]
\]

where $\ell^* = [P(\mu \pi_1(t))]_C$

when $[\Gamma \vdash \sigma \text{ LSig}^{n+1}]_C = (A, s, T) :: _$
In this definition, \(\langle \_, \_ \rangle\) notates the glued interpretation of dependent tuple construction, \([\_, \_]\) notates the glued interpretation of substitution extension, and \([\_, \_]^*\) notates the glued interpretation of applying a substitution.

The colored boxes indicate the scopes of the two instances of \([\_, \_]^*\). We use colored boxes here and below to help the reader parse nested glued interpretations.

\[
\begin{align*}
[\Gamma \vdash \mu \pi_1(\ell) : \mathit{\Pi}(\sigma)]_C(y)(y') &= [\ell]_C(y)(y')[0] & \text{take the first element in the tuple} \\
[\Gamma, \nu \pi_1(\sigma) \vdash \mu \pi_2(\ell) : \mathit{T}_C(\gamma_+)(y'_+)] &= (([\ell]_C(\pi_1(y_+)(y'_+))(0))(\pi_2(y_+)(y'_+)[0]))[1] \\
[\Gamma \vdash w^* \mathit{WSig}^0]_C &= \text{nil} \\
[\Gamma \vdash w^*(\tau, A, B) \mathit{WSig}^{n+1}]_C &= ([A]_C^* [B]_C^* : [\tau]_C) \\
[\Gamma \vdash \tau[y] \mathit{WSig}^n]_C &= \text{is done by point-wise/component-wise substitution} \\
[\Gamma \vdash \nu \pi_1(\tau)]_C &= ((j \text{-th element of } [\tau]_C[0])^c \\
[\Gamma \vdash \nu \pi_2(\tau)]_C &= ((j \text{-th element of } [\tau]_C[1])^c \\
[\Gamma \vdash \tau \mathit{WSig}^n]_C &= t_1[\tau]_C \\
[\Gamma \vdash W(\tau) : \mathit{U}_C(y)(y')(t)] &= W^C([\tau]_C^* [y]^* \tau) t \\
[\Gamma \vdash \mathit{Wsup}(\tau, a, b) : \mathit{EL}(W(\tau))]_C &= W^C \mathit{sup} i \left( ([a]_C^* [y]^* \tau)^* \quad ([b]_C^* [y]^* \tau)^* \right) \\
[\Gamma \vdash \mathit{CaseTy}(A, B, R)]_C &= (\Pi^*([A]_C^* [B]_C^* [R]_C^* ((p^2)^* \tau)^*), [R]_C^* ([p^2]_C^* \tau)^*)))^c \\
\end{align*}
\]

The interpretation of \(\mathit{Wsup}(\tau, a, b)\) is defined via \(W^C \mathit{sup}\), which is in turn defined below. This construction takes three arguments as input: \(i\), a glued \(([a]_C^* [y]^* \tau)^*\) and a glued \(([b]_C^* [y]^* \tau)^*\). As mentioned earlier, \(y^*\) is an equivalent form of \((y, y')\).

we define \(\mathit{RecSig}(\_\,)\) by induction on the signature, via \(RS\)

\[
RS \text{ nil } R = [v^*]_C^* \\
RS ((A, B) : tl) R = v^{**}(RS tl R, \pi_2^*, \mathit{CaseTy}(A, B, R)) \\
[\Gamma \vdash \mathit{RecSig}(\tau, R)]_C = (RS [\tau]_C [R]_C)^c \\
[\Gamma \vdash \mathit{RecSig}(\tau, R)]_C &= \text{take the } j \text{-th field from } \ell \\
[\Gamma \vdash \mathit{RecSig}(\tau, \ell, t) : \mathit{T}_C(y)(y')] &= W^C \mathit{rec} \left( [\tau]_C^* [y]^* \right) \\
\left( \lambda w. [R]_C(y)(y')(\mathit{Wrec}([\tau]_C, \ell[y], w)) \right) \\
f^r \left( \ell[y] \right) \left( [\ell]_C(y)(y') \right) \\
\right) \\
\right)
\]

where \(f^r j a^* b b^c = \text{let } \rho^* \in \mathit{Tm}^* \left( c^* \mathit{B}^*[\mathit{id}^*, a^*] \right) (R^* [y]^* \tau (p^1)^* \tau)] \quad \text{s.t. } \rho^* := (\mathit{Wrec}(\tau, \ell [y \circ p^1], b), b^c)\quad \text{in} \)

