

# Dependent Types Made Difficult

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**What is the categorical semantics of dependent type theory?**



PHASE 1      PHASE 2      PHASE 3

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Categorical  
semantics for  
dependent type theory



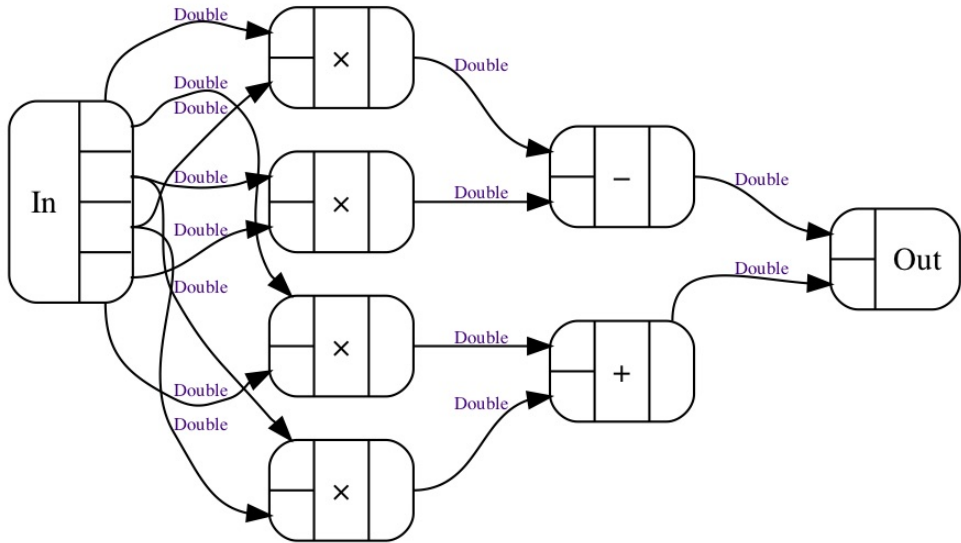
Profit



Take in Haskell source and spit out . . .

## Compiling to Categories (Elliott, 2017)

- computation graphs
  - diagrams
  - circuit descriptions (VHDL, Verilog)
- linear maps
- automatic differentiation
- incremental computation
- interval analysis
- Kleisli category for any monad e.g. probabilistic programming
- graphics (GLSL)
- syntax
- products of the above
- tons more . . . see <https://github.com/conal/concat>



**How does this work??**

The simply-typed lambda calculus is the *internal language* of *Cartesian closed categories*.

which means

We can interpret the lambda calculus in any CCC.



Dependent type theory is the *internal language* of ???.

which means

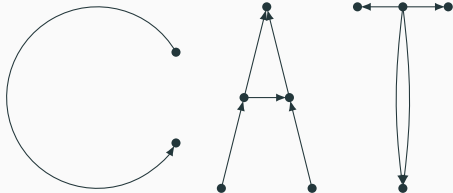
We can interpret dependently typed programs in any ???.

