A Higher Structure Identity Principle

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The ordinary Structure Identity Principle states that any property of set-level structures (e.g., posets, groups, rings, fields) definable in Univalent Foundations is invariant under isomorphism: more specifically, identifications of structures coincide with isomorphisms. We prove a version of this principle for a wide range of higher-categorical structures, adapting FOLDS-signatures to specify a general class of structures, and using two-level type theory to treat all categorical dimensions uniformly. As in the previously known case of 1-categories (which is an instance of our theory), the structures themselves must satisfy a local univalence principle, stating that identifications coincide with “isomorphisms” between elements of the structure. Our main technical achievement is a definition of such isomorphisms, which we call "indiscernibilities," using only the dependency structure rather than any notion of composition.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: homotopy type theory, univalent foundations, structure identity principle, categories, equivalence principle

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Structure Identity Principle (SIP)

A fundamental logical principle is the “indiscernibility of identicals”, i.e., equal objects have the same properties:

\[ x = y \rightarrow \forall \text{ properties } P, (P(x) \leftrightarrow P(y)). \] (1)

However, properties invariant under weaker notions of sameness are also important. For instance, group-theoretic properties satisfy a similar principle for isomorphic groups:

\[ G \cong H \rightarrow \forall \text{ group-theoretic properties } P, (P(G) \leftrightarrow P(H)). \]

while category-theoretic properties are invariant even under equivalence of categories:

\[ A \cong B \rightarrow \forall \text{ category-theoretic properties } P, (P(A) \leftrightarrow P(B)). \]

The idea is summarized in Aczel’s Structure Identity Principle (SIP) [1]: *Isomorphic (or equivalent) mathematical structures are structurally identical; i.e., have the same structural properties.* But it remains to characterize the “structural properties” for a given notion of structure. For instance, Blanc [8] and Freyd [13] devised a syntax for category-theoretic properties and showed that they are invariant under equivalence. And Makkai [18] introduced general notions of signature and equivalence for higher-categorical structures, along with a language for their properties called First Order Logic with Dependent Sorts (FOLDS), and proved that FOLDS-properties are invariant under FOLDS-equivalence.

1.2 The SIP in Univalent Foundations

Inspired by Makkai (see [27, p. 1279]), Voevodsky conceived Univalent Foundations (UF) with a similar but more ambitious goal: a foundational language for mathematics, all of whose constructions are invariant under equivalences of structures. Since proofs are particular constructions, this implies a similar invariance of properties.

The formal language of UF and the closely related Homotopy Type Theory (HoTT) is Martin-Löf type theory, with types regarded as (higher) groupoids; see [26] for background and notation. Voevodsky’s univalence principle

\[ \text{univalence: } \Pi_{(x,y)} (x = y \Rightarrow x = y). \] (2)
ensures that all properties of types are invariant under equivalences, since equivalences can be made into identifications (i.e., elements of the Martin-Löf identity type \( x = y \)):

\[
\Pi_{(x,y:U)} (x \simeq y \to \Pi_{(P:U \to U)} (P(x) \simeq P(y))).
\]

It was proven in [26, Section 9.9] and [11] that the same approach works for a wide range of mathematical structures. Both use a notion of “signature” to define general classes of structures and isomorphisms, and show (using (2) for the underlying types) that isomorphisms of structures are equivalent to identities of structures. Thus, indiscernibility of identicals implies indiscernibility of isomorphs.

### 1.3 SIPs for Categories and Higher Categories

The main restriction of the SIP of Section 1.2 is that it applies only to structures that naturally form a 1-category (or 1-groupoid). In particular, it excludes categories themselves. An SIP for categories is proved in [2, Theorem 6.17]: equivalence of (certain) categories is equivalent to identity of categories, yielding an analogous transport principle for categorical equivalences \( x \simeq y \):

\[
\Pi_{(x:y:Cat)} (x \simeq y \to \Pi_{(P:Cat \to U)} (P(x) \simeq P(y))).
\]

However, to make this true, the categories themselves must satisfy a local univalence principle saying that isomorphism is equivalent to identity for their objects.

In the present paper, grown out of [25] and inspired by FOLDS, we generalize this to other (higher-)categorical structures. We give general notions of signature, structure, univalence, and equivalence, such that equivalence of univalent structures is equivalent to identity. Therefore, indiscernibility of identicals implies indiscernibility of equivalents:

\[
\Pi_{(x,y:uStr(L))} (x \simeq_L y \to \Pi_{(P:uStr(L) \to U)} (P(x) \simeq P(y))).
\]

The primary difficulty is to give a suitable notion of isomorphism—which we also call indiscernibility—between elements of a general structure, so that we can define a structure to be univalent if this notion of isomorphism of its elements is equivalent to their identity. Our definition is a relativized form of the converse of (1), the identity of indiscernibles:

\[
(\forall \text{properties } P, (P(x) \leftrightarrow P(y)) \to (x = y)). \tag{3}
\]

As long as we generalize “property” to “construction”, the global form of this principle in HoTT/UF is trivially true because we have the haecceity \( P(u) \equiv (x = u) \). We get our notion of indiscernibility by relativizing this to a structure, allowing only constructions involving the data of a structure to which \( x, y \) belong. Thus, our univalent structures satisfy a local form of (3).

**Remark 1.1.** The SIP of Section 1.2 is equivalent to the statement that the 1-category of structures is univalent in the sense of [2]. This suggests a “Baez–Dolan microcosm principle” at work: the SIP for a given kind of structure should state that the (higher) category of such structures satisfies the necessary univalence principle for its SIP. We have not attempted to state or prove this precisely.

