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ABSTRACT

We propose a general notion of model for two-dimensional type theory, in the form of *comprehension bicategories*. Examples of comprehension bicategories are plentiful; they include interpretations of directed type theory previously studied in the literature.

From comprehension bicategories, we extract a core syntax, that is, judgment forms and structural inference rules, for a two-dimensional type theory. We prove soundness of the rules by giving an interpretation in any comprehension bicategory.

The semantic aspects of our work are fully checked in the Coq proof assistant, based on the UniMath library.

This work is the first step towards a theory of syntax and semantics for higher-dimensional directed type theory.

CCS CONCEPTS

• **Theory of computation** → **Type theory**; *Logic and verification*; *Denotational semantics.*

KEYWORDS

directed type theory, dependent types, comprehension bicategory, computer-checked proof

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1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, efforts have been made to develop *directed* type theory. Roughly, directed type theory should correspond to Martin-Löf type theory (MLTT) as ∞ -categories correspond to ∞ -groupoids. Besides theoretical interest in directed type theory, it is hoped that such a type theory can serve as a framework for synthetic directed homotopy theory and synthetic ∞ -category theory. Applications of those, in turn, include reasoning about concurrent processes [13].

Several proposals for *syntax* for directed type theory have been given (reviewed in Section 2), but are ad-hoc and are not always semantically justified. The *semantic* aspects of directed type theory

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LICS '22, August 2–5, 2022, Haifa, Israel © 2022 Copyright held by the owner/author(s). ACM ISBN 978-1-4503-9351-5/22/08. https://doi.org/10.1145/3531130.3533334 are particularly underdeveloped; a general notion of model of a directed type theory is still lacking.

In this work, we approach the development of directed type theory from the semantic side. We introduce *comprehension bicategories* as a suitable mathematical structure for higher-dimensional (directed) type theory. Comprehension bicategories capture several different specific mathematical structures that have previously been used to interpret higher-dimensional or directed type theory.

From comprehension bicategories, we extract the core syntax judgment forms and structural inference rules—of a two-dimensional dependent type theory that can accommodate directed type theory. We also give a soundness proof of our structural rules. In separate work, we will equip our syntax and semantics with variances and type and term formers for directed type theory.

To motivate our approach, we analyze in Section 1.1 how highergroupoidal structure arises in MLTT through an interplay of judgmental equality and typal identity. Our analysis thus leads to the desiderata listed in Section 1.2. In Section 1.3 we discuss the foundations we work in, and aspects of the computer formalization of some of our results.

1.1 Judgmental and Typal Higher Dimensions

When discussing two- or higher-dimensional type theory, we need to understand how these dimensions are generated.

The judgment forms of traditional MLTT specify types, contexts, terms, and judgmental equality (conversion) between types and terms. There is, prima facie, nothing higher-dimensional about these judgments, and an interpretation of types as sets and terms as elements of sets seems perfectly adequate. In this sense, Martin-Löf type theory is 1-dimensional. However, MLTT is often said to be ∞dimensional. The higher dimensions are generated by the identity type, which internalizes the judgmental equality; specifically, the well-known reflexivity rule generates a typal identity from a judgmental equality. Since the identity type can be iterated, judgmental equality then also becomes available for terms of the identity type itself. This mutual interaction between judgmental equality and typal identity provides the infrastructure to "lift" judgmental equality to higher dimensions without extending the judgmental structure of MLTT. The tower of types (A, Id_A , Id_{Id_A} , . . .) then can be given the structure of an ∞ -groupoid, as shown by [8, 28].

When developing a *directed* type theory, with models in ∞ -*categories*, analogous ingredients are required:

- I1: A judgment of (directed) reductions between types and terms, analogous to judgmental equality;
- **I2:** A *type former* for *homomorphisms* between terms, analogous to identity types.



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I3: A notion of *model* in which to interpret the judgments and type formers.

Previous work on higher-dimensional and directed type theory has focused on either syntax (I1/I2) or semantics (I3), but not on both. Licata and Harper [25, 26] and Nuyts [30] devise judgmental structure for higher-dimensional and directed type theory. North [29] devises a type former for directed homomorphisms between terms, on top of the judgmental structure of MLTT. None of them proposes an adequate general definition of *model* of directed type theory. Garner [17] defines a notion of higher-dimensional model, but considers only *un*directed type theory.

In the present work, we propose a judgmental framework (I1), and a suitable general notion of semantics (I3), for higher-dimensional and directed type theory. In a separate work we will expand this core by a system of *variances* suitable for accommodating a type former akin to North's hom-types (I2), to build a fully functional higher-dimensional type theory.

1.2 Syntax and Semantics, Semantics and Syntax

Most previous work on directed type theory privileged the development of syntactic aspects over the semantic ones. We choose to approach the challenge from the other direction: we start by devising a suitable categorical structure for directed type theory, and extract from it a syntax. When developing syntax and semantics, we applied the following "quality criteria":

- **Q1:** The obtained syntax should express contexts, types, terms, and reductions between terms.
- **Q2:** The semantics considered by Garner [17], Licata and Harper [25, 26], and North [29] should be *instances* of our semantics (modulo variances and type constructors that are not considered here).

The semantics we propose are described in Section 6, and the extracted syntax is described in Section 7. Both our syntax and semantics are quite general; for instance, our reductions are *proofrelevant*—like those in [25, 26], and unlike judgmental equality in MLTT, which is proof-irrelevant. Syntax and semantics could reasonably be simplified or specialized. Crucially, our work provides a framework to modify syntax and semantics *in lockstep*, with a clear mechanism to analyze changes to the syntax on the semantic side and vice versa. We suggest some possible changes in Section 7.5.

Following this analysis and workplan, we derive the following goals for our work:

- **D1:** a system of inference rules for dependent types with *directed* reductions between terms;
- **D2:** a definition of *mathematical structures* suitable for the mathematical modelling of the syntactic rules;
- **D3:** an *interpretation* of the inference rules in such a mathematical structure;
- D4: a syntax for type and term formers on top of D1;
- **D5:** a semantic structure for the interpretation of type and term formers.

In the present work, we achieve desiderata D1, D2, and D3. The study of variances and type and term constructors will be reported on elsewhere.

1.3 Foundations and Formalization in UniMath

The main results presented here are agnostic to foundations; they can be formalized in both set theory and type theory.

However, some of the notions we employ can economically be formulated using dependent types. In particular, we work with (Grothendieck) fibrations of (bi)categories, whose formulation in set theory usually relies on postulating equality of objects. Using dependent types, a formulation of such concepts can be given that avoids any reasoning about equality of objects; instead, these concepts are formulated in terms of fibers. For this reason, we use type-theoretic language throughout the paper; see also, *e. g.*, Remark 4.1. More precisely, we work in univalent foundations; in particular, we formulate results and examples in terms of **univalent** (bi)categories [2, 3]. These are equivalent to set-theoretic (bi)categories via Voevodsky's model in Kan complexes [23].

We carefully distinguish data and property; specifically, we postulate elements to be explicitly given as data rather than to merely exist. We do not rely on any choice axioms or on excluded middle.

The semantic results of this work are checked in Coq [41], based on the UniMath [42] library of univalent mathematics. Our code has been integrated into UniMath. To document our formalization, we refer to UniMath commit 3bcf236. Many definitions are accompanied by a link (*e. g.*, bicat) to the corresponding definition in an HTML version of that commit. The code written specifically for this work comprises approximately 21,000 lines of code.

We build upon an existing library of (bi)category theory [2, 3], and use heavily the *displayed* machinery, developed for (1-)categories in [4] and extended to bicategories in [2]. In particular, the notions of Grothendieck fibration we are using (in the 1-categorical case) and developing (in the bicategorical case) are based on displayed (bi)categories; we can thus discuss these notions without postulating equality of objects.

1.4 Synopsis

In Section 2 we review related work. In Section 3 we review (displayed) bicategories and functors. In Section 4 we define cloven global and local (op/iso)fibrations of bicategories. In Section 5 we discuss Street (op)fibrations internal to bicategories, which form our main examples of comprehension bicategories. In Section 6 we give our main definition, of comprehension bicategories, and we present many examples. In Section 7 we present a syntax for twodimensional type theory and give an interpretation of the syntax in any comprehension bicategory.

2 RELATED WORK

In this section, we review work with a similar goal to ours, as well as work we rely on. We pay particular attention to the desiderata outlined in Section 1.2 and to the difference between judgmental and typal dimensions.

2.1 Non-dependent type theories

For the sake of completeness, we include in this section pointers to work on *simple* type theories with reductions. The following works satisfy a non-dependent variant of D1, together with suitable adaptations of D2 and D3. However, due to the absence of type dependency, they are difficult to compare to our work.