# Categories



Ob C : **Set**

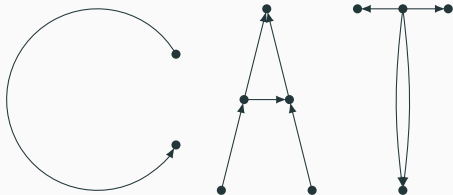
# Categories



$\text{Ob } C : \mathbf{Set}$

$C(a, b) = \text{Hom}(a, b) : \mathbf{Set}$

# Categories

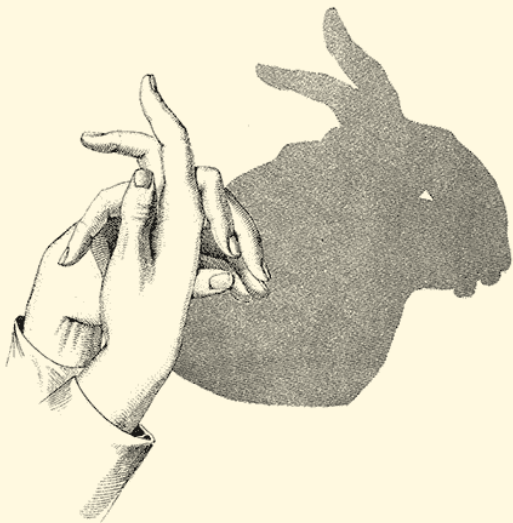


$\text{Ob } C : \mathbf{Set} \quad C(a, b) = \text{Hom}(a, b) : \mathbf{Set}$

$\circ : C(b, c) \times C(a, b) \rightarrow C(a, c) \quad 1_a \in C(a, a)$

$1_b \circ f = f = f \circ 1_a \quad h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f$

# Functors

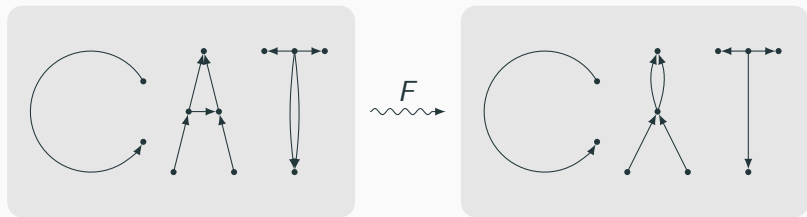


BUNNY.

*H. B. Burville and Co. Del.*

# Functors

A functor from  $C \rightarrow D$  draws a picture of  $C$  in  $D$ .



$$F : \text{Ob } C \rightarrow \text{Ob } D$$

$$F : C(a, b) \rightarrow D(Fa, Fb) \text{ i.e. } \text{fmap}$$

$$F(1) = 1$$

$$F(f \circ g) = F(f) \circ F(g)$$

## Cartesian closed categories

A Cartesian closed category is a category with function objects.

$$\mathcal{C}(A \times B, C) \cong \mathcal{C}(A, C^B)$$

In Haskell, this isomorphism is called “curry”.

```
curry :: ((a,b) -> c) -> a -> b -> c
curry f a b = f (a, b)
```

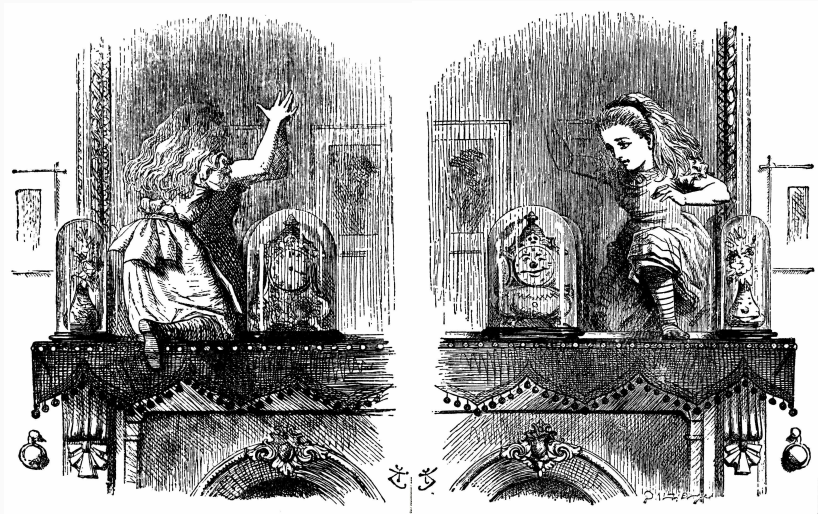
```
uncurry :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a, b) -> c
uncurry f (a, b) = f a b
```

# Categorical semantics

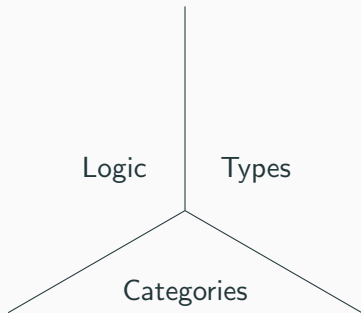
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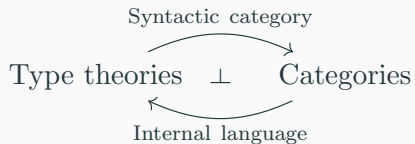


# Curry-Howard correspondence



# Curry-Howard-Lambek correspondence





# Advantages

- The internal language is valid in every model
- More easily prove properties about a type theory using CT
- CT proofs using the internal language can be easier
- The CT can illuminate the TT, and vice versa
- Can use the internal language to define internal structures
- Refinement of denotational semantics
- Pictures!