### 2 A FRESH LOOK AT UNIVALENT CATEGORIES

First we review [2] and [26, Chapter 9] with an eye to generalization. Both start by defining a *precategory* \( C \) as follows.

- A type \( C_0 \) of objects.
- For each \( a, b : C_0 \), a set \( C(a, b) \) of morphisms.
- For each \( a : C_0 \), a morphism \( 1_a : C(a, a) \).

\(^1\)The formalization of [11] compares the two independent results.
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- For each \(a, b, c : \mathcal{C}_0\), a function
  \[C(b, c) \rightarrow C(a, b) \rightarrow C(a, c).\]
- For each \(a, b : \mathcal{C}_0\) and \(f : \mathcal{C}(a, b)\), we have \(f = 1_b \circ f\) and \(f = f \circ 1_a\).
- For each \(a, b, c, d : \mathcal{C}_0\) and \(f : \mathcal{C}(a, b), g : \mathcal{C}(b, c), h : \mathcal{C}(c, d)\), we have \(h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f\).

Note \(\mathcal{C}_0\) may not be a set, and for "large" precategories it almost never is. For instance, \(\mathcal{C}_0\) is the type of sets, which by univalence is a proper 1-type. However, allowing arbitrary types of objects is problematic too. For instance, while the statement "a fully faithful and essentially surjective functor is an equivalence" in ZF is equivalent to the axiom of choice, for precategories in HoTT/UF it is generally false, even with the axiom of choice.

The solution is to impose a "local univalence" condition: for any \(a, b : \mathcal{C}_0\) there is a map \(\text{idtoiso}_{a,b} : (a \equiv \mathcal{C}_0 b) \rightarrow (a \equiv b)\), defined by path induction, and a precategory \(\mathcal{C}\) is a univalent category if \(\text{idtoiso}_{a,b}\) is an equivalence for all \(a, b : \mathcal{C}_0\). This implements the idea that "isomorphic objects are equal". Note that it implies that \(\mathcal{C}_0\) is a 1-type, since its identity types are all sets (0-types).

One then proves, using the univalence axiom, that this "local" form of univalence for objects of a category implies a "global" form of univalence for categories themselves:

**Theorem 2.1 ([2, Theorem 6.17]).** For univalent categories \(\mathcal{C}\) and \(\mathcal{D}\), let \(\mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{D}\) be the type of categorical equivalences between \(\mathcal{C}\) and \(\mathcal{D}\); then
\[(\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{D}) = (\mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{D}).\]

We will generalize this to other categorical structures, starting with a general vocabulary for expressing such things.

### 2.1 FOLDS-Signature for Categories

In [18], Makkai presents a definition of category in a language called First-Order Logic with Dependent Sorts (FOLDS). In contrast to HoTT/UF, FOLDS is not a foundational system for mathematics, but a kind of first-order logic designed for higher categorical structures. We will not use the logical syntax of FOLDS, but we adopt and generalize its notions of signature and structure.

A FOLDS-signature is an inverse category with finite fanouts, whose objects are called sorts. The FOLDS-signature \(\mathcal{L}_{\text{cat}}\) of categories is shown in Figure 1, along with the related FOLDS-signatures \(\mathcal{L}_{\text{rg}}\) of reflexive graphs and \(\mathcal{L}_{\text{cat-e}}\) of categories with equality (see Section 2.2). There are some relations on the composite arrows (e.g., the two composites \(I \rightarrow A \Rightarrow O\) are equal). The intent is that \(O\) is the sort of objects, \(A\) the sort of arrows, \(I\) the sort of identity arrows, and \(T\) the sort of composable pairs of arrows (with their composite; \(T\) stands for "triangle").

Using a set-theoretic metatheory, Makkai defined structures for a FOLDS-signature as certain functors into \(\text{Set}\). In a dependently typed theory like HoTT/UF, however, it is more natural to interpret each sort as a dependent type indexed by the interpretations of all the sorts below it. For instance, in HoTT/UF a structure \(M\) for the FOLDS-signature \(\mathcal{L}_{\text{cat}}\) in Figure 1 consists of
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{MO} & : \mathcal{U} \\
\text{MA} & : \text{MO} \times \text{MO} \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \\
\text{MI} & : \prod_{(x, y, z : \text{MO})} \text{MA}(x, x) \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \\
\text{MT} & : \prod_{(x, y, z : \text{MO})} \text{MA}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{MA}(y, z) \rightarrow \text{MA}(x, z) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}
\end{align*}
\]

This forms the underlying data of a category: a type of objects, types of morphisms, and properties of "being an identity" and "being the composite". Later we will see that our univalence condition implies that the families \(\text{MI}\) and \(\text{MT}\) consist of propositions and \(\text{MA}\) consists of sets.
2.2 Axioms and Theories

To express which such structures are actually categories, Makkai introduced a logic over FOLDS-signatures, taking top-level sorts as "relation symbols". For instance, the axiom that any two composable arrows have a composite would be

$$\forall(x, y, z : O). \forall(f : A(x, y)). \forall(g : A(y, z)). \exists(h : A(x, z)). T_{x, y, z}(f, g, h).$$

Any such axiom can be interpreted as a predicate on $L$-structures in HoTT/UF. (Note that the interpretation of $\exists$ and $\forall$ involves propositional truncation.)