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The semantic interpretations above are defined together with the following inductively defined indexed set $W^C$ (with only one constructor $W^C sup$)
(Note: we also use $(a \in A \rightarrow B(a))$ as another notation for dependent function $\prod_{a \in A} B(a)$.

Inductive $W^C : (\tau^* \in \text{WSig}_i^N \hat{\gamma} C^*) \rightarrow \{ t \mid \cdot \vdash t : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \} \rightarrow \text{Set}_{j+1}$ where

\[
W^C sup : j < N \rightarrow a^* \in \text{Tm}^* \cdot w\pi_1^j(\tau^*) \\
\rightarrow b^* \in (\text{Tm}^* \hat{\gamma} w\pi_2^j(\tau^*)[id^*, a^*]^* ) \rightarrow b^* \vdash \text{El}^*(W(\tau^*))[(p^1)^*]^* \\
\rightarrow W^C \tau^* \text{Wsup}_j(\tau, a, b)
\]

and its eliminator $W^C rec$

\[
W^C rec : (\tau^* \in \text{WSig}_i^N \hat{\gamma} C^*) \rightarrow (P : \{ t \mid \cdot \vdash t : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \} \rightarrow \text{Set}_{k}) \\
\rightarrow \left( j < N \rightarrow a^* \in \text{Tm}^* \cdot w\pi_1^j(\tau^*) \\
\rightarrow \left( b \mid \cdot \vdash b : \text{El}(W(\tau))[p^1] \right) \rightarrow b^* \vdash \text{El}^*(W(\tau^*))[(p^1)^*]^* \\
\rightarrow P (\text{Wsup}_j(\tau, a, b)) \right) \\
\rightarrow \cdot \vdash t : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \rightarrow W^C \tau^* t \rightarrow P t
\]

Note that in $W^C sup$, the $b^*$ uses the definition of $\hat{\gamma} W(\tau) C$, which after unfolding, recursively references $W^C$ in a strictly positive position. We do not distinguish $(b, b^c)$ and $b^*$ for simplicity.

The idea of the proof of W-type is, as mentioned, mirroring the facility of the inductive type in the ambient logic into FMLTT. The main difference between $W^C$ in the ambient logic and $W(\cdot)$ in the FMLTT, is that $W^C$ is only witnessing those reducible closed terms. Thus when using $W^C$ to model $W(\cdot)$, we need to do closed substitution properly.

Again, we omit validating the equational rules ($\beta, \eta$, and substitution) here.
We state the fundamental property of the logical-relations model.

**Theorem 6.2 (Fundamental Property).** If $\Gamma \vdash t : T$, then its semantic interpretation is a dependent function such that $[t] C : \prod_{\gamma \in C} [\gamma] C(\gamma)[\gamma \vdash T] C(\gamma'(\gamma')(t[\gamma])).$

The first consequence of this model is the consistency of FMLTT—we cannot derive $\cdot \vdash t : \bot$. Otherwise, we would have an element in the empty set, $[\cdot \vdash t : \bot] C (\epsilon)(\star) \in [\bot] C (\epsilon)(\star)(t[\gamma]) = \emptyset$, a contradiction.

**Theorem 6.3 (Consistency).** The typing judgment $\cdot \vdash t : \bot$ is not derivable for any term $t$. 

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Next, with the logical-relations model, we can map an arbitrary closed boolean term \( t \) to get the result \( \models t : \mathbb{B} \equiv \star_1 \) or \( \star_2 \), witnessing the proof of \( t \equiv \text{tt} \) or \( t \equiv \text{ff} \) by the definition of our model, arriving at Theorem 6.1.

Further, with the help of eta rules, we have the following canonical forms.