# Adjunctions

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$$F \dashv U : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{D} \\ & \perp & \\ & U & \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(Fc, d) \cong \mathcal{C}(c, Ud)$$

$$\frac{Fc \rightarrow d \text{ in } \mathcal{D}}{c \rightarrow Ud \text{ in } \mathcal{C}}$$

## Example: free monoid

The free monoid on an alphabet  $\Lambda$  is the set  $\Lambda^*$  of words in  $\Lambda$ .

$$\frac{\Lambda^* \rightarrow m \text{ in } \mathbf{Mon}}{\Lambda \rightarrow m \text{ in } \mathbf{Set}}$$

Why?

A monoid homomorphism has to respect multiplication, so

$$f(abcd \dots) = f(a)f(b)f(c) \dots$$

## Example: currying

The functor  $- \times b$  is left adjoint to  $(-)^b$ .

$$\frac{a \times b \rightarrow c \text{ in } \mathbf{Type}}{a \rightarrow c^b \text{ in } \mathbf{Type}}$$

`curry :: ((a,b) -> c) -> a -> b -> c`  
`curry f a b = f (a, b)`

`uncurry :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a, b) -> c`  
`uncurry f (a, b) = f a b`



## Example: quantifiers $\exists_y \dashv w_y \dashv \forall_y$

$$w_y : \text{Form}(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \text{Form}(\bar{x}, y)$$

$$\phi(\bar{x}) \mapsto \phi(\bar{x})$$

$$\frac{\bar{x}, y \vdash w_y \phi(\bar{x}) \Rightarrow \psi(\bar{x}, y)}{\bar{x} \vdash \phi(\bar{x}) \Rightarrow \forall_y \psi(\bar{x}, y)}$$

$$\frac{\bar{x} \vdash \exists_y \psi(\bar{x}, y) \Rightarrow \phi(\bar{x})}{\bar{x}, y \vdash \psi(\bar{x}, y) \Rightarrow w_y \phi(\bar{x})}$$

- Categorical semantics for STLC in CCCs
- Lots of CCCs
- GHC Core's System FC can (mostly) be converted to STLC
- GHC plugin, rewrite rules
- Convert Haskell src to VHDL, diagrams, etc

There's more to type theory than STLC!

- polymorphic types
- existential types
- universal types
- type classes
- union and intersection types
- quotient types
- dependent types
- refinement types
- homotopy type theory
- ...

## Dependent types

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# Dependent types

A dependent type is one that contains free variables.

$$\tau : \text{Type} \quad x : \tau \vdash P(x) : \text{Type}$$

It *depends on* terms.

## Dependent types

$n : \text{Nat} \vdash \text{IsEven } n : \text{Type}$

```
data IsEven (n : Nat) : Type where
  ZEven : IsEven 0
  SSEven : IsEven n -> IsEven (n + 2)
```

## Dependent types

$n : \text{Nat}, a : \text{Type} \vdash \text{Vect}_n(a) : \text{Type}$

```
data Vect (n : Nat) (a : Type) : Type where
  Nil : Vect 0 a
  (::) : a -> Vect n a -> Vect (n + 1) a
```



## Dependent product type

`replicate : (n : Nat) -> a -> Vect n a`

$$\begin{aligned} \text{replicate} &: \prod_{a:\text{Type}} \prod_{n:\mathbb{N}} \prod_{x:a} \text{Vect}_n(a) \\ &= \prod_{a:\text{Type}} \prod_{n:\mathbb{N}} a \rightarrow \text{Vect}_n(a) \end{aligned}$$

$$a \rightarrow b \equiv \prod_{_:a} b$$

## Dependent sum type

`evenLenLists = (l : List Int ** m : Nat ** length l = 2 * m)`

$$\text{evenLenLists} = \sum_{l:\text{List}(\text{Int})} \sum_{m:\mathbb{N}} \text{length}(l) = 2m$$

$$(a, b) := \sum_{-:a} b$$

Dependent types are the internal language of *locally Cartesian closed categories*.