The axioms of a category also involve equality of arrows (though not of objects), e.g., the uniqueness of composites

$$\forall(x, y, z : O). \forall(f : A(x, y)). \forall(g : A(y, z)). \forall(h, h' : A(x, z)). T_{x, y, z}(f, g, h) \land T_{x, y, z}(f, g, h') \rightarrow (h = h').$$

(4)

Just as in ordinary first-order logic, one can consider FOLDS either with equality or without equality. In the former, equality is only allowed between elements of sorts that are "one level below the top" like $A$. As usual, FOLDS with equality can be embedded in FOLDS without equality by adding equality relations to the signature, as with $L_{\text{cat+E}}$ in Figure 1, along with axioms making them congruences (where all free variables should be considered to be universally quantified):

$$E_{x, y}(f, f)$$

$$E_{x, y}(f, g) \rightarrow E_{x, y}(g, f)$$

$$E_{x, y}(f, g) \land E_{x, y}(g, h) \rightarrow E_{x, y}(f, h)$$

$$E_{x, z}(f, g) \land I_x(f) \rightarrow I_x(g)$$

$$E_{x, y}(f, f') \land E_{y, z}(g, g') \land E_{x, z}(h, h') \land T_{x, y, z}(f, g, h) \rightarrow T_{x, y, z}(f', g', h').$$

(5)

A model $M$ is **standard** if $ME_{x, y}$ is equivalent to the actual equality of $MA(x, y)$. Like truncatedness, this will turn out to be a special case of our univalence condition.

2.3 FOLDS-Categories in Univalent Foundations

As noted above, in HoTT/UF we must consider what truncation level MO and $MA(x, y)$ should have. In a precategory, we require the types of arrows to be sets, suggesting the following analogous definition.

$^2$With reference to "identity of indiscernibles" from Section 1.3, standard equality amounts to adding haecceities into the structure explicitly.
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**Definition 2.2.** A 1-univalent FOLDS-category $M$ is

- A type $MO : \mathcal{U}$;
- A family $MA : MO \times MO \to \mathcal{U}$;
- A family $MI : \prod_{x : MO} MA(x, x) \to \mathcal{U}$;
- A family $MT : \prod_{(x, y, z : MO)} MA(x, y) \to MA(y, z) \to MA(x, z) \to \mathcal{U}$; and
- A family $ME : \prod_{(x, y : MO)} MA(x, y) \to MA(x, y) \to \mathcal{U}$,

such that

- Each type $MI_x(f)$, $MT_{x, y, z}(f, g, h)$, and $ME_{x, y}(f, g)$ is a proposition;
- Each type $MA(x, y)$ is a set;
- $ME_{x, y}(f, g) \leftrightarrow (f = g)$;

and the axioms of a category are satisfied.

**Lemma 2.3.** The type of 1-univalent FOLDS-categories is equivalent to the type of precategories.

**Proof.** The underlying data of $MO$ and $MA$ are the same. In one direction, let $MI_x(f) : (f = 1_x)$ and $MT_{x, y, z}(f, g, h) : (h = g \circ f)$. In the other, let $1_x$ be the unique $f : MA(x, x)$ with $MI_x(f)$, and $g \circ f$ the unique $h$ with $MT_{x, y, z}(f, g, h)$.

**Convention 2.4.** Below, we sometimes abuse notation by writing $x : O$ instead of $x : MO$, and similarly for the other sorts, when the particular structure $M$ is clear from context.

Let us now consider how to define "univalent categories" using only the FOLDS-structure. The central problem is to characterize the type $(a \cong b)$ of isomorphisms in such a way as can be readily generalized to other signatures.

To start with, recall that by the Yoneda lemma, an isomorphism $\phi : a \cong b$ in a category $C$ is equivalently a natural family of isomorphisms of sets $\phi_{x, z} : C(x, a) \cong C(x, b)$, where naturality in $x$ means that $\phi_{y, z}(g) \circ f = \phi_{x, z}(g \circ f)$. In the language of FOLDS-categories the operation $\circ$ is replaced by the relation $T$, with a new variable $h$ for the composite $g \circ f$:

- For each $x : O$, an isomorphism $\phi_{x, z} : A(x, a) \cong A(x, b)$; and
- For each $x, y : O$, $f : A(x, y)$, $g : A(y, a)$, and $h : A(x, a)$, we have $T_{x, y, a}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{x, y, b}(f, \phi_{y, z}(g), \phi_{x, z}(h))$.

This looks more promising, but it still privileges one of the variables of $A$ over the other, and the relation $T$ over $I$ (and $E$). More natural from the FOLDS point of view is to give equivalences between hom-sets with $a$ and $b$ substituted into all possible "collections of holes":

For any $x : O$, an isomorphism $\phi_{x, z} : A(x, a) \cong A(x, b)$;

(6)

For any $z : O$, an isomorphism $\phi_{x, z} : A(a, z) \cong A(b, z)$;

(7)

An isomorphism $\phi_{x, z} : A(a, a) \cong A(b, b)$.