**Theorem 6.4 (Canonical Forms).**

- If \( \models t : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \) and \( \models \tau \equiv \text{Wsup}(\tau, a, b) : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \) for some \( \models a : A, \) \( B[\text{id}, a] \vdash b : \text{El}(W(\tau)) \), and \( j < n \)
- If \( \models t : \mathbb{B} \) then \( \models t \equiv \text{tt} : \mathbb{B} \) or \( \models t \equiv \text{ff} : \mathbb{B} \)
- If \( \models t : \text{L}(\sigma) \) with \( \models \sigma \equiv \text{LSig}(n) \), then \( \models t \equiv \mu^+(o, t) : \text{L}(\sigma) \) for some \( \models o : \text{L}(\mu\pi_1(\sigma)) \) and \( \nu\pi_2(\sigma) \vdash t : \mu\pi_2(\sigma) \)
- If \( \models t : \Sigma(A, B) \) then \( \models (a, b) : \Sigma(A, B) \) with \( \models a : A \) and \( \models b : B[\text{id}, a] \)

6.5 Using FMLTT’s Linkage Transformers to Model a Derived Family

Here, we sketch how to use the “library” of linkage transformers in FMLTT to inductively construct a linkage transformer that models a derived family of STLC.

We use STLCBool as an example. STLCBool extends STLC with boolean values (tm_true and tm_false) and if-then-else expressions. The left column of the table below shows initial code excerpted from this family. Each cell in the last column defines a linkage transformer \( h_i \) inductively constructed from the linkage transformers \( h_0, \ldots, h_{i-1} \) using one of the introduction forms. The goal is to eventually construct a linkage transformer \( h_n \) representing the entire family STLCBool.

Most steps are self-explanatory. Of note are the two grayed rows. They are constructing a linkage transformer \( h_\beta \) containing the case handlers for subst. This \( h_\beta \) is then appended to \( h_3 \) as a nested linkage transformer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>surface-syntax program</th>
<th>( i )</th>
<th>( \cdot \vdash h_i : \sigma_i \rightarrow \sigma_i' )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family STLCBool extends STLC.</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finductive tm +=</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Override ((h_0, W(\tau')))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Override ((h_1, \text{WSup}(\tau', \top, \bot)))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Extend ((h_2, \text{WSup}(\tau', \top, \bot)))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRecursion subst ... +=</strong></td>
<td>( \alpha )</td>
<td>Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case tm_true ... Case ...</strong></td>
<td>( \beta )</td>
<td>Extend ((h_\alpha, \ldots))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End subst.</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nest ((h_3, h_\beta))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finductive ty +=</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Override ((h_4, \lambda t. Wrec(\tau', t, \text{substCases})))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Inherit ((h_6))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Inherit ((h_7))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{We emphasize the last one because } P(\ell) \text{ is a dependent pair}\]
7 CASE STUDIES

Type safety of STLCs. The first case study is the mechanization of the type safety theorem of STLC and those of its extensions, which has been occurring in the examples in this paper. The code base is ported from Software Foundations [Pierce et al. 2022]. The linguistic nature of our approach allows us to retain a programming style similar to the original proofs in Software Foundations.

The base STLC family consists of ~360 LOC, about the same as an STLC development not using fpop. Lines of code in each of the four derived families (Y, ×, +, and µ in the Venn diagram) vary from 100 to 250, largely depending on how many constructors they add to the inductive types. Without fpop, the same STLC code would have to be duplicated for each feature.

Using individual families to organize the mechanization of individual language features leads to a modular design that also facilitates code reuse. Individually developed features can be easily composed (as mixins) to form new STLC variants (e.g., Y+µ). Such a feature composition often requires only a few lines of code.

Composing features can lead to feature interactions [Batory et al. 2011]: features working correctly in isolation may require coordination when composed. For example, composing × and µ (Figure 3) creates an obligation to extend tysubst to handle ty_prod, which the type-checker enforces. Composing contradictory features (e.g., a fixpoints construct and a strong normalization theorem) would lead to unprovable proof obligations.