# Semantics

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Objects: closed types

Arrows: terms in context

also arrows: functions

$$f : a \rightarrow b$$

$$\llbracket f \rrbracket : \llbracket a \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket b \rrbracket$$

## Semantics for dependent types

$\text{IsEven} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

$\text{IsEven } 0 = \{\text{zeroEven}\}$

$\text{IsEven } 1 = \{\}$

$\text{IsEven } 2 = \{\text{twoEven}\}$

$\text{IsEven } 3 = \{\}$

$\text{IsEven } 4 = \{\text{fourEven}\}$

$\vdots$

## Semantics for dependent types

CustomerOf : Bank  $\rightarrow$  **Set**

CustomerOf ANZ = {Alice, Albert, Anne-Marie}

CustomerOf CBA = {Calvin, Colin}

CustomerOf NAB = {Nathan}

CustomerOf Westpac = {Wendy, Will}

## Thinking backwards

$p : \text{IsEven } \_ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

$p \text{ zeroEven} = 0$

$p \text{ twoEven} = 2$

$p \text{ fourEven} = 4$

$\vdots$

$p : \text{CustomerOf } \_ \rightarrow \text{Bank}$

$p \text{ Alice} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Albert} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Anne-Marie} = \text{ANZ}$

$p \text{ Calvin} = \text{CBA}$

$p \text{ Colin} = \text{CBA}$

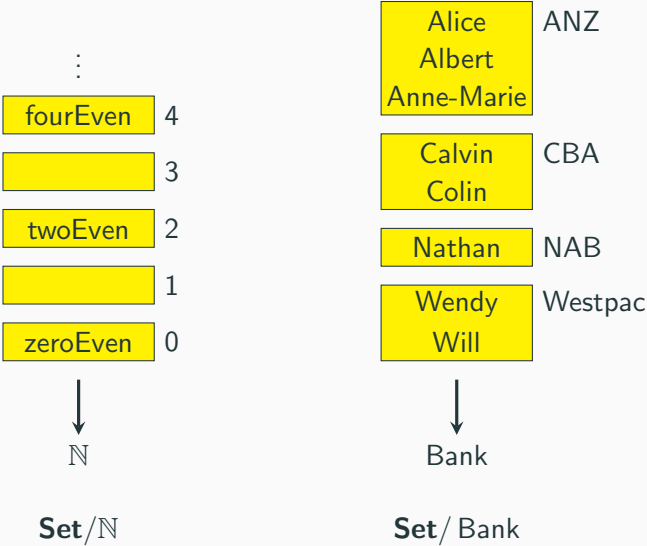
$p \text{ Nathan} = \text{NAB}$

$p \text{ Wendy} = \text{Westpac}$

$p \text{ Will} = \text{Westpac}$



# Semantics for dependent types



# Over-categories

$\mathcal{C}/X$  where  $X \in \mathcal{C}$

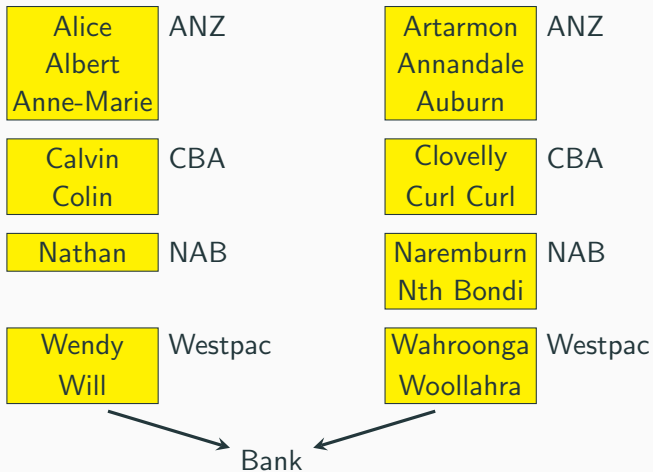
Objects:  $A$   
 $\downarrow p$   
 $X$