Seely's paper [33] presents a syntax for a two-dimensional simply-typed lambda calculus, consisting of types, terms, and reductions between terms. They then construct a 2-category out of that syntax. Tabareau [40] frames aspect-oriented programming in a 2-categorical way, developing a lambda calculus that provides an internal language for 2-categories. Hirschowitz [20] constructs a 2-adjunction between 2-signatures for lambda calculi (where such signatures specify types, terms, and reductions) and the category of Cartesian closed 2-categories. Fiore and Saville [16] construct an internal language for cartesian closed bicategories; the result is a class (parametrized by a notion of signature for constants) of *simple* 2-dimensional type theories or lambda calculi. This last work shares one aspect with ours that the others do not: it uses (weak) *bi*categorical structure, rather than (strict) 2-categorical structure.

2.2 Theories for Higher Categories

There is a body of work on designing type theories for ω -groupoids and ω -categories. In these type theories, one works, semantically speaking, *within one fixed* ∞ -groupoid (or ω -category). Compare this to, *e.g.*, , Martin-Löf type theory, where one manipulates ∞ groupoids (types and identity types) and ∞ -functors (functions) between them. Analogously, in our type theory, each type can be thought of as a category. Despite these different goals, we mention some of the work in this area.

Brunerie [9] constructs a type theory whose models are weak ∞ -groupoids. Benjamin et al. [7] (see also [14]) design a type theory whose models are precisely ω -categories à la Grothendieck–Maltsiniotis. In [15], the authors study meta-theoretic properties of a language for strictly unital ∞ -categories. There are also computer tools implementing such type theories, see, *e. g.*, [5, 31].

2.3 Theories with Dependent Types

In this section we review work on higher-dimensional and directed type theory with dependent types. We start with a review of work on *un*directed type theory.

2.3.1 Undirected Type Theory. The idea of considering higher-dimensional interpretations of type theory was born with Hofmann and Streicher's groupoid interpretation of Martin-Löf type theory [21]. This interpretation was generalized to stacks (poset-indexed groupoids satisfying a sheaf condition) in order to prove the independence of several logical principles by Coquand, Mannaa, and Ruch [12]. It was furthermore generalized, from different angles, to higher dimensions, see, *e. g.*, [8, 23, 28]. Common to all of this work is the restriction to (higher) *groupoids*.

In [26], Licata and Harper developed a two-dimensional dependent type theory with a judgment for *equivalences* $\Gamma \vdash \alpha : M \simeq_A N$ between terms M, N : A. These equivalences are postulated to have (strict) inverses. The authors give an interpretation of types as groupoids: terms are (interpreted as) objects in the interpreting groupoid, and equivalences are morphisms, necessarily invertible. No general notion of semantic structure is discussed; this work hence satisfies an *un*directed version of D1, but not D2.

Garner [17] studies a typal two-dimensional type theory à la Martin-Löf: the forms of judgment are the same as in Martin-Löf type theory. Garner calls a type X "discrete" if it satisfies identity reflection (that is, if any identity p : x = y between elements x, y : X

induces a judgmental equality $x \equiv y$. They then add rules that turn any identity type into a discrete type, effectively "truncating" intensional Martin-Löf type theory at 1-types (even though in principle, the identity type can of course be iterated any number of times). Garner defines a notion of two-dimensional model based on (strict) *comprehension 2-categories*. Exploiting the restriction to 1truncated types, they then give a sound and complete interpretation of their two-dimensional type theory in any model. Identity types are automatically "symmetric", i.e., any identity admits an inverse; correspondingly, Garner defines their comprehension 2-categories to consist of *locally groupoidal* 2-categories. Thus, Garner's work satisfies D1 for *undirected* reductions, using the identity type for this purpose. Garner also considers type constructors such as dependent pair types and dependent product types, thus satisfying D4 and D5 in this case.¹

2.3.2 Directed Type Theory. Licata and Harper [25] (see also [24, Chapter 7]) also designed a *directed* two-dimensional type theory and gave an interpretation for it in the strict 2-category of categories. Their syntax has a judgment for *substitutions* between contexts, written $\Gamma \vdash \theta : \Delta$, and *transformations* between parallel substitutions. An important aspect of their work is *variance* of contexts/types, built into the judgments. The type formers there have a certain variance—*covariance* or *contravariance*—in each of the arguments. They do not define a general notion of model for their theory; this work hence satisfies D1, but not D2.

Nuyts [30, Section 1.3.1] observes that the type theory developed by Licata and Harper [25] does not allow for a non-trivial Martin-Löf identity type—any such type would coincide with the directed transformations. Nuyts thus attempts to generalize the treatment of variance by Licata and Harper, and designs a directed type theory with additional variances, such as isovariance and invariance. Nuyts does not provide any interpretation of their syntax, and thus no proof of (relative) consistency; the work hence does not satisfy D2.

North [29] develops a type former for *directed* types of morphisms, resulting in a typal higher-dimensional directed type theory based on the judgments of MLTT. North's work thus does not satisfy D1. The model given by North is in the 2-category of categories, similar to Licata and Harper's [25].

Shulman, in unfinished work [36], aims to develop 2-categorical logic, including a two-dimensional notion of topos and a suitable internal language for such toposes. Specifically, Shulman sketches two internal languages for 2-toposes. The first language [35] is undirected, consisting only of types and terms. The second language [34] is only described in a short sketch; it is a kind of directed type theory featuring, in particular, variances. Our work is similar to Shulman's in the sense that both start from a (bi)categorical notion and extract a language from it, with the goal of developing a precise correspondence between extensions of the syntax and additional structure on the semantics. Unfortunately, Shulman's work is far from finished, which makes a more complete evaluation difficult. However, it contains several ideas that have influenced the present work. For instance, Shulman [37] emphasizes the usefulness of restricting to (op)fibrations instead of considering all 1-cells

¹Garner also relies on Hermida's [19] slightly incomplete definition of fibration of 2-categories; see Buckley's work [11, Remark 2.1.9] for details). We have not checked if Garner's work extends to Buckley's corrected definition of 2-fibration.

when constructing bicategories of arrows—we do this in our main examples of comprehension bicategory, Examples 6.4 and 6.5.

Riehl and Shulman [32] design a *simplicial* type theory (STT) featuring a directed interval type, as a synthetic theory of $(\infty, 1)$ -categories. As a notion of model, they introduce "comprehension categories with shapes" [32, Def. A.5]. These are (1-categorical) towers of fibrations accounting for several layers of contexts. Further Work on STT was done, among others, by [43] and [10]. STT is not higher-dimensional in the sense of [25] or the present work; in particular, reductions, both in the tope layer and in the type layer, are symmetric. This work thus does not satisfy D1.

Summary. In the present work, we define a bicategorical notion of "model" for the interpretation of types, terms, and reductions, and derive from it a system of inference rules and an interpretation of those rules in any model; our work thus satisfies D1, D2, and D3. We do not handle D4 and D5 in this work.

Among the described related work, our work is closest to work by Licata and Harper [25] and Garner [17]. Compared to [25], we add a general definition of "model" of a *directed* two-dimensional type theory, and provide many examples of models. Compared to [17], we cover *directed* reductions, and provide many instances of our general definition of model. Compared to both works, we do *not* handle type and term formers.

3 PRELIMINARIES

Here, we sketch some definitions used later on. Many would be very long if given in full; instead, we try to convey some intuition and give pointers to the precise definitions. As a reference for bicategory theory, see Bénabou's article [6].We use here the vocabulary and notation introduced in [2].

Definition 3.1 (bicat). A **bicategory** consists of a type B_0 of 0cells (or objects), a type $a \rightarrow b$ of 1-cells from a to b for every $a, b : B_0$, and a set $f \Rightarrow q$ of 2-cells from f to q for every $a, b : B_0$ and f, q : $a \rightarrow b$. We have identity $id_1(a) : a \rightarrow a$ and composition of 1-cells $f \cdot q : a \rightarrow c$ (also written fq), which we write in diagrammatical order. These operations do not satisfy the axioms for a 1-category. Instead, we have, for instance, the left unitors, that is, invertible 2cells of type $id_1(a) \cdot f \to f$ for any object *a*, and similar for the right unitors. Analogously, we have the associators, a family of invertible 2-cells $\alpha(f, q, h) : f \cdot (q \cdot h) \rightarrow (f \cdot q) \cdot h$. For 2-cells $\theta : f \Rightarrow q$ and $\tau : g \Rightarrow h$ (where $f, g, h : a \rightarrow b$ for some $a, b : B_0$), we have a *vertical composition* $\theta \bullet \tau : f \Rightarrow h$. For any 1-cell $f : a \to b$, we have an *identity 2-cell* $id_2(f) : f \Rightarrow f$, which is neutral with respect to vertical composition: $id_2(f) \bullet \theta = \theta$. For any two objects *a* and *b*, the 1-cells from *a* to *b*, and 2-cells between them, form the objects and morphisms of the hom-category B(a, b), with composition given by vertical composition of B. We also have *left* and *right whiskering*; given a 2-cell $\theta : f \Rightarrow g : b \rightarrow c$ and a 1-cell $e : a \rightarrow b$, we have the *left whiskering* $e \triangleleft \theta : e \cdot f \Rightarrow e \cdot g$, and, similarly, the *right* whiskering $\theta \triangleright h : f \cdot h \Rightarrow q \cdot h$ for $h : c \rightarrow d$. We do not list the axioms that these operations satisfy; the interested reader can consult, e.g., [1, Def. 2.1].

