

# Ordinal notation systems for ordinals below $\varepsilon_0$ in modern type theories

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# Ordinals, classically in set theory

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- ▶  $x \in \alpha \rightarrow x \subseteq \alpha$ ,
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E.g. already **Turing [1949]** used ordinals to prove termination of programs.

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Hence if we compute the Cantor Normal Form

$$\beta_i = \omega^{\gamma_1} + \omega^{\gamma_2} + \dots + \omega^{\gamma_m}$$

and so on, we get decreasing sequences

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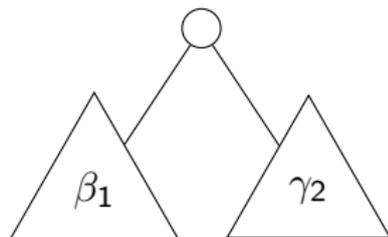
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Simply binary trees! [Dershowitz 1993]

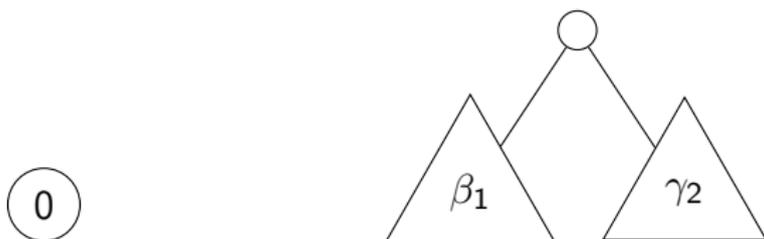


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**But:** uniqueness of representation has been lost. How can we recover this?

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**Why cubical?** Want a univalence principle which computes, and higher inductive types.

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We single out the trees in Cantor Normal Form:

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This uses  $\_ \geq \_ : \text{Tree} \rightarrow \text{Tree} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0$  (defined inductively), and

```
fst : Tree → Tree
fst 0 = 0
fst (ω^ a + _) = a
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`isCNFsPropValued` : `isProp (isCNF a)`

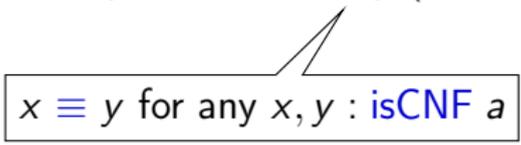
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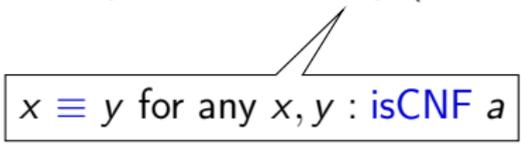
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**Pro:** Not requiring any fancy features.

**Con:** “Junk terms”. Code duplication.



A mutual approach

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We simultaneously define

```
data MutualOrd : Type0
data _<_ : MutualOrd → MutualOrd → Type0
fst : MutualOrd → MutualOrd
```

by induction-induction-recursion [N.-F. 2014].

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data  $\_ < \_$  where

$<_1 : 0 < \omega^{\wedge} a + b [ r ]$

$<_2 : a < c \rightarrow \omega^{\wedge} a + b [ r ] < \omega^{\wedge} c + d [ s ]$

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**Remark:** there is an equivalent non-inductive-recursive definition where we define the graph of `fst` inductively.

# Examples

▶  $0$

▶  $1 = \omega^{\wedge} 0 + 0$  [ inj<sub>2</sub> refl ]

▶  $\omega = \omega^{\wedge} 1 + 0$  [ inj<sub>1</sub> <<sub>1</sub> ]

▶  $\omega^{\wedge} \langle a \rangle = \omega^{\wedge} a + 0$  [  $\geq 0$  ]

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## Theorem

Transfinite induction holds for *MutualOrd*, i.e. there is a proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MTI} : & (P : \text{MutualOrd} \rightarrow \text{Type } \ell) \\ & \rightarrow (\forall x \rightarrow (\forall y \rightarrow y < x \rightarrow P\ y) \rightarrow P\ x) \\ & \rightarrow \forall x \rightarrow P\ x \end{aligned}$$

Not provable without unique representation!

## Ordinal addition

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$$1 + \omega = \omega$$

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We now want to implement addition on `MutualOrd`. We simultaneously define

$$\begin{aligned} \_+ \_ &: \text{MutualOrd} \rightarrow \text{MutualOrd} \rightarrow \text{MutualOrd} \\ \geq \text{fst} + &: \{a : \text{MutualOrd}\} (b\ c : \text{MutualOrd}) \\ &\rightarrow a \geq \text{fst}\ b \rightarrow a \geq \text{fst}\ c \rightarrow a \geq \text{fst}\ (b + c) \end{aligned}$$

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## Multiplication on MutualOrd

$\_ \cdot \_ : \text{MutualOrd} \rightarrow \text{MutualOrd} \rightarrow \text{MutualOrd}$

$$\mathbf{0} \cdot b = \mathbf{0}$$

$$a \cdot \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$a \cdot (\omega^{\wedge} \mathbf{0} + d [ r ]) = a + a \cdot d$$

$$(\omega^{\wedge} a + c [ r ]) \cdot (\omega^{\wedge} b + d [ s ]) =$$

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**Note:** All in terms of previous operations, so no simultaneous lemma needed.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a forest. The image shows the thick, textured trunks of several large trees in the foreground, which converge towards the top of the frame. The background is filled with a dense canopy of green leaves and branches, with a bright, overcast sky visible through the foliage. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

A higher inductive approach

## Uniqueness by making things the same

We want to avoid redundant representations of ordinals

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**Another option:** quotient out the difference by identifying different permutations of the exponents

$$\omega^{\beta_1} \oplus \omega^{\beta_2} \equiv \omega^{\beta_2} \oplus \omega^{\beta_1}$$

Cubical Agda allows this via **higher** inductive types [Lumsdaine and Shulman 2019].

## A higher inductive approach

Inspired by Licata's [2014] encoding of finite multisets [Blanchette, Fleury and Traytel 2017] as a HIT

A Higher Inductive Type also allows constructors targetting equalities between elements (and between equalities, equalities between equalities, ...).

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**Soundness:** has a model in cubical sets [Coquand, Huber and Mörtberg 2018].

We define:

```
data HITOrd : Type0 where
  0 : HITOrd
  ω^ _ ⊕ _ : HITOrd → HITOrd → HITOrd
  swap : ∀ a b c → ω^ a ⊕ ω^ b ⊕ c ≡ ω^ b ⊕ ω^ a ⊕ c
  trunc : isSet HITOrd
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```

$p \equiv q$  for all  $p, q : a \equiv_{\text{HITOrd}} b$

## Example

example : (a b c : HITOrd)

$$\rightarrow \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \mathbf{0} \equiv \omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \mathbf{0}$$

example a b c = begin

$$\omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \mathbf{0} \equiv \langle \text{swap } a \ b \ \_ \rangle$$

$$\omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \mathbf{0} \equiv \langle \text{cong } (\omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \_) \ (\text{swap } a \ c \ \_) \rangle$$

$$\omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \mathbf{0} \equiv \langle \text{swap } b \ c \ \_ \rangle$$

$$\omega^{\wedge} c \oplus \omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \mathbf{0} \quad \square$$

## Pattern matching on HITOrd

Pattern matching on HITOrd requires all functions  $f$  to respect **swap**: must show

$$f(\omega^{\wedge} a \oplus \omega^{\wedge} b \oplus c) \equiv f(\omega^{\wedge} b \oplus \omega^{\wedge} a \oplus c)$$

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For arithmetic, these are the so-called Hessenberg sum and product [Hessenberg, 1906].

## Hessenberg sum

$\_ \oplus \_ : \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{HITOrd}$

$x \oplus y = \{?_0 : \text{HITOrd}\}$

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$(\text{swap } a \ b \ c \ i) \oplus y = \{?_2 : \dots \equiv \dots\} \ i$

$(\text{trunc } p \ q \ i \ j) \oplus y = \{?_3 : \dots \equiv \dots \equiv \dots \dots\} \ i \ j$

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In the **swap** case, we have to prove

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## Proposition

$\_ \oplus \_$  is commutative.

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Even better:

**Theorem**

*SigmaOrd, MutualOrd and HITOrd are equivalent.*

# Which approach is better?

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Even better:

## Theorem

*SigmaOrd, MutualOrd and HITOrd are equivalent.*

Using the univalence principle [Voevodsky 2010] (which computes in cubical Agda), equivalent types are identical:

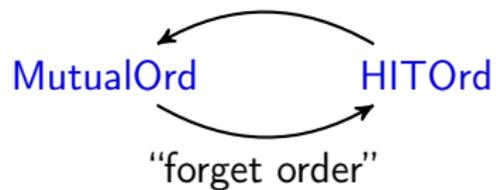
## Corollary

*SigmaOrd, MutualOrd and HITOrd are identical.*

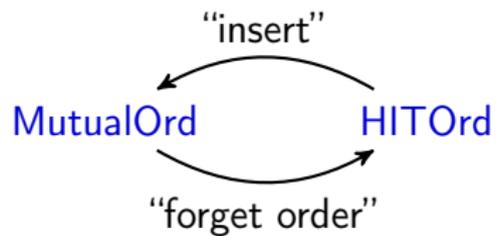
MutualOrd and HITOrd are equivalent



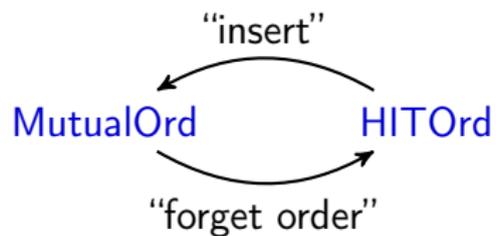
# MutualOrd and HITOrd are equivalent



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$M \equiv H : \text{MutualOrd} \equiv \text{HITOrd}$

## Operations via univalence

By using univalence, we can transport operations and proofs between `MutualOrd` and `HITOrd`.

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$$\begin{aligned} \_<^H\_ &: \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{Type}_0 \\ \_<^H\_ &= \text{transport } (\lambda i \rightarrow \text{M}\equiv\text{H } i \rightarrow \text{M}\equiv\text{H } i \rightarrow \text{Type}_0) \_<\_ \end{aligned}$$

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## Transporting proofs

We can also transport properties. For instance: define

`Dec` : (A : Type ℓ) → (A → A → Type ℓ') → Type (ℓ ⊔ ℓ')

`Dec A _ < _` = (x y : A) → x < y ⊔ ¬ x < y

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We can easily prove

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<-dec : Dec MutualOrd _<_
```

Hence we can construct

```
<H-dec : Dec HITOrd _<H_
<H-dec = transport (λ i → Dec (M≡H i) (<Path i)) <-dec
```

where

```
<Path : PathP (λ i → M≡H i → M≡H i → Type0) _<_ _<H_
```

is a dependent equality (“path”) between `_<_` and `_<H_`.

## It computes!

Define

$lt : \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{HITOrd} \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

$lt\ a\ b = \text{isLeft } (<^{\text{H-dec}}\ a\ b)$

for convenience.

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$\text{Ex}[\langle^{\text{H}}\text{-decComp}] :$

$\text{lt } \mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{0} \equiv \text{false}$

$\times \text{lt } \text{H.}\omega \ ((\text{H.}\mathbf{1} \oplus \text{H.}\mathbf{1}) \otimes \text{H.}\omega) \equiv \text{true}$

$\times \text{lt } (\text{H.}\omega \wedge \langle \text{H.}\omega \rangle) (\text{H.}\omega \wedge \langle \text{H.}\mathbf{1} +^{\text{H}} \text{H.}\omega \rangle) \equiv \text{false}$

$\times \text{lt } (\text{H.}\omega \wedge \langle \text{H.}\omega \rangle) (\text{H.}\omega \wedge \langle \text{H.}\mathbf{1} \oplus \text{H.}\omega \rangle) \equiv \text{true}$

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$\times\ lt\ H.\omega\ ((H.1 \oplus H.1) \otimes H.\omega) \equiv true$

$\times\ lt\ (H.\omega \wedge \langle H.\omega \rangle)\ (H.\omega \wedge \langle H.1 +^H H.\omega \rangle) \equiv false$

$\times\ lt\ (H.\omega \wedge \langle H.\omega \rangle)\ (H.\omega \wedge \langle H.1 \oplus H.\omega \rangle) \equiv true$

$Ex[\langle^H\text{-decComp}] = (refl , refl , refl , refl)$

$Ex[\oplus^M Comp] : M.1 \oplus^M M.\omega \equiv M.\omega + M.1$

$Ex[\oplus^M Comp] = refl$

A large, leafy tree stands in the center of the frame, silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky. The sun is positioned behind the tree's canopy, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a hazy landscape with rolling hills and distant lights. A white, rounded rectangular text box is overlaid on the tree's canopy.

# Summary and outlook

# Conclusions

- ▶ **Summary:** Using mutual definitions and higher inductive types to faithfully represent ordinals in cubical Agda.

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Chuangjie Xu, Fredrik Nordvall Forsberg and Neil Ghani  
Three equivalent ordinal notation systems in cubical Agda  
CPP 2020, New Orleans, USA.

# Conclusions

- ▶ Success to
- ▶ Model for
- ▶ Future Bro



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