fibre  $(A)_x = p^{-1}x$  in **Set**

Arrows:  $A \xrightarrow{f} B$   
 $\searrow p \quad \swarrow q$   
 $X$

section  $s : X \rightarrow A$   
such that  $p \circ s = \text{id}$

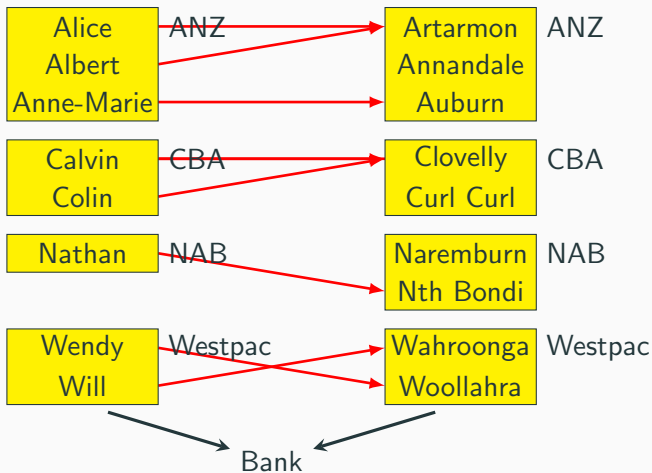
# Over-categories



$$\text{fibre } (A)_x = p^{-1}x$$

section  $s : X \rightarrow A$  such that  $p \circ s = \text{id}$

# Over-categories



$$\text{fibre } (A)_x = p^{-1}x$$

section  $s : X \rightarrow A$  such that  $p \circ s = \text{id}$

$\text{bankOf} : \text{Branch} \rightarrow \text{Bank}$

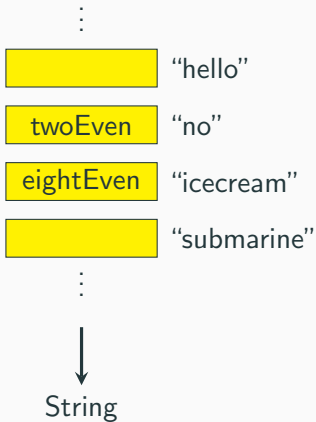
$b : \text{Bank} \vdash \text{CustomerOf } b : \text{Type}$

$br : \text{Branch} \vdash \text{CustomerOf}(\text{bankOf } br) : \text{Type}$

Alice Albert	Artarmon
	Annandale
Anne-Marie	Auburn
Calvin Colin	Clovelly
	Curl Curl
	Naremburn
Nathan	Nth Bondi
Will	Wahroonga
Wendy	Woollahra

↓

Branch



$s : \text{String} \vdash \text{IsEven} (\text{length } s) : \text{Type}$

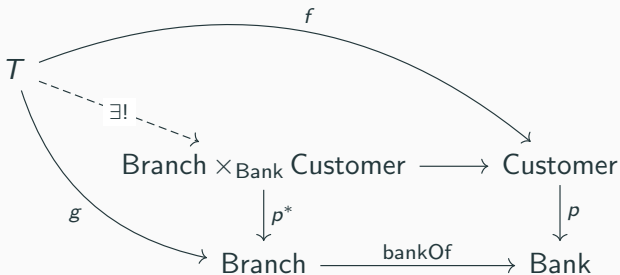
# Substitution = pullback aka change of base = join

bankOf : Branch  $\rightarrow$  Bank

bankOf\* : **Set** / Bank  $\rightarrow$  **Set** / Branch



# Substitution = pullback aka change of base = join



$$\begin{aligned} Branch \times_{Bank} Customer &= bankOf^* Customer \\ &= \{(br, c) \mid bankOf(br) = p(c)\} \\ &= \text{select } * \text{ from Branch inner join Customer} \\ &\quad \text{on Branch.bank} = \text{Customer.bank} \end{aligned}$$