Elimination of inductive types defined via FInductive is mostly via the FRecursion and FInduction commands. An exception is a handful of trivial “inversion lemmas”. For example, consider the lemma ∀ t, ¬ step tm_true t stating that tm_true is irreducible. If step were an ordinary inductive type, then it could be proved in Coq simply by intros t H; inversion H. But step is extensible. So one way to prove the lemma is by FInduction on step and verifying that a derived family does not accidentally make tm_true reducible. We observe that it is lighter-weight to use overriding (Section 3.3) instead: the programmer can specify that the proof of the lemma should be overridden in any derived family that further binds step, and in return, they are permitted to treat step as an ordinary inductive type in the proof and thus use inversion to prove it. The plugin then automatically tries the same proof script in a derived family to override the proof. Although proof scripts rather than proof terms are reused, this practice seems justified by the triviality of the lemmas and the terseness of the proof scripts.

Abstract interpreters for imperative languages. Our second case study is a mechanization of abstract interpreters for simple imperative languages. In addition to a soundness proof, this case study produces abstract interpreters that are directly ready for program extraction.

The code is organized into four families. A base family Imp (~200 LOC) defines via FInductive the abstract syntax of a while-language with pure expressions and impure statements. The semantics is given by an interpreter defined as a CEK-style abstract machine [Felleisen and Friedman 1986] and parameterized by a fuel value. Family Imp defines the interpreter via FRecursion.

A second family ImpGAI (~550 LOC) extends Imp. It exports a generic framework for deriving abstract interpreters with partial-correctness guarantees. Soundness of the abstract interpreter, analyze, is stated with respect to the interpreter, eval, inherited from Imp. The theorem says that the concretization relation RState over a concrete state S and an abstract state absS is preserved by the analysis:
\forall \text{ stmt fuel } S \text{ abs } S, \text{ RState } S \text{ abs } S \rightarrow \text{ RState (eval fuel stmt } S) \text{ (analyze fuel stmt abs } S) \text{)

analyze is defined via \textit{FRecursion}, and the soundness theorem is proved via \textit{FInduction}. This family leaves fields representing the abstract domain, the concretization relation, monotonicity of transfer functions, etc. largely unspecified or unproven—a derived family can further bind these “parameters” by overriding appropriate fields (and also possibly extend the abstract syntax), to create a sound, runnable abstract interpreter for a (possibly extended) while-language.

The next two families both extend ImpGAI. Family ImpTI (~200 LOC) is an abstract interpreter doing type inference [Cousot 1997]. Family ImpCP (~300 LOC) extends the abstract syntax with natural-number arithmetic, and further binds the generic abstract interpreter to perform constant propagation.

Our implementation of family polymorphism is compatible with Coq’s program extraction feature. We extract the two verified abstract interpreters to OCaml. Testing the extracted program over simple queries returns expected results.

In addition to the two case studies above, we also use extensible inductive types for modeling extensible context-free grammars and derive decision procedures for language membership.
8 RELATED WORK

Approaches to modular mechanization or proof reuse exist, with different focuses and trade-offs.

**Encodings based on product lines or DTC.** Delaware et al. [2011] engineer product lines of theorems and proofs built from feature modules. Feature composition is manual, which seems to have motivated later approaches based on data types à la carte (DTC) [Swierstra 2008].

The original DTC encoding requires type-level general recursion that fails the strict positivity check imposed by proof assistants including Coq and Agda. Delaware et al. [2013a] introduce meta-theory à la carte (MTC): it overcomes the problem by using Church encodings for data types and using Mendler-style folds for evaluation, though it requires Set impredicativity. Feature composition is automated through heavy use of type classes. The framework is implemented as a Coq library. Schwaab and Siek [2013] adapt DTC to Agda by considering a restricted class of functors that admit least fixed points. Keuchel and Schrijvers [2013] use datatype-generic programming techniques for the underlying representation of type-level fixed points and avoid Set impredicativity.

All of these approaches are largely extralinguistic, in that they work within the confine of the language offered by a proof assistant, which comes with trade-offs. On the one hand, they can be conveniently distributed as libraries, and the encoding can be more easily adapted for new purposes. For example, MTC has been applied to implementing composable program adverbs [Li and Weirich 2022] and been adapted to allow feature extensions, such as reference cells and exceptions, that require type changes [Delaware et al. 2013b; van der Rest et al. 2022].