(8)

and similar logical equivalences between all possible "relations with holes":

$T_{x, y, a}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{x, y, b}(f, \phi_{y, z}(g), \phi_{x, z}(h))$

(9)

$T_{x, a, z}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{x, b, z}(\phi_{x, z}(f), \phi_{x, z}(g), h)$

(10)

$T_{a, z, w}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{b, z, w}(\phi_{z, w}(f), g, \phi_{w, z}(h))$

(11)

$T_{x, a, z}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{x, b, z}(\phi_{x, z}(f), \phi_{z, w}(g), \phi_{x, z}(h))$

(12)

$T_{a, x, z}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{b, x, z}(\phi_{x, z}(f), \phi_{z, w}(g), \phi_{x, z}(h))$

(13)

$T_{a, a, z}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{b, a, z}(\phi_{z, w}(f), \phi_{z, w}(g), \phi_{z, w}(h))$

(14)

$T_{a, a, z}(f, g, h) \leftrightarrow T_{b, a, z}(\phi_{z, w}(f), \phi_{z, w}(g), \phi_{z, w}(h))$

(15)
for all \( x, y, z, w : O \) and \( f, g, h \) of appropriate types. Fortunately, the additional data here are redundant. Since \( \phi_{x^x}, \phi_{y^y}, \) and \( \phi_{z^z} \) preserve identities and \( E \) is equivalent to identity by hypothesis, we obtain (17) to (19). Just as (9) means the \( \phi_{x^x} \) form a natural isomorphism, (11) means the \( \phi_{y^y} \) form a natural isomorphism, and (10) means these natural isomorphisms arise from the same \( \phi : a \equiv b \). Given this, any one of Eqs. (12) to (14) ensures that \( \phi_{z^z} \) is conjugation by \( \phi \), and then the other two follow automatically, as do Eqs. (15) and (16). This suggests the following definition.

**Definition 2.5.** For \( a, b \) objects of a 1-univalent FOLDS-category, an indiscernibility from \( a \) to \( b \) consists of data as in Eqs. (6) to (8) satisfying Eqs. (9) to (16). We write \( a \equiv b \) for the type of such indiscernibilities.

**Theorem 2.6.** In any 1-univalent FOLDS-category, the type of indiscernibilities from \( a \) to \( b \) is equivalent to the type of isomorphisms \( a \equiv b \). \( \square \)

**Definition 2.7.** A 0-univalent FOLDS-category is a 1-univalent FOLDS-category such that for all \( a, b : MO \), the canonical map \( (a = b) \to (a \equiv b) \) is an equivalence.

**Theorem 2.8.** A 1-univalent FOLDS-category is 0-univalent iff its corresponding precategory is a univalent category. \( \square \)

The point is that the definition of indiscernibility can be derived algorithmically from the FOLDS-signature for categories, by an algorithm which applies equally well to any FOLDS-signature. We will give this mechanism explicitly in Section 6. Then, for any \( a, b : MK \) in some structure \( M \), there will be a canonical map \( (a =_K b) \to (a \equiv b) \), and we call \( M \) univalent if these are equivalences.

However, there are two mismatches between this example so far and the general theory we have just proposed. Firstly, we have assumed ad hoc that \( MA \) consists of sets. Secondly, we have just proposed that all sorts should satisfy a univalence property, but in the example of categories we have only considered this for the sort \( O \). Fortunately, these two problems solve each other, and moreover remove the need to postulate “standardness” of equality.

**Definition 2.9.** A 2-univalent FOLDS-category \( M \) consists of the same type families \( MO, MA, MI, MT, ME \) as a 1-univalent FOLDS-category, such that \( ME \) is a congruence, each type \( MI_{x,y}(f), MT_{x,y,z}(f, g, h) \), and \( ME_{x,y}(f, g) \) is a proposition, and the axioms of a category are satisfied with \( ME \) used in place of equality.

An indiscernibility between \( f, g : A(a, b) \) in a 2-univalent FOLDS-category should consist of logical equivalences between instances of \( T, I, \) and \( E \) with \( f \) replaced by \( g \) in “all possible ways”, clearly beginning with

\[
T_{x, a, b}(u, f, v) \leftrightarrow T_{x, a, b}(u, g, v) \tag{20}
\]

\[
T_{a, x, b}(u, f, v) \leftrightarrow T_{a, x, b}(u, g, v) \tag{21}
\]

\[
T_{a, b, x}(f, u, v) \leftrightarrow T_{a, b, x}(g, u, v) \tag{22}
\]

for all \( x : O \) and \( u, v \) of appropriate types. But how do we put \( f \) in two or three of the places in \( T \) in the most general way? In Section 6 we will see that the answer is to assume an equality between objects and transport \( f \) along it.

**Definition 2.10.** For \( f, g : A(x, y) \) in a 2-univalent FOLDS-category, an indiscernibility from \( f \) to \( g \) consists of the logical equivalences shown in Eqs. (20) to (30), for all \( p : a = a, q : b = a, \) and \( r : b = b \).
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The same reasoning applies to their path-types being contractible, i.e., that they are propositional. By axioms (T1) and (T2), we can identify inner types with particular outer ones.

Since $T, I,$ and $E$ are propositions, so is the type $f \simeq g$ of indiscernibilities. And $f \neq f$, so by path induction we have $(f = g) \to (f \simeq g)$.

**Theorem 2.11.** A 2-univalent FOLDS-category is 1-univalent if and only if the map $(f = g) \to (f \simeq g)$ is an equivalence for all $f, g$.

**Proof.** Since $f \simeq g$ is a proposition, the latter condition implies that each $A(a, b)$ is a set. Thus, for “if” it suffices to show $E_{a, b}(f, g) \to (f \simeq g)$, which holds since $E$ is a congruence for $T$ and $I$. For “only if”, we must show $(f \simeq g) \to (f = g)$ in a FOLDS-category. But since $E_{a, b}(f, f)$ always, $f \simeq g$ implies $E_{a, b}(f, g)$, hence $f = g$ by standardness.