We denote by Cat the bicategory of categories, and by Grpd the bicategory of groupoids. The bicategory B^{co} has the same objects

and 1-cells as B, but 2-cells from f to g in B^{co} are the same as 2-cells from g to f in B.

Definition 3.2 (psfunctor). Given two bicategories B and B', a **pseudofunctor** $F : B \to B'$ is given by maps $F_0 : B_0 \to B'_0$, $F_1 : (a \to b) \to (F_0a \to F_0b)$,² and $p_2 : (f \Rightarrow g) \to (F_1f \Rightarrow F_1g)$, preserving structure on 1-cells up to invertible 2-cells in B' (specified as part of the functor F) and preserving structure on 2-cells up to equality.

We build complicated bicategories from simpler ones by adding structure at all dimensions. The additional structure should come with its own composition and identity, which should lie suitably over composition and identity of the original bicategory. This idea is formalized in the notion of *displayed bicategory*—a layer of data over a base bicategory—and the resulting *total bicategory*—the bicategory of pairs (b, \overline{b}) of a cell *b* in the base and a cell \overline{b} "over" *b*. We also obtain a pseudofunctor from the total bicategory into the base, given at all dimensions by the first projection.

Definition 3.3 ([1, Def. 4.1], disp_bicat). Let B be a bicategory. A **displayed bicategory** D **over** B consists of

- (1) for any $b : B_0$, a type D_h of **objects over** b;
- (2) for any f : a → b and x : D_a and y : D_b, a type x → y of 1-cells over f;
- (3) for any $\theta : f \Rightarrow g$ and $\overline{f} : x \xrightarrow{f} y$ and $\overline{g} : x \xrightarrow{g} y$, a set $\overline{f} \xrightarrow{\theta} \overline{g}$ of **2-cells over** θ :

together with suitably typed composition (over composition in B) and identity (over identity in B) for both 1- and 2-cells. These operations are subject to "axioms over axioms in B".

Definition 3.4 ([1, Def. 4.2], total_bicat). Given a displayed bicategory D over B, we define the **total bicategory** $\int D$ to have, as cells at dimension *i*, pairs (b, \overline{b}) where *b* is a cell of B at dimension *i* and \overline{b} is a cell of D over *b*, with the obvious source and target.

We define the **projection** pseudofunctor $\pi : \int D \to B$ to be given, on any cell, by $(b, \overline{b}) \mapsto b$.

REMARK 3.1. Note that all (displayed) (bi)catgories are assumed to be univalent. We do not repeat the definition here, but point instead to [2, Defs. 3.1, 7.3]. Intuitively, univalence means that adjoint equivalence of 0-cells, and isomorphism of 1-cells, coincides with identity between them, respectively. Working with univalent bicategories allows us to simplify some definitions, see Remark 4.1.

The following (displayed) bicategories will be used later:

Example 3.5 (trivial_displayed_bicat). Given bicategories B_1 and B_2 , we define a displayed bicategory $B_1^{+B_2}$ over B_1 as follows:

- The displayed 0-cells over $x : B_1$ are 0-cells $y : B_2$.
- The displayed 1-cells over $f : x_1 \rightarrow x_2$ from $y_1 : B_2$ to $y_2 : B_2$ are 1-cells $g : y_1 \rightarrow y_2$ in B_2 .
- The displayed 2-cells over $\theta : f \Rightarrow g$ from $g_1 : y_1 \to y_2$ to $g_2 : y_1 \to y_2$ are 2-cells $\tau : g_1 \Rightarrow g_2$ in B_2 .

The total bicategory is $\int B_1^{+B_2} = B_1 \times B_2$ with projection $\pi : B_1 \times B_2 \rightarrow B_1$.

 $^{^2} Note that \rightarrow$ is used for both 1-cells and function types.

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Example 3.6 (cod_disp_bicat). Let B be a bicategory. Define a displayed bicategory B^{\downarrow} over B as follows:

- The displayed objects over y : B are 1-cells $x \to y$.
- The displayed 1-cells over g : y₁ → y₂ from h₁ : x₁ → y₁ to h₂ : x₂ → y₂ are pairs consisting of a 1-cell f : x₁ → x₂ and an invertible 2-cell γ : g · h₂ ⇒ h₁ · f.
- Given displayed 1-cells $f_1 : x_1 \to x_2$ with $\gamma_1 : g_1 \cdot h_2 \Rightarrow h_1 \cdot f_1$, and $f_2 : x_1 \to x_2$ with $\gamma_2 : g_2 \cdot h_2 \Rightarrow h_1 \cdot f_2$, we define the displayed 2-cells over $\theta : g_1 \Rightarrow g_2$ from (f_1, γ_1) to (f_2, γ_2) as 2-cells $\tau : f_1 \Rightarrow f_2$ such that $\gamma_1 \bullet (h_1 \lhd \tau) = (\theta \triangleright h_2) \bullet \gamma_2$.

The generated total bicategory is the *arrow bicategory*, $\int B^{\downarrow} = B^{\rightarrow}$ with projection given by the codomain, cod : $B^{\rightarrow} \rightarrow B$.

Example 3.7 (disp_bicat_of_opcleaving). We define a displayed bicategory OpCleav over Cat as follows:

- The displayed objects over C : Cat are displayed categories D over *C* together with an opcleaving.
- The displayed 1-cells over *F* : C₁ → C₂ from D₁ to D₂ are displayed functors *F* from D₁ to D₂ that preserve opcartesian morphisms.
- The displayed 2-cells over $\theta : F \Rightarrow G$ from $\overline{F} : D_1 \xrightarrow{F} D_2$ to $\overline{G} : D_1 \xrightarrow{G} D_2$ are displayed natural transformations from \overline{F} to \overline{G} over θ .

The associated projection pseudofunctor $\pi : \int OpCleav \rightarrow Cat$ maps any opcleaving to its codomain category.

Similarly, we can define displayed bicategories Cleav and IsoFib of cleavings and isocleavings, respectively.

The idea of displayed (bi)categories transfers to functors:

Definition 3.8 ([2, Def. 8.2], disp_psfunctor). Given $F : B \rightarrow B'$ and D and D' displayed bicategories over B and B', respectively, a **displayed pseudofunctor** \overline{F} over F is

- for all objects x : B and $\overline{x} : D_x$ an object $\overline{F}(\overline{x}) : D'_{F(x)}$;
- for all displayed morphisms $\overline{f} : \overline{x} \xrightarrow{f} \overline{y}$, a displayed 1-cell $\overline{F}(\overline{f}) : \overline{F}(\overline{x}) \xrightarrow{F(f)} \overline{F}(\overline{y});$
- for all displayed 2-cells $\overline{\theta} : \overline{f} \stackrel{\theta}{\Rightarrow} \overline{g}$, a displayed 2-cell $\overline{F}(\overline{\theta}) : \overline{F}(\overline{f}) \stackrel{F(\theta)}{\Rightarrow} \overline{F}(\overline{g})$.

We denote by $\int \overline{F} : \int D \to \int D'$ the induced **total pseudofunctor**.

REMARK 3.2. The square of pseudofunctors

$$\begin{array}{c} \int \mathsf{D} & \xrightarrow{\int \overline{F}} & \int \mathsf{D}' \\ \pi_{\mathsf{D}} & & \downarrow \pi_{\mathsf{D}'} \\ \mathsf{B} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathsf{B}' \end{array}$$

induced by \overline{F} *over* F *commutes* up to judgmental equality.

Furthermore, we need pullbacks and products in bicategories.

Definition 3.9 (has_pb). Let B be a bicategory, and suppose we have two 1-cells $f : a \to c$ and $g : b \to c$. A **pullback structure for** f **and** g on an object x : B together with two 1-cells $\pi_1 : x \to a$ and $\pi_2 : x \to b$ and an invertible 2-cell $\gamma : p \cdot f \Rightarrow q \cdot g$ is given by the following data:

• for all 1-cells $p': z \to a$ and $q': z \to b$ and invertible 2-cells $\gamma': p' \cdot f \Rightarrow q' \cdot g$, we have a 1-cell $u: z \to x$ together with invertible 2-cells $\theta: u \cdot p \Rightarrow p'$ and $\tau: u \cdot q \Rightarrow q'$ such that

 $\alpha \bullet \theta \triangleright f \bullet \gamma' = u \triangleleft \gamma \bullet \alpha^{-1} \bullet \tau \triangleright g.$

• for all 1-cells $u_1, u_2 : z \to x$ and 2-cells $\theta : u_1 \bullet p \Rightarrow u_2 \bullet p$ and $\tau : u_1 \bullet q \Rightarrow u_2 \bullet q$ such that

$$u_1 \triangleleft \gamma \bullet \alpha \bullet \tau \rhd q \bullet \alpha^{-1} = \alpha \bullet \theta \rhd f \bullet \alpha^{-1} \bullet u_2 \triangleleft \gamma,$$

we have a unique 2-cell $v : u_1 \Longrightarrow u_2$ such that $v \triangleright p = \theta$ and $v \triangleright q = \tau$.

