

A new generation of Proof Assistants integrating Small Proof Engines

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Joint work with Frédéric Blanqui and Pierres-Yves Strub

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Outline

Coq successive frameworks

Curry Howard

Problem and Objective

CCC : Convertibility by Congruence Closure

Decidability of Type Checking

Extensions

Prototype Implementation and Conclusion

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- 1 Coq successive frameworks
- 2 Curry Howard
- 3 Problem and Objective
- 4 CCC : Convertibility by Congruence Closure
- 5 Decidability of Type Checking
- 6 Extensions
- 7 Prototype Implementation and Conclusion



- A **programming language** dedicated to processing mathematics
- A set of deduction and computation rules characterizing the **logic** chosen for expressing mathematical statements and their proofs.
- An proof-checking algorithm, **kernel** of the proof assistant.
- **Proof tactics** helping the user building proofs.
- A **tactic language** for writing new tactics.
- **Libraries** of proved theorems.

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- Mathematical propositions are seen as Types
- Given a set of assumptions Γ , p a proof of P

$$\Gamma \vdash p : P$$

is a *judgement* expressing that p is a term of type P under type declarations in Γ

- If $\Gamma \vdash q : P \rightarrow Q$, $\Gamma \vdash p : P$ then $\Gamma \vdash q(p) : Q$
- $l : \text{List}(2), l' : \text{List}(3) \vdash \text{app}(l, l') : \text{List}(5)$
- $\text{app} :$
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$$t ::= s \mid x \mid [x : t]t \mid (x : t)t \mid t(t)$$

where

- $s \in \{*, \square\}$ and $x \in \mathcal{X}$
- $*$ is the universe of types and propositions
- \square is the universe of predicate types ($\vdash * : \square$)
- $[x : t]t'$ is the function of parameter x of type t and body t'
- $(x : t)t'$ is the product type of parameter x of type t and predicate t'
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Most important CC Rules

$$\text{(prod)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash U : s \quad \Gamma, x : U \vdash V : s'}{\Gamma \vdash (x : U)V : s'}$$

$$\text{(abs)} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : U \vdash v : V \quad \Gamma \vdash (x : U)V : s}{\Gamma \vdash [x : U]v : (x : U)V}$$

$$\text{(app)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : (x : U)V \quad \Gamma \vdash u : U}{\Gamma \vdash t(u) : V\{x \mapsto u\}}$$

$$\text{(conv)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : T \quad \Gamma \vdash T' : s}{\Gamma \vdash t : T'} \quad (T \rightarrow_{\beta}^* T')$$

Problem and Objective

- Proofs may need complex *computations*: the four color theorem completed late 2004 by Georges Gonthier and Benjamin Werner.
- Transparent computations are powerful, change our style of making proofs, and are required for complex tasks [Gonthier]
- Computations should not require user's assistance.
- **First attempt: CIC**
Computations as primitive recursion.
- **Second attempt: CAC**
Computations as user defined rewrite rules.

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Third attempt : Convertibility by Congruence Closure

- We assume a set \mathcal{F} of typed constants,
- The conversion rule

$$\text{(conv)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : T \quad \Gamma \vdash T' : s}{\Gamma \vdash t : T'} \quad (T \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \quad \beta \leftarrow^* T')$$

- becomes

$$\text{(conv)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : T \quad \Gamma \vdash T' : s}{\Gamma \vdash t : T'} \quad (T \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \quad \sim_{\Gamma} \beta \leftarrow^* T')$$

where \sim_{Γ} is the equality generated by the ground equations available in Γ

- \sim_{Γ} can be decided in time $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ by

[Nelson and Oppen, Shostak, Kozen]
congruence closure algorithm.

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Assuming a declaration $eq : (A : *)A \rightarrow A \rightarrow *$, $eq(\Gamma)$ is the set of *unquantified equations* $u = v$ such that $x : eq(A, u, v) \in \Gamma$. Equations of the form $y = v$ with $y \notin FV(t)$ are called *definitions*.

Given an arbitrary environment Γ , $\{\sim_\Gamma\}_\Gamma$ is the least indexed family of equivalences defined as:

- $T \sim_\Gamma T'$ if $T = T' \in eq(\Gamma)$,
- $(x : U)V \sim_\Gamma (x : U')V'$ if $U \sim_\Gamma U'$, $V \sim_{\Gamma, x:U} V'$ and $x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma)$,
- $[x : U]V \sim_\Gamma [x : U']V'$ if $U \sim_\Gamma U'$ and $V \sim_\Gamma V'$,
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ASSUMPTION:

rules in R_{Γ} are algebraic or definitions.

CCC satisfies the following properties:

- Inversion
- Subject reduction and Type convertibility
- Strong normalization
- Church-Rosser, that is :

$$U(\longrightarrow_{\beta}^* \sim_{\Gamma} \longleftarrow_{\beta}^*)^* V$$

if and only if

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Main technical tool: ground completion.

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The only non-structural rule is conversion.
Conversion is incorporated into the application rule:

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- **Associativity and commutativity.**
- Universally quantified algebraic equations.
- Non equality-based decidable theories:
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Outline
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Curry Howard
Problem and Objective
CCC : Convertibility by Congruence Closure
Decidability of Type Checking
Extensions
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