Thus, by extending the “univalence” condition of a category from the sort $O$ to the sort $A$, we encompass automatically the assumption that the hom-types in a precategory are sets and that the equality is standard.

Finally, we can even stop treating the top sorts specially.

**Definition 2.12.** A **FOLDS-category** consists of the same data and axioms as a 2-univalent FOLDS-category, but without the assumption that the types $T, I,$ and $E$ are propositions.

Now, the type $t \times t'$ of indiscernibilities between $t, t': T_{x,y,z}(f, g, h)$ should consist of consistent equivalences between all types dependent on $t$ and $t'$. But there are no such types in the signature, so $t \simeq t'$ is contractible. The same reasoning applies to $I$ and $E$. Thus, the univalence condition for these sorts will assert simply that all of their path-types are contractible, i.e., that they are propositions.

**Theorem 2.13.** A FOLDS-category is 2-univalent if and only if the canonical maps $t \times t' \to (t \simeq t'), (i = i') \to (i \simeq i')$, and $(e = e') \to (e \simeq e')$ are equivalences for all inhabitants of the types $T, I,$ and $E$ respectively.

Thus, the notion of univalent category is determined only by the signature $L_{\text{cat-E}}$, plus axioms which are irrelevant for indiscernibilities and univalence. Our goal is to define notions of indiscernibility and univalence for any signature $L$, generalizing the theory of univalent categories to arbitrary higher-categorical structures.

### 3 BACKGROUND: TWO-LEVEL TYPE THEORY

In the following sections, we work in a two-level type theory (2LTT) as in [5], with axioms (M2) (Russell-style universes), (T1), (T2), and (T3) from [5, Section 2.4]. Building on [16], 2LTT is shown in [5, §2.5] to be modeled by simplicial sets.

2LTT has an “outer” (a.k.a. “strict”) level, a Martin-Löf type theory with intensional identity types and uniqueness of identity proofs (UIP), and an “inner” level, a homotopy type theory with univalent universes. Both have their own—prima facie distinct—type formers $\Pi, \Sigma, +, 1, 0, \mathbb{N}$, intensional “=” with function extensionality, and universes. By axioms (T1) and (T2), we can identify inner types with particular outer ones so that $\Pi, \Sigma,$ and
are “shared” between the levels [5, Lemma 2.11], so we need not distinguish those notationally. For other type constructors we annotate the outer variants with \( \tilde{=} \) (for “strict”), e.g., in \( \mathbb{N}^3 \). (In [5], the inner type formers are annotated.) We use the conventional typical ambiguity \([26, Section 1.3]\) and hence refer to any universe by \( \mathcal{U} \) (inner) resp. \( \mathcal{U}' \) (outer). We use \( \equiv \) and \( \tilde{=} \) to denote judgmental equality, e.g., in definitions.

We call a type \( A \) fibrant when it is isomorphic to an inner type \( A' \) (in the strict sense, modulo \( \tilde{=} \)). Fibrancy is structure rather than property, but following [5] we abuse language by talking about a type “being fibrant” for simplicity. Axiom (T3) states that every fibrant type is inner. Thus, fibrant types are closed under \( \Pi \) and \( \Sigma \) ([5, Lemma 3.5]).

A fibrant \( A \) has two identity types: for \( a, b : A \) we have the strict identity type \( a \tilde{=} b \) that satisfies UIP, and the homotopical identity type \( a = b \) that is at the center of HoTT. We refer to elements of \( a = b \) as “identifications”, and elements of \( a \tilde{=} b \) as “strict equalities”. Note that \( a = b \) only eliminates into fibrant types, while \( a \tilde{=} b \) eliminates into any type, fibrant or not. Consequently, for any fibrant type \( A \) and \( a, b : A \), we have a map \( (a \tilde{=} b) \rightarrow (a = b) \). We sometimes use this implicitly to “coerce” a strict equality to an identification. Similarly, we will frequently prove statements by induction on the strict natural numbers \( \mathbb{N}^3 \); there, we do not need to pay attention to the return type. We write \( A : \mathcal{U} \) to indicate that \( A \) is a fibrant, or inner, type.

We write \( A \equiv B \) for the type of equivalences between two (necessarily fibrant) types \( A \) and \( B \), in the usual sense of HoTT/UF. The truncation level of a fibrant type is defined as in [26], with contractible types the \((-2)\)-types, and an \( n \)-type being a type whose homotopical identity types are \((n-1)\)-types. A proposition is a \((-1)\)-type, and a set is a \( 0 \)-type.

An \( s \)-category \( C \) (see also [5, Definition 3.1]) is given by the following data (“s” for “strict”):

1. A type \( C_0 \) of objects (also often denoted \( C \));
2. For each \( x, y : C \) a type \( C(x, y) \) of arrows;
3. For each \( x : C \) an arrow \( 1 : C(x, x) \); and
4. A composition map \( \circ : C(y, z) \rightarrow C(x, y) \rightarrow C(x, z) \) that is strictly associative and for which \( 1 \) is a strict left and right unit.

A universe \( \mathcal{U}^0 \) gives rise to an \( s \)-category, also called \( \mathcal{U}' \), with objects \( A : \mathcal{U}' \) and morphisms \( \mathcal{U}'(A, B) := A \rightarrow B \).