REMARK 3.3. There are different notions of pullback in bicategories depending on whether $p \cdot f$ and $q \cdot g$ are postulated to be related up to an equality, invertible 2-cell or even just a 2-cell. In Definition 3.9, the square commutes up to invertible 2-cell. One could also define strict pullbacks: this is done similarly to Definition 3.9, but all involved squares must commute up to equality rather than just up to invertible 2-cell.

Example 3.10. We refer to the formalization for the description of pullbacks in Cat (has_pb_bicat_of_univ_cats) and in groupoids (one_types_has_pb).

As a special case of pullbacks in the presence of terminal objects, we can define products in bicategories (has_binprod_ump). If B has chosen products, then we write $x \times y$ for the product of x and y, and we denote the projections by $\pi_1 : x \times y \to x$ and $\pi_2 : x \times y \to y$.

4 FIBRATIONS, TYPE-THEORETICALLY

In this section, we define the notion of global cleaving of bicategories that we use in our definition of comprehension bicategories. In addition, we define local (op)cleavings, which are also used to interpret the syntax of Section 7. We are guided by Buckley's paper [11], where local and global fibrations are defined, and we add definitions for local cloven iso- and opfibrations. However, there is an important difference: while Buckley works in a set-theoretic setting, we reformulate the definitions in a type-theoretic setting using the displayed technology developed in [2] and reviewed in Section 3—see also Remark 4.1.

Throughout this section, we assume that B is a bicategory and D is a displayed bicategory over B.

Definition 4.1 ([11, Def. 3.1.1], cartesian_1cell). Let $f : a \to b$ be a 1-cell in B, and let $\overline{f} : \overline{a} \xrightarrow{f} \overline{b}$ be a displayed 1-cell over f in D. A **cartesian structure** on \overline{f} consists of the following:

For any g

 c

 ^h·f

 c
 ^h→ ā

 and a displayed isomorphism θ over the identity isomorphism on h · f in B.



We call (\overline{h}, θ) a lift of (h, \overline{g}) .

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(2) Given lifts $(\overline{h}_1, \theta_1)$ and $(\overline{h}_2, \theta_2)$ of (h_1, \overline{g}_1) and (h_2, \overline{g}_2) , respectively, and $\delta : h_1 \Rightarrow h_2$, and a 2-cell $\overline{\sigma} : \overline{g}_1 \Rightarrow \overline{g}_2$ over $\delta \triangleright f$, we have a unique 2-cell $\overline{\delta} : \overline{h_1} \Longrightarrow \overline{h_2}$ over δ such that $\overline{\delta} \rhd \overline{f} \bullet \theta_2 = \theta_1 \bullet \overline{\sigma}.$



REMARK 4.1. Recall that a displayed 1-cell $\overline{f} : \overline{a} \xrightarrow{f} \overline{b}$ in D gives rise to the 1-cell (f, \overline{f}) in the total bicategory $\int D$. The definition of cartesian structure on \overline{f} in D of Definition 4.1 gives rise to a notion of cartesian structure for (f, \overline{f}) in $\int D$. By expressing the definition of cartesian 1-cell in the displayed bicategory, instead of the resulting projection $\pi : \int D \to B$, we can postulate that a lift in $\int D$ lies directly over a given cell in B, not just modulo an invertible 2-cell. In univalent bicategories, these two formulations are equivalent.

Definition 4.2 (global_cleaving). A global cleaving on D is a choice, for any $f : a \to b$ in B and $\overline{b} : D_b$, of

- (1) a displayed object \overline{a} over a;
- (2) a displayed 1-cell $\overline{f} : \overline{a} \xrightarrow{f} \overline{b}$; (3) a cartesian structure on \overline{f} .

REMARK 4.2. The notion of global cleaving as in Definition 4.2 gives rise to a notion of cloven fibration on the total bicategory *[D.*

Next we look at local cleavings and opcleavings. A 2-cell is opcartesian if and only if it is opcartesian in the 1-categorical sense for the hom-functor. However, in the formalization we give the following direct definition not relying on hom-categories, and prove the characterization via hom-categories afterwards (opcartesian_2cell_weq_opcartesian). Similarly, we give an unfolded definition of local opcleaving.

Definition 4.3 (is_opcartesian_2cell). Suppose we have 1-cells $f, g: x \to y$, a 2-cell $\theta: f \Rightarrow g$, and displayed objects \overline{x} and \overline{y} over x and y, respectively. Given displayed 1-cells $\overline{f} : \overline{x} \xrightarrow{f} \overline{y}$ and $\overline{g}: \overline{x} \xrightarrow{g} \overline{y}$ and a displayed 2-cell $\overline{\theta}: \overline{f} \xrightarrow{\theta} \overline{g}$, we say that $\overline{\theta}$ is **2-opcartesian** (or just **opcartesian**) if for all 1-cells $h : x \to y$, displayed 1-cells $\overline{h}: \overline{x} \xrightarrow{h} \overline{y}$, 2-cells $\tau: g \Rightarrow h$, and displayed 2-cells $\overline{\gamma}:\overline{f} \stackrel{\tau \circ \theta}{\Rightarrow} \overline{h}$, there is a unique displayed 2-cell $\overline{\tau}:\overline{g} \stackrel{\tau}{\Rightarrow} \overline{h}$ such that $\overline{\theta} \bullet \overline{\tau} = \overline{\gamma}.$

Being an opcartesian 2-cell is always a property. The notion of cartesian 2-cells is analogous.

Definition 4.4 (local_opcleaving). A local opcleaving on D is given by, for every $\theta : f \Rightarrow q$ and $\overline{f} : \overline{x} \xrightarrow{J} \overline{y}$

(1) a displayed 1-cell $\overline{g}: \overline{x} \xrightarrow{g} \overline{y}$ and

(2) an opcartesian 2-cell $\overline{\theta} : \overline{f} \stackrel{\theta}{\Rightarrow} \overline{q}$.

The notions of local cleaving and local isocleaving are defined analogously.

REMARK 4.3. The notions of opcartesian 2-cell and of local opcleaving as in Definition 4.4 give rise to notions of opcartesian 2-cell and of cloven local opfibration on the total bicategory *[D.*

PROPOSITION 4.5 (CLEAVINGOFBICATISAPROP.V). Suppose that B is a univalent bicategory and D is a univalent displayed bicategory over D. Then the types of local (resp. global) (op)cleavings on D are propositions.

In light of Proposition 4.5 and Remark 3.1, we do not distinguish between fibrations and cloven fibrations (cleavings) in the following. When we say that D "is a fibration", we mean, in particular, that it is equipped with a choice of cleaving. All constructions of cleavings given here are explicit and constructive.

Now let us look at some examples of these notions.

Example 4.6 (TrivialCleaving.v). The trivial displayed bicategory $B_1^{+B_2}$ over B_1 is a global fibration. Cartesian 1-cells in $B_1^{+B_2}$ correspond to adjoint equivalences in B2. As such, we can take the identity 1-cell as the global lift. In addition, ${B_1}^{+B_2}$ is both a local fibration and a local opfibration.

Example 4.7 (CodomainCleaving.v). Suppose that B is a locally groupoidal bicategory with pullbacks. Since cartesian 1-cells in B^{\downarrow} correspond to pullback squares, we can construct a global cleaving for B^{\downarrow} by taking pullbacks. Note that all 2-cells in B^{\downarrow} are cartesian, because B is locally groupoidal, and thus B^{\downarrow} also has a local cleaving and a local opcleaving.

Example 4.8 (OpFibrationCleaving.v). The displayed bicategory OpCleav has a global cleaving and a local opcleaving. Given a functor $F : C_1 \rightarrow C_2$ and a displayed category D_2 over C_2 , we construct a displayed category $F^*(D_2)$ over C_1 :

- The displayed objects over $x : C_1$ are displayed objects in D_2 over F(x).
- The displayed morphisms over $f: x \to y$ from \overline{x} to \overline{y} are displayed morphisms over $\overline{x} \xrightarrow{F(f)} \overline{y}$.