# Dependent sum

$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

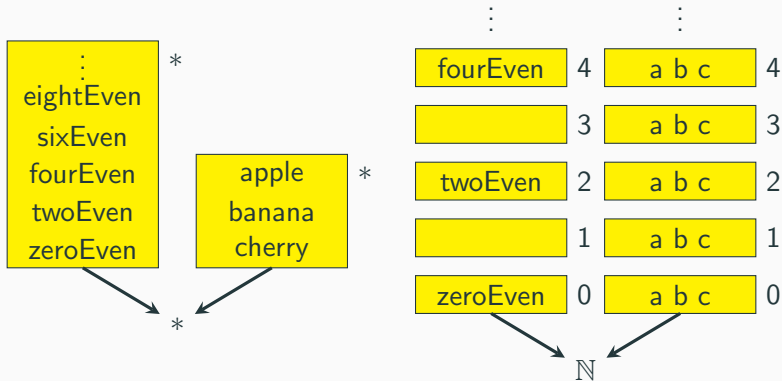
$$\sum_f : \mathbf{Set} / X \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / Y$$

$$\begin{array}{c} A \\ \downarrow p \\ X \\ \downarrow f \\ Y \end{array}$$

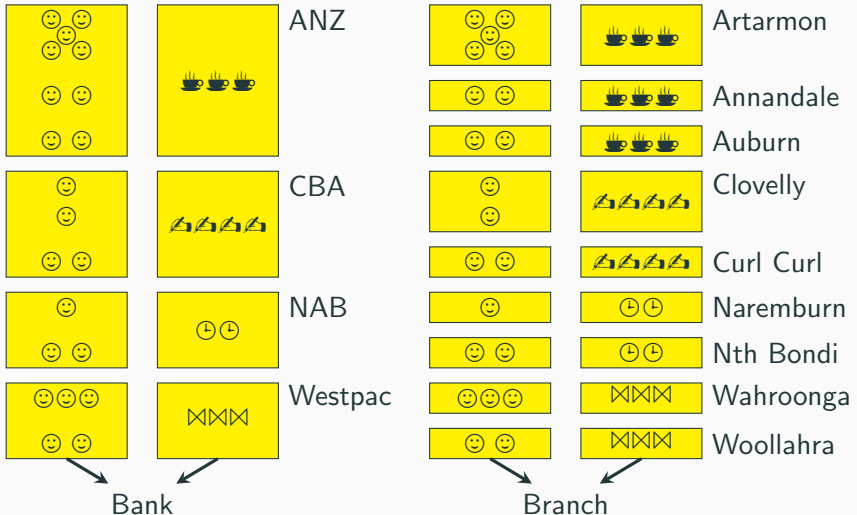
$$\sum_f \dashv f^*$$

$$\sum_{x:X} := \sum_{!x} \quad !x : X \rightarrow *$$

$$\mathbf{Set} / * \left( \sum_f p, q \right) \cong \mathbf{Set} / X(p, f^* q)$$



$\sum_{\text{bankOf}}$  : **Set** / Branch  $\rightarrow$  **Set** / Bank



A category is **locally Cartesian closed**  
if  $f^*$  also has a right adjoint  
for all arrows  $f$ .

### **Lemma**

*In this case all the slice categories  $\mathcal{C}/X$  are Cartesian closed.*

Dependent type theory is the *internal language* of *locally Cartesian closed categories*.

which means

We can interpret dependently typed programs in any LCCC.