On the other hand, the extralinguistic nature of the approaches tends to lead to non-idiomatic code and offset their user-friendliness. In particular, because data types have to be encoded (rather than expressed through natively supported inductive types), the resulting code can be obtuse at first blush, making the programming style inaccessible to non-experts. In addition, extra programmer effort may be required, such as having to manually prove additional well-formedness conditions.

Forster and Stark [2020] introduce Coq à la carte. It still follows DTC, but rather than embracing DTC’s use of generic fixed points, it considers specific instantiations instead. The resulting mechanism appears more streamlined than prior à la carte approaches particularly for its extensive tool support for generating boilerplate code. But even with the tool support, components (e.g., subst1lem) of individually developed feature extensions have to be composed separately by invoking the tool.

Our approach addresses the expression problem by extending the linguistic facilities offered by a proof assistant. Families, in particular, offer an organizational advantage. They allow grouping and coevolving related types, functions, and proofs without explicit parameterization; all further-bindable fields are automatically extensibility hooks. Because family polymorphism does not require explicit parameterization or complex encodings, the resulting programming experience and code are accessible to the working Coq programmer. The more OO aspects of family polymorphism, such as the ability to use families as mixins and the ability to grow a series of mechanized languages in integral increments, also facilitate extensibility and reuse with minimal programmer effort.

**Proof reuse and proof repair.** Boite [2004] addresses proof reuse specifically in response to inductive types extended with new constructors. Proof reuse is via a tactic that adapts the original proof to the extended inductive type while generating proof obligations, so rechecking of proof terms is entailed. The design requires distinct names for a base inductive type and its extensions (including distinct names for constructors), while fpop allows names to be late bound.

Mulhern [2006] introduces a heuristic approach that allows proofs for multiple small languages to be combined to yield proofs for composite languages, as long as the proof structure follows the same pattern. Johnsen and Lüth [2004] enable proof reuse in Isabelle by adapting theorems
from one setting for reuse in another: proof terms are transformed by first explicitly stating all
assumptions, and then abstracting over function symbols and type constants.

Pumpkin Pi [Ringer et al. 2021] is a Coq plugin that helps repair proofs broken by changes in
type definitions. Its decompiler from proof terms to proof scripts prioritizes suggesting useful
tactics over soundness. While Pumpkin Pi focuses on refactoring existing proofs in response to
changed definitions, our solution can be viewed as an effort to preempt refactoring by enabling the
programmer to write code that has built-in hooks for future extensions.

**The expression problem.** Solutions abound. Almost all involve some form of either explicit
or implicit parameterization as extensibility hooks. Our approach is the first that applies family
polymorphism [Ernst 2001], mostly seen in OO languages, to the context of mechanized proofs.

Blume et al. [2006] address the expression problem for a core subset of Standard ML by com-
bining explicitly coded open recursion with a design that allows pattern-matching cases to be
defined separately and combined later. Our FRecursion and FInduction commands achieve a similar
functionality, with families making open recursion implicit and bestowing organizational power.

**ML-style modules**, like families, are a modularity mechanism, but with a focus on abstraction
rather than extensibility. Both FMLTT and the module system of Stone and Harper [2000] use
singletons to model and control the propagation of definitions. MixML [Rossberg and Dreyer 2013]
integrates mixins into ML and handles the idiosyncrasies of ML modules, while our work supports
mixins in the presence of extensible inductive types.
9 CONCLUSION

It is hard to write modular, extensible code and proofs. We have presented a solution that equips a proof assistant with linguistic facilities for family polymorphism. The language design ensures that the expressive power brought by family polymorphism is in harmony with the strictness of a proof assistant, while incurring low cognitive overhead and allowing an idiomatic programming experience. We implement the design via a translation to Coq and demonstrate its applicability using case studies. A novel dependent type theory formalizes the essence of the language mechanism and is shown to enjoy consistency and canonicity. Future work can explore ways to further improve the practicality and expressivity of the language mechanism.
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