Note that $F^*(D_2)$ inherits any opcleaving from D_2 . In addition, we have a displayed functor over *F* from $F^*(D_2)$ to D_2 that preserves cartesian morphisms.

Opcartesian 2-cells in OpCleav correspond to displayed natural transformations of which all components are opcartesian. We form local lifts pointwise. Since displayed 1-cells in OpCleav preserve cartesian morphisms, cartesian 2-cells are preserved under both left and right whiskering.

Similarly, we can show that the displayed bicategory Cleav has a global and a local cleaving (FibrationCleaving.v).

INTERNAL STREET (OP)FIBRATIONS 5

In this section, we discuss Street (op)fibrations internal to a fixed bicategory B. They will yield, in Section 6, many examples of comprehension bicategories, see Example 6.5 and Remark 6.3. The examples of Street opfibrations internal to bicategories of stacks are particularly interesting (see Remark 6.3).

Note that B^{\downarrow} is a *global* fibration if B has pullbacks. However, to obtain a local (op)cleaving, we used that B is locally groupoidal in Example 4.7. This assumption is avoided in Example 4.8 where B =Cat: instead of looking at arbitrary functors, one only considers the Semantics for two-dimensional type theory

opfibrations. We can generalize this idea to arbitrary bicategories by using *internal Street* (*op*)*fibrations* [11].

The displayed bicategory OpCleav has a local opcleaving where the desired lifts are constructed pointwise. To generalize this to arbitrary bicategories, we need to adjust this definition, so that we can lift arbitrary 2-cells. Furthermore, the notion of Grothendieck opfibration of categories is stricter than appropriate for bicategories. If we have $x \rightarrow y$ and an object over y, then a Grothendieck fibration gives an object *strictly* living over x, while a Street fibration only gives an object living *weakly* over x (*i. e.*, up to an isomorphism). The precise definition can be found in work by Loregian and Riehl [27, Example 4.1.2].

Definition 5.1 (internal_sfib). Let $p : e \rightarrow b$ be a 1-cell in a bicategory B. Then p is an **internal Street fibration** if

- For every x : B, the functor $p_* : \underline{B(x, e)} \to \underline{B(x, b)}$ of homcategories is a Street fibration.
- For every $f : x \rightarrow y$, we have a morphism of Street fibrations

$$\frac{\mathbf{B}(y,e)}{\stackrel{p_*}{\downarrow}} \xrightarrow{f^*} \frac{\mathbf{B}(x,e)}{\stackrel{p_*}{\downarrow}} \xrightarrow{f^*} \mathbf{B}(x,b)$$

A 1-cell is called an **internal Street opfibration** if it is an internal Street fibration in B^{co} (internal_sopfib).

In Cat, internal Street fibrations are the same as Street fibrations of categories. However, the notion of internal Street fibrations can be applied in a wider variety of settings: for example, one could also look at presheaves or stacks valued in Cat. A classical result on internal Street (op)fibrations is that they are closed under taking pullbacks [18, 38]:

PROPOSITION 5.2 (PB_OF_SFIB_CLEAVING). Street (op-)fibrations are closed under pullback. Concretely: given a pullback square

$$e_1 \longrightarrow e_2$$

 $p_1 \downarrow \qquad \downarrow p_2$
 $b_1 \longrightarrow b_2$

where p_2 is a Street (op)fibration, then p_1 is so, too.

Now we can construct the desired cleavings.

Definition 5.3 (cod_sopfibs). Let B be a bicategory. We define a displayed bicategory SOpFib(B) over B as the subbicategory of B^{\downarrow} such that

- the objects $p: e \rightarrow b$ are internal Street fibrations;
- right whiskering with 1-cells *f* : *e*₁ → *e*₂ from *p*₁ : *e*₁ → *b*₁ to *p*₂ : *e*₂ → *b*₂ preserves opcartesian 2-cells.

In SOpFib(B), 2-cells are the same as 2-cells in B^{\rightarrow} . However, 1-cells are a bit different: while 1-cells in B^{\rightarrow} are squares

$$\begin{array}{ccc} e_1 & \xrightarrow{f_e} & e_2 \\ p_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow^{p_2} \\ b_1 & \xrightarrow{f_b} & b_2 \end{array}$$

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that commute up to invertible 2-cell, 1-cells in SOpFib(B) have the additional requirement that whiskering with f_e preserves opcartesian 2-cells.

Example 5.4 (DisplayMapBicatCleaving.v). Let B be a bicategory with pullbacks. Similarly to Example 4.7, cartesian 1-cells are the same as pullback squares. Hence, we can construct a global cleaving for SOpFib(B) using pullbacks and Proposition 5.2. Constructing a local opcleaving for SOpFib(B) is done the same way as constructing a local cleaving for SFib(B) [11, Example 3.4.6].

In the same way we can define SFib(B) and SIsoFib(B), which are displayed bicategories of internal Street opfibrations and internal Street isofibrations, respectively. Since both fibrations and isofibrations are closed under pullbacks, these displayed bicategories have a global cleaving. However, while SOpFib(B) has a local opcleaving, SFib(B) has a local cleaving and SIsoFib(B) has a local isocleaving.

6 COMPREHENSION BICATEGORIES

In this section, we give the main definition of this paper, of *comprehension bicategories*. We also give several (classes of) instances of this definition. In some of these instances, we will recognize structures studied previously in the context of higher-dimensional and directed type theory.

Definition 6.1 (comprehension_bicat). A comprehension bicategory is given by a bicategory B, a displayed bicategory D over B, and a displayed pseudofunctor χ over the identity on B as pictured below,

$$D \xrightarrow{\chi} B^{\downarrow}$$
 over B

satisfying the following properties (see also Proposition 4.5):

- (1) D is a global fibration;
- (2) χ preserves cartesian 1-cells;
- (3) D is a local opfibration;
- (4) opcartesian 2-cells of D are preserved under both left and right whiskering;
- (5) χ preserves opcartesian 2-cells.

REMARK 6.1. Recall from Remarks 3.2, 4.2, and 4.3 that the displayed pseudofunctor $\chi : D \rightarrow B^{\downarrow}$ of Definition 6.1 gives rise to a strictly commuting diagram of pseudofunctors



with suitable "classical" structure of global fibration, local opfibration, and preservation of (op)cartesian cells.

REMARK 6.2. **Contravariant** and **isovariant** comprehension bicategories are defined analogously with the notions of (iso)cleaving and (iso)cartesian taking the place of opcleaving and opcartesian in items 3 to 5 of Definition 6.1. Some of our examples of comprehension bicategories can similarly be equipped with a contravariant and isovariant comprehension structure.

Next we discuss some examples of comprehension bicategories. Each of these examples gives a different kind of type theory. *Example 6.2 (trivial_comprehension_bicat).* Suppose we have a bicategory B with products. Then we have the following comprehension bicategory

В

$$B \xrightarrow{B} \xrightarrow{\chi} B^{\downarrow}$$
 over

The displayed pseudofunctor $\chi : B^{+B} \to B^{\downarrow}$ sends the object y_2 over y_1 to the product projection $y_1 \times y_2 \to y_1$, that is, the corresponding total pseudofunctor $B \times B \to B^{\downarrow}$ is defined by $(y_1, y_2) \mapsto \pi_1 : y_1 \times y_2 \to y_1$.

Example 6.2 corresponds roughly to the semantics studied by Fiore and Saville [16], but without the type formers.

Another example of a comprehension bicategory comes from locally groupoidal bicategories, such as Grpd.

Example 6.3 (locally_grpd_comprehension_bicat). Let B be a locally groupoidal bicategory with pullbacks. Then we get the following comprehension bicategory

$$B^{\downarrow} \xrightarrow{ia} B^{\downarrow}$$
 over B

Since every 2-cell is opcartesian in B^{\downarrow} if B is locally groupoidal, the displayed bicategory B^{\downarrow} has a local opcleaving.

Example 6.3 models *symmetric* reductions between terms. It thus generalizes the groupoid model of type theory [21] and is related to the interpretation of the two-dimensional type theory by Licata and Harper [26], and to the definition of comprehension 2-category by Garner [17].

We can also consider a *directed* version of this example by using categories instead of groupoids.

Example 6.4 (opcleaving_comprehension_bicat). From opfibrations we build the following comprehension bicategory:

OpCleav
$$\xrightarrow{\chi}$$
 Cat \downarrow over Cat

The pseudofunctor χ sends a displayed category D over C to the functor $\pi_1 : \int D \rightarrow C$. To check whether χ preserves cartesian 1-cells, it suffices to check whether the chosen lifts are mapped to pullback squares. The chosen lifts are sent to strict pullback square because they are given by reindexing. Since strict pullbacks of isofibrations are weak pullbacks as well [22], we conclude that χ preserves cartesian 1-cells.

Example 6.4 roughly corresponds to the interpretations given by Licata and Harper [25] and North [29] in their works on directed type theories, albeit without considering type formers.