An \( s \)-functor \( F : C \rightarrow D \) consists of a function \( F_0 : C_0 \rightarrow D_0 \) and functions \( F_{x,y} : C(x, y) \rightarrow D(F_0x, F_0y) \) preserving identity and composition up to strict equality. We denote both \( F_0 \) and \( F_{x,y} \) by just \( F \). A strict natural transformation \( \alpha : F \Rightarrow G : C \rightarrow D \) consists of a family of morphisms \( (\alpha_x : D(Fx, Gx))_{x \in C_0} \) satisfying the naturality axiom strictly.

Our signatures will involve strict equality, and will thus live in the outer level of 2LTT. For a fixed signature, the types of structures, of maps between structures, and of indiscernibilities within a structure, will live entirely within the fibrant fragment of 2LTT.

4 SIGNATURES AND STRUCTURES

In traditional logic, a signature specifies the sorts, functions, and relations of a structure. A signature in dependent type theory must also specify the dependencies between sorts; Makkai [18] observed that this enables relations and, to a certain extent, functions, to be expressed merely in terms of sorts.\(^3\) Thus we could adapt Makkai’s FOLDS-signatures to 2LTT and define structures as \( s \)-functors to \( \mathcal{U} \) that are “Reedy fibrant.” However, it will be more convenient to formulate the notions of signature and structure inductively, leading to a more general class of signatures.

\(^3\)It is not unreasonable to directly include functions in addition to dependent sorts in a signature, obtaining something like Cartmell’s [9] Generalized Algebraic Theories. Indeed, a FOLDS-signature can be regarded as an especially simple sort of GAT; see also [18, pp. 1–6]. It is an interesting question for future work whether the results of this paper can be extended to more general GATs; for now we restrict ourselves to the simple case. The relationship of our abstract signatures to GATs is unclear to us.
Consider the FOLDS-signature \( \mathcal{L}_{\text{tg}} \), for which a naïve structure consists of (fibrant) types and families \( M \colon \mathcal{U} \), \( MA : MO \to MO \to \mathcal{U} \), and \( MI : \prod_{x:MO} MA(x, x) \to \mathcal{U} \). If we strip off the top sort \( I \), the resulting structure contains only \( MO \) and \( MA \), and an inductive definition can be formulated along these lines. But our inductions will be "bottom-up", so we want to strip off the bottom sort \( O \). Once \( MO : \mathcal{U} \) is fixed, the rest of an \( \mathcal{L}_{\text{tg}} \)-structure is determined by an ordinary structure over a derived signature \( (\mathcal{L}_{\text{tg}})^{\prime}_{MO} \), with a rank-0 sort \( A(x, y) \) for each \( x, y : MO \), and a rank-1 sort \( I(x) \) for each \( x : MO \), with morphisms \( I(x) \to A(x, x) \). That is, we take the "indexing" of all sorts by \( O \) and move it "outside" the signature, incorporating it into the types of sorts.\(^4\)

This notion of derived FOLDS-signature determines the notion of structure: a structure for \( \mathcal{L} \) of height \( p > 0 \) consists, inductively, of a family \( M_\bot : \mathcal{L}(0) \to \mathcal{U} \) and a structure for \( \mathcal{L}^{\prime}_{M_\bot} \) (which is of height \( p - 1 \)). We can therefore abstract away from the inverse category underlying a FOLDS-signature, remembering only that each signature \( \mathcal{L} \) of height \( p > 0 \) has (1) a type \( \mathcal{L}(0) \), and (2) for any \( M_\bot : \mathcal{L}(0) \to \mathcal{U} \), a signature \( \mathcal{L}^{\prime}_{M_\bot} \) of height \( p - 1 \).

**Definition 4.1 (Abstract signature).** We define a family of s-categories \( \text{Sig}(n) \) of signatures of height \( n \) by induction. Let \( \text{Sig}(0) \) be the trivial s-category on 1.

An object \( \mathcal{L} \) of \( \text{Sig}(n + 1) \) consists of

1. a fibrant type \( L_\bot : \mathcal{U} \);
2. a functor \( L^1 : (L_\bot \to \mathcal{U}) \to \text{Sig}(n) \), where \( L_\bot \to \mathcal{U} \) is the functor s-category from the discrete s-category \( L_\bot \) to the canonical s-category \( \mathcal{U} \).

Arguments of \( L^1 \) will be written as subscripts, as in \( L^1_{M_\bot} \).

For \( \mathcal{L}, M : \text{Sig}(n + 1) \), an element \( \alpha \) of \( \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(n+1)}(\mathcal{L}, M) \) consists of the following:

1. a function \( \alpha_\bot : L_\bot \to M_\bot \)
2. a strict natural transformation \( \alpha^\prime \) as in the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
M_\bot & \to & \mathcal{U} \\
\downarrow \alpha_\bot & & \downarrow M^1 \alpha^\prime \\
L_\bot & \to & \mathcal{U} \\
\end{array}
\]

Arguments of \( \alpha^\prime \) will also be written as subscripts, as in \( \alpha^\prime_{M_\bot} \).

Composition and identities are given by function composition and identity at \( \bot \), and inductively for the derivative. Similarly, the categorical laws are easily proved by induction.

Similarly, we define \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures inductively for \( n : \mathbb{N}^0 \) and each \( L : \text{Sig}(n) \). The rank-0 part of an \( \mathcal{L} \)-structure is a type family \( M_\bot : \mathcal{L}_\bot \to \mathcal{U} \), while the rest of an \( \mathcal{L} \)-structure consists of a structure for the derived signature \( \mathcal{L}^{\prime}_{M_\bot} \).

