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Canonicity and homotopy canonicity for cubical type theory. (English) Zbl 07471717
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The principal objective in this paper is to contribute to the analysis of the computational content of the univalence axiom [V. Voevodsky, “The equivalence axiom and univalent models of type theory”, Preprint, [arXiv:1402.5556](https://arxiv.org/abs/1402.5556)] and higher inductive types. Various *presheaf models* have been developed in a constructive metatheory [C. Angiuli et al., Math. Struct. Comput. Sci. 31, No. 4, 424–468 (2021; [Zbl 07460116](#)); M. Bezem et al., LIPIcs – Leibniz Int. Proc. Inform. 26, 107–128 (2014; [Zbl 1359.03009](#)); C. Cohen et al., LIPIcs – Leibniz Int. Proc. Inform. 69, Article 5, 34 p. (2018; [Zbl 1434.03036](#)); T. Coquand et al., in: Proceedings of the 2018 33rd annual ACM/IEEE symposium on logic in computer science, LICS 2018, Oxford, UK, July 9–12, 2018. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). 255–264 (2018; [Zbl 1452.03036](#)); I. Orton and A. M. Pitts, LIPIcs – Leibniz Int. Proc. Inform. 62, Article 24, 19 p. (2016; [Zbl 1370.03016](#)); I. Orton and A. M. Pitts, Log. Methods Comput. Sci. 14, No. 4, Paper No. 23, 33 p. (2018; [Zbl 07003193](#))], where the notion of *fibrant type* is stated as a refinement of the *path lifting operation*, being a way to state a homotopy extension property and having been recognized, as early as [S. Eilenberg, Fundam. Math. 32, 167–175 (1939; [Zbl 0021.16204](#))], as a key concept for an abstract development of algebraic topology. The axiom of univalence is then captured by a suitable *equivalence extension operation*, which states that we can extend a partially defined equivalence of a given total codomain to a total equivalence. These presheaf models admit of possible extensions of type theory where one can manipulate higher dimensional objects. Therein, one can define a notion of reduction, establishing canonicity [S. Huber, J. Autom. Reasoning 63, No. 2, 173–210 (2019; [Zbl 1477.03036](#)); T. Coquand et al., Log. Methods Comput. Sci. 18, No. 1, Paper No. 28, 35 p. (2022; [Zbl 07471717](#))], though there are however several *non-canonical* choices when dealing with the path lifting operation by induction on the type. The principal result in this paper is the homotopy canonicity theorem claiming that the value of a term is independent of such non-canonical choices.

The proof of homotopy canonicity is to be seen as a proof-relevant extension of the *reducibility* or *computability* method going back to [K. Gödel, Dialectica 12, 280–287 (1958; [Zbl 0090.01003](#))] and [W. W. Tait, J. Symb. Log. 32, 198–212 (1967; [Zbl 0174.01202](#))], though it is expressed in an algebraic setting. The authors define a notion of model, called cubical category with families, as a category with families [P. Dybjer, Lect. Notes Comput. Sci. 1158, 120–134 (1996; [Zbl 1434.03149](#))] with certain special operations internal presheaves over a category \mathcal{C} with respect to the parameters of an interval \mathbb{I} and a cofibration classifier \mathbb{F} , describing the term model and how to re-interpret the cubical presheaf models as cubical categories with families. The computability method is to be seen as a general operation, called *scoring*, which, applied to an arbitrary model \mathcal{M} , produces a new model \mathcal{M}^* with a strict morphism $\mathcal{M}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$. Homotopy canonicity is obtained by applying this general operation to the initial model.

The authors then explain how a similar method can be used to establish *canonicity* or *strict canonicity* when computation rules of filling at type formers are added.

M. Shulman [Math. Struct. Comput. Sci. 25, No. 5, 1203–1277 (2015; [Zbl 1362.03008](#))] established homotopy canonicity for homotopy type theory with a truncatedness assumption using the scoring technique, which inspired this paper.

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- [33] \mathbb{E} are equivalence classes of A with $\Gamma \cdot X$ modulo judgmental equality, and elements are defined similarly as equivalence
- [34] $\mathbb{E}f$ ($\text{for } f: Y \rightarrow X \text{ and } r: I(Y)$) and elements $[u]_{\mathbb{E} \text{Elem}(\Gamma, [Aid, 0])}$ and $[v]_{\mathbb{E}(\Gamma, [Aid, 1])}$, we have to give an element of
- [35] \mathbb{E}), which we do by the formation rule for Path . Vol. 18:1 CANONICITY AND HOMOTOPY CANONICITY FOR CUBICAL TYPE THEORY 28:31

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