Similarly, we can define a *contravariant* comprehension bicategory (cleaving_contravariant_comprehension_bicat) using fibrations instead of opcleavings.

Using Example 5.4, we can generalize the example of (op)fibrations to arbitrary bicategories with pullbacks. We discuss the interest in this generalization in Remark 6.3.

Example 6.5 (internal_sopfib_comprehension_bicat). For bicategory B with pullbacks, we construct the comprehension bicategory

$$SOpFib(B) \xrightarrow{\chi} B^{\downarrow}$$
 over B

The (displayed) pseudofunctor χ forgets that the morphisms in SOpFib(B) are internal Street opfibrations. From the characterization of cartesian 1-cells and 2-cells in Example 5.4, we conclude that χ preserves opcartesian 1-cells and 2-cells.

Example 6.6. By Example 5.4 any bicategory with pullbacks, thus in particular any bicategory of stacks [39], gives rise to a comprehension bicategory.

REMARK 6.3. Recall from Section 2.3.1 that Coquand, Mannaa, and Ruch [12] constructed models of MLTT in stacks valued in groupoids. Using those models, they proved the independence of countable choice in univalent foundations.

With our comprehension bicategories of stacks (not just ones valued in groupoids), one could follow [12] and study the validity and independence of logical principles in directed type theory.

REMARK 6.4. Note that similarly, we can construct a contravariant and an isovariant comprehension bicategory from SOpFib(B) and SIsoFib(B) respectively.

7 THE TYPE THEORY BTT

In this section, we extract a core syntax for two-dimensional type theory from our semantic model. We call the resulting type theory *Bicategorical Type Theory* (BTT). We also prove soundness of our syntax by giving an interpretation of the syntax in any comprehension bicategory.

The syntax extracted here is *maximally general*, in the sense that it reflects the structure of a general comprehension bicategory. In Section 7.5, we propose several orthogonal simplifications to the syntax, along with the corresponding semantic structure and properties. As such, our syntax and semantics are to be viewed as a framework to study different semantic structures and their corresponding internal languages, rather than as one particular pair of syntax and semantics.

In Section 7.1 we present the judgment forms of BTT, as well as the rules extracted from the bicategories of contexts and of types, respectively. In Sections 7.2 and 7.3 we present the comprehension and substitution rules, respectively. In Section 7.4 we prove the aforementioned soundness result. In Section 7.5 we point to possible simplifications in the syntax, and the corresponding assumptions in the semantics.

For reasons of space we omit here several rules, for instance, coherence rules relating the image of associators under the comprehension pseudofunctor with other associators. Such rules, written out in the "linear" syntax used here, would take up several lines and would be difficult to understand. Consequently, the syntax presented here is not *complete*. The presentation of the complete syntax and a suitable completeness theorem is left for future work.

7.1 Judgments and Basic Rules

BTT features contexts, substitutions, types, *generalized* terms, and reductions between terms. As befits the bicategorical semantics, judgmental equality is only postulated between parallel reductions. There are eight kinds of *judgments* in BTT:

- (1) Γ ctx, which is read as ' Γ is a context';
- (2) Δ ⊢ s : Γ (given Δ, Γ ctx), which is read as 's is a substitution' from Δ to Γ;
- (3) Δ ⊢ r : s → t : Γ (where Δ ⊢ s, t : Γ), which is read as 'r is a reduction from s to t';
- (4) Δ ⊢ r ≡ r' : s → t : Γ (where Δ ⊢ r, r' : s → t : Γ), which is read as 'r is equal to r'';

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- (5) Γ ⊢ T type (where Γ ctx), which is read as 'T is a type in context Γ'
- (6) $\Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$ (where $\Gamma \vdash S, T$ type), which is read as 't is a term in T depending on S in context Γ '
- (7) $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$ (where $\Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t' : T$), which is read as ' ρ is a reduction from *t* to *t*''
- (8) $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho \equiv \rho' : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$ (where $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho, \rho' : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$), which is read as ' ρ is equal to ρ' '.

We often abbreviate the above judgments and write, *e. g.*, just ρ : $t \rightsquigarrow t'$ instead of $\Gamma | S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$. For these judgments, we have rules that express the bicategorical structure of contexts and types. Rules are given in Figure 1 for the bicategory of contexts, and in Figure 2 for the bicategory of types.

We also introduce symbols which read like judgements but stand for several judgements, using the composition and identities introduced in Figures 1 and 2.

(1) $\Delta \vdash \rho : s \xrightarrow{\sim} t : \Gamma$ stands for the four judgments

•
$$\Delta \vdash \rho : s \rightsquigarrow t : \Gamma$$
 $\Delta \vdash \rho^{-1} : t \rightsquigarrow s : \Gamma$

•
$$\rho * \rho^{-1} \equiv 1_s$$
 $\rho^{-1} * \rho \equiv 1_s$

(2) $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \xrightarrow{\sim} t' : T$ stands for the four judgments • $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \xrightarrow{\sim} t' : T$ $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho^{-1} : t' \xrightarrow{\sim} t : T$

•
$$\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$$
 $\Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho^{-1} : t' \land$

- $\rho * \rho^{-1} \equiv 1_t$ $\rho^{-1} * \rho \equiv 1_{t'}$ (3) $\Delta \vdash s : \Gamma$ stands for the four judgments
 - $\Lambda \vdash s \cdot \Gamma$ $\Gamma \vdash s^{-1} \cdot \Lambda$

•
$$s^{\ell}: ss^{-1} \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_{\Delta}$$
 $s^{\rho}: s^{-1}s \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_{\Gamma}$

- (4) $\Gamma \mid S \stackrel{\sim}{\vdash} t : T$ stands for the four judgments
 - $\Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$ $\Gamma \mid T \vdash t^{-1} : S$
 - $t^{\ell}: tt^{-1} \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_S$ $t^{\rho}: t^{-1}t \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_T$

REMARK 7.1. By abuse of notation, we write several topically related rules that share all the same hypotheses as one rule with several conclusions. These rules then also share the same name, e.g., extendcon-Ty. When referring to a rule by name, it is usually clear from the context which of the possible rules we refer to. The names of inference rules in the text are hyperlinks to the corresponding rules (e.g., map). The equality \equiv is assumed to be a congruence for every other constructor and judgement. For brevity, we have not recorded here the resulting rules. When parentheses are omitted, everything is associated to the left: that is, rst stands for ((rs)t). Note also that in several rules in which it is necessary to re-associate several four or more terms or substitutions, we have written α instead of a long composition of whiskered associators $\alpha_{\bullet,\bullet,\bullet}$ in the interest of readability.

7.2 Comprehension Structure

Comprehension, that is, context extension, is extracted from the pseudofunctor χ . The rules for comprehension are given in Figure 3. There are some notable differences to comprehension in MLTT. First, the rule extend-con-Tm, which forms a substitution, comes together with a reduction that expresses the commutativity of a triangle. Second, we also have a rule extend-con-Red that extends a substitution with a reduction. Since reductions are proof-relevant, this rule comes with a coherency on the commutativity.

7.3 Substitution Structure

Substitution is given, in the semantics, by the global and local (op)cleaving structure. We reflect this into the syntax as *explicit*

substitution, as was also used, *e.g.*, in [16, 26] in their respective settings.

The rules for substitution are given in Figures 4 and 5. We distinguish them based on whether we need the global cleaving or the local opcleaving to interpret them. There are several important observations to be made about these rules. First, in line with our truly bicategorical approach, we do not assume the comprehension bicategory is split. In particular, no equality between T[id] and Tis postulated. Instead, there is an equivalence between them (see sub-id and sub-comp), and terms of these types are transported along the equivalence. Note that there are more rules than just those in the figure. For example, if we have a context Γ and a type T, then $STm_1(1_T)$ is equal to

$$(\operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{id}}^{-1} \triangleleft \operatorname{Sub}_{\operatorname{I}}(1_{\Gamma}) \triangleright \operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{id}}) * (r_{\operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{id}}^{-1}} \triangleright \operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{id}}) * \operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{id}}^{\ell})$$

The rule map expresses that each type *T* behaves 'functorially': for each $\Delta \vdash s : \Gamma$ (*i. e.*, object in 'hom (Δ, Γ) ') we get a type *T*[*s*] (*i. e.*, object in 'the category of types in context Δ ') by sub-ty and for each $r : s \rightsquigarrow s'$ (i.e., morphism in 'hom (Δ, Γ) ') we get a term $\Delta \mid T[s] \vdash \text{map } T \ \theta : T[s']$ (*i. e.*, morphism in 'the category of types in context Δ ') by map. The rules map-id and map-comp ensure that T[-] preserves identity and composition. With rew-tm we can then understand terms to be 'natural transformations'.