**Definition 4.2 (\( \mathcal{L} \)-structure).** If \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(0) \), we define the type of \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures to be \( \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) := 1 \).

If \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1) \), we define the type of \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures to be

\[
\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) := \sum_{M_\bot : \mathcal{L}_\bot \to \mathcal{U}} \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}^{\prime}_{M_\bot}).
\]

For \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1) \) we write \( M := (M_\bot, M^1) : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \).

**Lemma 4.3.** For any signature \( \mathcal{L} \), the type \( \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) of \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures is fibrant. \( \square \)

\(^4\)This would be impossible if our inverse categories were metatheoretic in the ordinary sense, e.g., syntactic and externally finite. 2LTT is just right.
In the rest of the paper we work exclusively with abstract signatures, calling them simply “signatures”. However, since most intended examples arise naturally as FOLDS-signatures, we need to be able to translate FOLDS-signatures to abstract ones. To this end, we define general FOLDS-signatures in 2LTT and translate them to abstract signatures, in such a way that “Reedy fibrant” diagrams on a FOLDS-signature coincide with structures for the corresponding abstract signature. In our FOLDS-signatures, the equations of Figure 1 are formulated modulo strict equality. We postpone the description of this rather technical work to Appendix A. Here we sketch the results of the translation for the examples in Figure 1.

Examples 4.4. All three examples have only one sort of rank 0, so that \( \mathcal{L}_\perp = \{O\} = 1 \), and \( M_\perp \) consists of a single type \( MO \). Moreover, since all three examples have only one sort \( A \) of rank 1 that depends on \( O \) twice, their derivatives \( \mathcal{L}'_{MO} \) have \( (\mathcal{L}'_{MO})_\perp = MO \times MO \), and \( (M'\perp) \) is a single type family \( MA : MO \times MO \rightarrow U \). Finally, since all three have height 3, \( (\mathcal{L}'_{MO})_{\mathcal{M}A} \) has height 1, hence is just a single type.

- For \( \mathcal{L}_\text{ig} \), this type is \( \sum_{(x:MO)} MA(x,x) \), so that a structure is completed by a type family
  \[ MI : (\sum_{(x:MO)} MA(x,x)) \rightarrow U. \]

- For \( \mathcal{L}_\text{cat} \), this type is
  \[ \left( \sum_{(x,y,z:MO)} MA(x,y) \times MA(y,z) \times MA(x,z) \right) + \left( \sum_{(x:MO)} MA(x,x) \right), \]
  so that a structure is completed by a type family \( MI \) as above together with
  \[ MT : \left( \sum_{(x,y,z:MO)} MA(x,y) \times MA(y,z) \times MA(x,z) \right) \rightarrow U, \]

- Finally, for \( \mathcal{L}_\text{cat+} \), this type is
  \[ \left( \sum_{(x,y,z:MO)} MA(x,y) \times MA(y,z) \times MA(x,z) \right) + \left( \sum_{(x:MO)} MA(x,x) \right) + \left( \sum_{(x,y:MO)} MA(x,y) \times MA(x,y) \right), \]
  so that a structure is completed by type families \( MI \) and \( MT \) as above together with
  \[ ME : \left( \sum_{(x,y:MO)} MA(x,y) \times MA(x,y) \right) \rightarrow U. \]

5 (ISO)MORPHISMS OF STRUCTURES

The definition of structures for signatures doesn’t require the fact that signatures form an \( s \)-category. But defining morphisms of structures will require the pullback of an \( M \)-structure along a morphism \( \alpha : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow M \) of signatures, defined as follows.

Definition 5.1. For any \( \alpha : \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(n)}(\mathcal{L}, M) \), we define the pullback \( \alpha^* : \text{Str}(M) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) inductively as follows.

If \( n \equiv 0 \), then let \( \alpha^* : \text{Str}(M) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) be the identity.

If \( n > 0 \), consider \( L : \text{Str}(M) \). We let \( (\alpha^* M)_{\perp} \) be \( M_{\perp} \circ \alpha_{\perp} \). By induction, the morphism

\[ a_{M_{\perp}} : \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(n-1)}(\mathcal{L}'_{\perp}, M'_{\perp}) \]

produces a \( (\alpha^* M'_{\perp})_{\perp} : \text{Str}(M'_{\perp}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{\perp}) \), so we set \( (\alpha^* M)' := (\alpha^* M')_{\perp} \).

Pullback is functorial: pullback along a composition of signature morphisms is the composition of pullbacks, and pullback along an identity morphism is the identity.

We now inductively define morphisms between structures of a given signature, making \( \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) into an \( s \)-category.

Definition 5.2 (Morphism of structures). Consider \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n) \) and \( M, N : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \).

When \( n \equiv 0 \), we let \( \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N) \equiv 1 \).

When \( n > 0 \), a morphism \( f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N) \) consists of
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\[(M_\perp \cong N_\perp) \xrightarrow{\text{ua}} (M_\perp = N_\perp) \xrightarrow{\text{idiso}} (M_\perp \cong N_\perp) \xrightarrow{\text{L}} \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(n)}(\mathcal{L}_{M_\perp}^\prime, \mathcal{L}_{N_\perp}^\prime) \xrightarrow{\text{L}} \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}_{M_\perp}^\prime) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}_{N_\perp}^\prime)\]

Fig. 2. Diagram for Proof of Proposition 5.7

(1) \(f_\perp : \prod_{(K, L_\perp)} M_\perp(K) \rightarrow N_\perp(K)\)

(2) \(f' : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}^\prime(L_{M_\perp}^\prime)}(M', (L_{f_\perp})^\prime N')\).