PHASE 1   PHASE 2   PHASE 3

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Categorical  
semantics for  
dependent type theory



Profit



- Categorical semantics for DTs in LCCCs
- Lots of LCCCs
- Something something Agda, Idris, Lean, ...
- **Profit**



**Set** is locally Cartesian closed.

# Dependent product

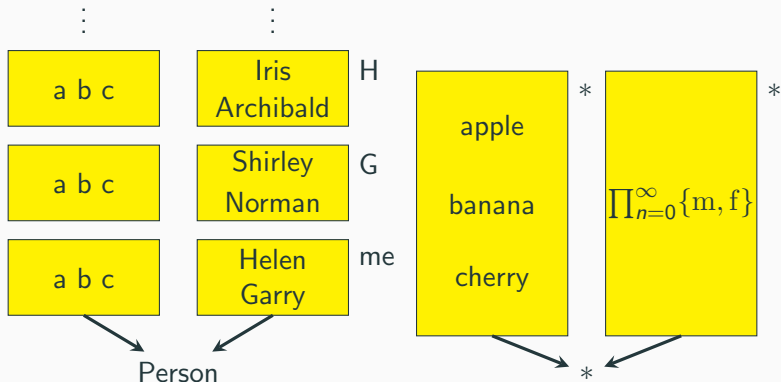
$$f : X \rightarrow Y$$

$$\prod_f : \mathbf{Set} / X \rightarrow \mathbf{Set} / Y$$

$$f^* \dashv \prod_f$$

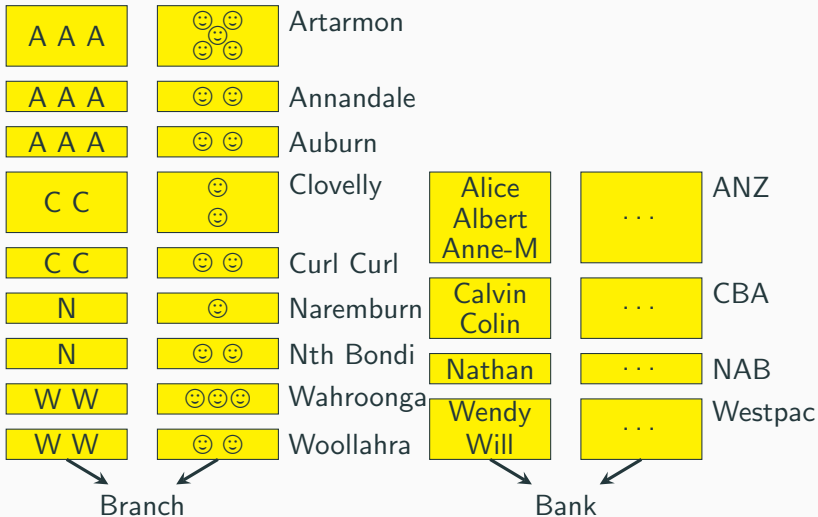
$$\prod_{x:X} := \prod_{!x} \quad !x : X \rightarrow *$$

$$\mathbf{Set} / X(f^*p, q) \cong \mathbf{Set} / * (p, \prod_f q)$$



$$\frac{p : \text{Person} \vdash \text{Fruit} \rightarrow \text{ParentOf}(p)}{\vdash \text{Fruit} \rightarrow \prod_{p:\text{Person}} \text{ParentOf}(p)}$$

$\prod_{\text{bankOf}} : \text{Set} / \text{Branch} \rightarrow \text{Set} / \text{Bank}$



$(\prod_{\text{bankOf}} \text{Staff})_{\text{ANZ}} = \{s : (\text{Branch})_{\text{ANZ}} \rightarrow \text{Staff} \mid \forall br. \text{branchOf}(s(br)) = br\}$

$c : \text{Customer} \vdash \text{IsEven}(\text{length}(\text{firstName}(c)))$

- substitute  $s := \text{firstName}(c)$  into  $\text{IsEven}(\text{length}(s))$
- substitute  $n := \text{length}(\text{firstName}(c))$  into  $\text{IsEven } n$

- display map categories
- contextual categories
- categories with families
- categories with attributes
- Awodey's "natural model"

## References

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Martin Hofman, *Syntax and semantics of dependent types*

Alexandre Buisse, *Categorical models of dependent type theory*

Awodey, *Category Theory*, 7.29 and 9.7

MacLane and Moerdijk, *Sheaves in Geometry and Logic*, IV.7

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Compiling to Categories (YouTube)