REMARK 7.2. For contravariant comprehension bicategories (Remark 6.2), the rule map would be in the opposite direction, while for isovariant comprehension bicategories, this rule would be restricted to isomorphisms in the base.

7.4 Soundness: Interpretation in Comprehension Bicategories

In this section, we give an interpretation of BTT in any comprehension bicategory. To this end, we fix a comprehension bicategory

 $D \xrightarrow{\chi} B^{\downarrow}$. We interpret the judgments as follows.

- Γ ctx is interpreted as an object $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$ of B.
- $\Delta \vdash s : \Gamma$ is interpreted as a 1-cell $\llbracket s \rrbracket : \llbracket \Delta \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$ in B.
- $\Delta \vdash r : s \rightsquigarrow t : \Gamma$ is interpreted as a 2-cell $\llbracket r \rrbracket : \llbracket s \rrbracket \Rightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket$ in B.
- $\Delta \vdash r \equiv r' : s \rightsquigarrow t : \Gamma$ is interpreted as an equality [[r]] = [[r']].
- $\Gamma \vdash T$ type is interpreted as an object $\llbracket T \rrbracket$ in D over $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$.
- $\Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$ is interpreted as a 1-cell $\llbracket t \rrbracket : \llbracket S \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket T \rrbracket$ over the identity on $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$.
- $\Gamma \mid S \vdash r : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$ is interpreted as a 2-cell $\llbracket r \rrbracket : \llbracket t \rrbracket \Rightarrow \llbracket t' \rrbracket$ over the identity 2-cell.
- $\Gamma \mid S \vdash r \equiv r' : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$ is interpreted as an equality $\llbracket r \rrbracket = \llbracket r' \rrbracket$.

Regarding the "bicategorical" rules of Figures 1 and 2, each rule is analogous to one of the operations or laws of a bicategory, which also indicates how it is interpreted.

Next we interpret the rules related to comprehension of Figure 3. Suppose that we have a context Γ : B and a type *T* over Γ . Its image $\chi(T)$ in B^{\downarrow} gives rise to an object $\Gamma.T$: B and a 1-cell $\pi_{\Gamma.T} : \Gamma.T \to \Gamma$, which interprets extend-con-Ty. A 1-cell *t* from *S* to *T* over the identity gets sent by χ to the following triangle



Figure 1: Rules for the bicategory of contexts



which commutes up to invertible 2-cell. This yields the interpretation of the rules in extend-con-Tm. Furthermore, a reduction $r : t \rightsquigarrow t'$ is mapped by χ to a 2-cell from $\chi(t)$ to $\chi(t')$ in B^{\downarrow} , and this is how we interpret extend-con-Red.

Finally, we interpret the rules for substitution. The rule subty follows directly from the global cleaving. To interpret sub-tm, consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S[s] \longrightarrow S \\ t[s] \downarrow & \downarrow t & \text{over} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow t & \Gamma_1 \longrightarrow \Gamma_2 \end{array}$$

The map $T[s] \rightarrow T$ is cartesian. The composition $S[s] \rightarrow S \rightarrow T$ lives over $id_1 \cdot s$, and by Remark 4.1 we obtain the desired factorization. Since the identity 1-cell is cartesian and being cartesian is preserved under composition, the rules sub-id and sub-comp follow as well.

For map we consider the following diagram.



Note that σ lives over s_1 ; since we have a local opcleaving, σ' lives over s_2 . Using that $T[s_2] \to T$ is cartesian, we obtain a 1-cell $T[s_1] \to T[s_2]$ living over the identity. Hence, we get the desired morphism by composition. The rules map-id and map-comp follow because the identity is cartesian and because cartesian 2-cells are preserved under composition. Since we assumed that χ preserves cartesian 2-cells, the rules map-lwhisker and map-rwhisker follow as well. To interpret the rule rew-tm, we use the second item of Definition 4.1. All in all, we can state the following theorem:

THEOREM 7.1 (SOUNDNESS). We can interpret BTT in every comprehension bicategory.

7.5 Variations on Syntax

BTT is a very complicated type theory, and might be unfeasible to implement or use in practice. Its main purpose is to serve as a framework for studying specialized syntax and the corresponding



Figure 2: Rules for the the bicategory of types

semantics. Based on a user's goal, they might adopt one of the following simplifications:

- V1: Splitness. We could assume the comprehension bicategory is split; thus, the rules sub-id and sub-comp would collapse into ordinary equalities. For this, an equality judgment on types would be added to BTT.
- V2: Strictness. The rules in Figures 1 and 2 are aimed at bicategories. When working with strict 2-categories instead, the unitors and associators would become equalities, and as a result, rules for inverse laws, naturality, and the pentagon and triangle equations are not needed.
- **V3: Terms.** If we assume that we have a unit type, then we can simplify the judgment for terms. Instead of looking at judgments of the shape $\Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$, we can take *S* to be the unit type,

thus recovering the judgment $\Gamma \vdash t : T$ for terms in MLTT. Semantically, this amounts to assuming that the fiber in D above any object in B has a terminal object.

- V4: Undirected TT. We could add a rule postulating inverses of reductions. Semantically, this would amount to working in groupoid-enriched categories.
- V5: Proof-irrelevant reductions. Our syntax, and the semantics, allow us to distinguish parallel reductions (2-cells). We could instead "truncate" them, by moving to proof-irrelevant reductions, making the judgmental equality on them superfluous. This would yield a directed analog to the judgments of MLTT; semantically, it corresponds to working in poset-enriched categories instead of general bicategories.
- V6: Conflating terms and substitutions. One could equate terms and substitutions that are left-inverse to projections.



Figure 3: Rules for comprehension

We have developed comprehension bicategories with the explicit goal of encompassing previously defined interpretations of higherdimensional and directed type theory. In the following remarks we summarize the relationship with two previous works.

REMARK 7.3 (COMPARISON TO GARNER'S WORK [17]). To summarize the differences of Garner's comprehension 2-categories [17] to our comprehension bicategories, the former are full, strict, split, undirected (i. e., locally groupoidal), and incorporate type constructors.

REMARK 7.4 (COMPARISON TO LICATA AND HARPER'S WORK). Licata and Harper's interpretation of their two-dimensional type theory into categories [25] should take place in a comprehension bicategory. Specifically, Licata and Harper interpret a type in context Γ as a (strict 1-)functor from the category interpreting Γ into a 1-category CAT of categories. Formally, they thus consider the slice bicategory Cat/CAT, where Cat is the bicategory of categories, in which CAT is assumed to be a 0-cell. The "domain" pseudofunctor dom : Cat/CAT \rightarrow Cat carries the structure of a global cleaving: this is more generally the case for any "domain" pseudofunctor dom : B/a \rightarrow B (DomainCleaving.v). The remaining structure of a comprehension bicategory—in particular, the comprehension χ and its conservation properties—will make use of the specifics of the bicategory of categories, in particular, the Grothendieck construction. This construction will be carried out elsewhere.

8 CONCLUSION

We have introduced the notion of comprehension bicategory for the interpretation of two-dimensional and directed type theory. From this semantic notion, we have extracted a two-dimensional core syntax for dependent types, terms, and reductions, and an interpretation of that syntax in comprehension bicategories. Our work is very general; it allows for the modelling of the structural rules of previous suggestions for directed type theory. Furthermore, it can be used as a framework for defining and studying more specialized syntax and semantics, in lockstep.

As outlined in Section 1.1, in separate work we are going to extend our structural rules with variances and a suitable hom-type former à la North [29] on top.

Garner [17] proves completeness of 2-truncated Martin-Löf type theory with respect to semantics in comprehension 2-categories. We would like to give a similar completeness result with respect to our comprehension bicategories. As mentioned, we have omitted many syntactic rules from this paper, for a lack of space and convenient syntax to write these rules. We plan to specify a the complete set of rules, and prove completeness with respect to our models.

Finally, we are planning to construct, in UniMath, the comprehension bicategory formalizing Licata and Harper's interpretation in categories [25].

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$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \text{ type} \qquad \Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type} \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T \qquad \Gamma \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash T \text{ type} \qquad \text{ cub id}$
$\Delta \vdash T[s] \text{ type} \qquad \Delta \mid S[s] \vdash t[s] : T[s] \qquad \qquad$
$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta, E \operatorname{ctx} E \vdash s : \Delta \Delta \vdash s' : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \operatorname{type}}{E \mid T[s'][s] \widetilde{\vdash} \ \operatorname{sub}_{\operatorname{comp}}(s, s') : T[ss']} \operatorname{sub-comp} \frac{\Gamma \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash S, T \operatorname{type} \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T}{\Gamma \mid S \vdash S \operatorname{Tm}_{l}(t) : \operatorname{sub}_{id}^{-1} t[1_{\Gamma}] \operatorname{sub}_{id} \stackrel{\sim}{\leadsto} t : T} \operatorname{tm-sub-id}$
$\Gamma, \Delta, E \operatorname{ctx} E \vdash s : \Delta \Delta \vdash s' : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T \qquad \Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \text{ type}$
$E \mid S[ss'] \vdash STm_{C}(t, s, s') : sub_{comp}(s, s')^{-1} t[s'][s] sub_{comp}(s, s') \xrightarrow{\sim} t[ss'] : T[ss'] \xrightarrow{\text{tm-sub-comp}} \Delta \mid T[s] \vdash Sub_{I}(s) : 1_{T}[s] \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_{T[s]} : T[s] \xrightarrow{\text{sub-on-id}} T[s]$
$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash R, S, T \text{ type } \Gamma \mid R \vdash r : S \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T}{\Delta \mid R[s] \vdash \operatorname{Subc}(r, t, s) : r[s]t[s] \stackrel{\sim}{\to} (rt)[s] : T[s]} \text{ sub-on-comp}$
Γ Actx A + s : Γ F + S. T type Γ S + t. t' : T Γ S + p : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T Γ . Actx A + s : Γ F + S. T type Γ S + t : T
$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash \rho[s] : t[s] \rightsquigarrow t'[s] : T[s]$ $\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash 1_t[s] \equiv 1_{t[s]} : t[s] \rightsquigarrow t[s] : T[s]$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t', t'' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho' : t' \rightsquigarrow t'' : T$
$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash (\rho * \rho')[s] \equiv \rho[s] * \rho'[s] : t[s] \rightsquigarrow t''[s] : T[s]$
$\Gamma \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$
$\Gamma \mid S \vdash STm_{I}(t) \ast \rho \equiv (sub_{id}^{-1} \lhd \rho[1_{\Gamma}] \rhd sub_{id}) \ast STm_{I}(t') : sub_{id}^{-1} t[1_{\Gamma}] \operatorname{sub}_{id} \rightsquigarrow t' : T$
$\Gamma, \Delta, E \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } E \vdash s : \Delta \Delta \vdash s' : \Gamma \Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$
$\mathbb{E} \mid S[ss'] \vdash STm_{\mathbb{C}}(t, s, s') * \rho[ss'] \equiv (sub_{comp}^{-1}(s, s') \triangleleft \rho[s'][s] \vDash sub_{comp}(s, s')) * STm_{\mathbb{C}}(t', s, s') : T[ss']$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$
$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash (Sub_{I}(s) \triangleright t[s]) * \ell_{t[s]} \equiv Sub_{C}(1_S, t, s) * \ell_t[s] : 1_S[s]t[s] \rightsquigarrow t[s] : T[s]$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$
$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash (t[s] \triangleleft \operatorname{Sub}_{I}(s)) * r_{t[s]} \equiv \operatorname{Sub}_{C}(t, 1_T, s) * r_t[s] : t[s] 1_T[s] \rightsquigarrow t[s] : T[s]$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash Q, R, S, T \text{ type } \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \mid Q \vdash q : R \Gamma \mid R \vdash r : S \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$
$\overline{\Delta \mid Q[s] \vdash (q[s] \triangleleft Sub_{C}(r, t, s)) \ast Sub_{C}(q, rt, s) \ast \alpha_{q, r, t}[s]} = \alpha_{q[s], r[s], t[s]} \ast (Sub_{C}(q, r, s) \triangleright t[s]) \ast Sub_{C}(qr, t, s) : q[s](r[s]t[s]) \rightsquigarrow ((qr)t)[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s] = \alpha_{q[s], r[s], t[s]} \ast (Sub_{C}(q, r, s) \triangleright t[s]) \ast Sub_{C}(qr, t, s) : q[s](r[s]t[s]) \rightsquigarrow ((qr)t)[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s] = \alpha_{q[s], r[s], t[s]} \ast (Sub_{C}(q, r, s) \triangleright t[s]) \ast Sub_{C}(qr, t, s) : q[s](r[s]t[s]) \rightsquigarrow ((qr)t)[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s] = \alpha_{q[s], r[s], t[s]} \ast (Sub_{C}(q, r, s) \triangleright t[s]) \ast Sub_{C}(qr, t, s) : q[s](r[s]t[s]) \rightsquigarrow ((qr)t)[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s] = \alpha_{q[s], r[s], t[s]} \ast (Sub_{C}(q, r, s) \triangleright t[s]) \ast Sub_{C}(qr, t, s) : q[s](r[s]t[s]) \lor ((qr)t)[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s]) \land (qr)t[s] : T[s]) \land (qr)t[s]) \land (qr)t[s$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash R, S, T \text{ type } \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \mid R \vdash r : S \Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \rho : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$
$\Delta \mid R[s] \vdash Sub_{C}(r, t, s) * (r \lhd \rho)[s] \equiv r[s] \lhd \rho[s] * Sub_{C}(r, t', s) : r[s]t[s] \rightsquigarrow rt'[s] : T[s]$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Gamma \vdash R, S, T \text{ type } \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \mid R \vdash r, r' : S \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T \Gamma \mid R \vdash \rho : r \rightsquigarrow r' : S$
$\Delta \mid R[s] \vdash Sub_{C}(r, t, s) * (\rho \triangleright t)[s] \equiv (\rho[s] \triangleright t[s]) * Sub_{C}(r', t, s) : r[s]t[s] \rightsquigarrow r't[s] : T[s]$

Figure 4: Rules for global substitution

	$\Delta \mid T[s] \vdash \operatorname{map} T \ \rho : T[s'] \xrightarrow{\operatorname{map}} \Delta \mid S[s] \vdash \operatorname{map} t \ \rho : t[s](\operatorname{map} T \ \rho) \xrightarrow{\sim} (\operatorname{map} S \ \rho)t[s'] : T[s']$
$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx}$	$ \Delta \vdash s: \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \text{ type} $ $ \text{map-id} \frac{\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s, s', s'': \Gamma \Delta \vdash \rho: s \rightsquigarrow s': \Gamma \Delta \vdash \tau: s' \rightsquigarrow s'': \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \text{ type} $ $ \text{map-control} $
$\Delta \mid T[s] \vdash ma$	$p_{id}^{T}s: \operatorname{map} T \operatorname{1}_{s} \tilde{\leadsto} \operatorname{1}_{T[s]}: T[s] \qquad \Delta \mid T[s] \vdash \operatorname{map}_{\operatorname{comp}}^{T}(\rho, \tau): \operatorname{map} T (\rho * \tau) \tilde{\leadsto} \operatorname{map} T \rho \cdot \operatorname{map} T \tau : T[s'']$
	$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta, E \operatorname{ctx} E \vdash s : \Delta \Delta \vdash s', s'' : \Gamma \Delta \vdash \rho : s' \rightsquigarrow s'' : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash T \operatorname{type}}{\operatorname{man-lwhisker}}$
	$\mathbb{E} \mid T[ss'] \vdash map_{I}^{T}(s, \rho) : map \ T \ (s \triangleleft \rho) \xrightarrow{\sim} sub_{comp}^{-1}(s, s') \cdot (map \ T \ \rho)[s] \cdot sub_{comp}(s, s'') : T[ss'']$
	$\Gamma, \Delta, E \operatorname{ctx} E \vdash s, s' : \Delta \Delta \vdash s'' : \Gamma E \vdash \rho : s \rightsquigarrow s' : \Delta \Gamma \vdash T \operatorname{type}$
	$\overline{E \mid T[ss''] \vdash map_{r}^{T}(\rho, s'') : map \ T \ (\rho \vDash s'') \xrightarrow{\sim} sub_{comp}^{-1}(s, s'') \cdot map \ (T[s'']) \ \rho \cdot sub_{comp}(s', s'') : T[s's'']} \xrightarrow{map \ rwisser} $
	$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s, s' : \Gamma \Delta \vdash \rho : s \rightsquigarrow s' : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type} \Gamma \mid S \vdash t, t' : T \Gamma \mid S \vdash \tau : t \rightsquigarrow t' : T$
	$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash map \ t \ \rho \ast (map \ S \ \rho \lhd \tau[s']) \equiv (\tau[s] \vartriangleright map \ T \ \rho) \ast map \ t' \ \rho : T[s']$
	$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type } \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$
	$\Delta \mid S[s] \vdash t[s] \triangleleft (map_{id}^T s)^{-1} * map \ t \ 1_s * map_{id}^S \ s \triangleright \ t[s] \equiv r_{t[s]} * \ell_{t[s]}^{-1} : T[s]$
	$\Gamma, \Delta \operatorname{ctx} \Delta \vdash s, s', s'' : \Gamma \Delta \vdash \rho : s \rightsquigarrow s' : \Gamma \Delta \vdash \rho' : s' \rightsquigarrow s'' : \Gamma \Gamma \vdash S, T \text{ type} \Gamma \mid S \vdash t : T$

Figure 5: Rules for local substitution

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