**Lemma 5.3.** For a signature \(\mathcal{L}\) and \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures \(M, N\), the type of morphisms from \(M\) to \(N\) is fibrant. \(\square\)

As a stepping-stone to our SIP for univalent \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures, we show that all \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures satisfy a tautological “levelwise” form of univalence.

**Definition 5.4 (Isomorphism of structures).** Consider \(\mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n)\) and \(M, N : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L})\). If \(n \equiv 0\), we define every \(f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N)\) to be an \(\mathcal{L}\)-isomorphism. That is, we define \(\text{isIso}_\mathcal{L}(f) \equiv 1\).

For \(n > 0\), \(f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N)\) is an \(\mathcal{L}\)-isomorphism when

1. \(f_\perp(K)\) is an equivalence of types for all \(K : L_\perp\), and
2. \(f'\) is an \(L_{M_\perp}^\prime\)-isomorphism.

That is, let

\[
\text{isIso}_\mathcal{L}(f) := \left(\prod_{(K, L_\perp)} \text{isEquiv}(f_\perp(K))\right) \times \text{isIso}_{L_{M_\perp}^\prime}(f').
\]

We denote the type of \(\mathcal{L}\)-isomorphisms between two \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures \(M, N\) by \(M \equiv L N\), or simply \(M \equiv N\).

**Lemma 5.5.** For any morphism \(f : M \rightarrow N\) between two \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures, the type \(\text{isIso}_\mathcal{L}(f)\) is fibrant and a proposition. \(\square\)

**Definition 5.6 (Identity isomorphism).** When \(n \equiv 0\), we define \(i_M\) to be the canonical element in 1.

Otherwise, we have \(1_{L_{M_\perp}^\prime} \equiv L_{1_{M_\perp}^\prime}\) (from functoriality of \(L'\)), hence \(u : (1_{L_{M_\perp}^\prime})^\prime M' \equiv (L_{1_{M_\perp}^\prime})^\prime M'\). We also have a strict equality \(\nu : M' \equiv (1_{L_{M_\perp}^\prime})^\prime M'\) (by the functoriality of pullback). Then we set \(i_M\) to be the pair \((1_{M_\perp}, \text{idIso}(\nu \cdot u))\).

Now define \(\text{idIso} : \prod_{(M, N, \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}))}(M = N) \rightarrow (M \equiv N)\) by sending \(\text{refl}_M\) to \(i_M\).

**Proposition 5.7.** For structures \(M, N\) of a signature \(\mathcal{L}\), the canonical map

\[
\text{idIso}_{M, N} : (M = N) \rightarrow (M \equiv N)
\]

is an equivalence of types.

**Proof.** When \(n \equiv 0\), \(\text{idIso} : 1 \rightarrow 1\), hence is an equivalence.

Let \(ua : (M_\perp = N_\perp) \rightarrow (M_\perp \cong N_\perp)\) be given by the univalence axiom. First we show that \(ua(e)^{-1}(N') = (L_{e}^\prime)^\prime N'\) for any \(e : M_\perp \cong N_\perp\), where \(ua(e)^{-1}\) denotes transport along \(ua(e)^{-1}\). Now the square in Figure 2 commutes (up to \(\equiv\)) since both functions \((M_\perp = N_\perp) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}_{M_\perp}^\prime) \rightarrow \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}_{N_\perp}^\prime)\) send \(\text{refl}_{M_\perp}\) to \(1_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}_{M_\perp})}\) (by strict
functoriality of the pullback). Precomposing these with \(ua\), we find that \((\mathcal{L}^\prime_\epsilon)^*N’ = ua(e)^{-1}(N’).\) Now we have that

\[
(M = N) = \sum_{p:M_1 = N_1} M' = p^{-1}(N')
\]

\[
= \sum_{e:M \cong N} M' = ua(e)^{-1}(N')
\]

\[
= \sum_{e:M \cong N} M' = (\mathcal{L}^\prime_\epsilon)^*N'
\]

\[
\equiv (M \cong N)
\]

where the second identification is the univalence axiom and the fourth is our inductive hypothesis. This equivalence, from left to right, is \(\text{idtoiso}_{M,N} \). \(\square\)

Proposition 5.7 relies on the univalence axiom; conversely, the univalence axiom can be recovered as an instance of Proposition 5.7, for the signature consisting of just one sort.

**Example 5.8.** When precategories are regarded as \(\mathcal{L}_{\text{cat}}\)-structures, their isomorphisms are the isomorphisms of precategories from [2, Def. 6.9] and [26, Def. 9.4.8]: functors that induce equivalences on hom-types and also equivalences on types of objects (relative to homotopical identifications of objects, not isomorphisms in the category structure).

**Remark 5.9.** We expect that isomorphisms of structures can equivalently be characterized via the existence of a structure morphism in the other direction and composites that are (homotopically) identical to identities.

The analogue for \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures of equivalences of precategories, called (split-surjective) equivalences of \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures, will be introduced in Section 7. Our main result, Theorem 7.6, will be that between univalent \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures these are also equivalent to identifications. However, first we have to define univalence of \(\mathcal{L}\)-structures.

6 INDISCERNIBILITY AND UNIVALENCE

In this section we define indiscernibility of objects within an \(\mathcal{L}\)-structure. We then define a structure to be univalent when indiscernibility coincides with identification of objects.

Let \(M\) be an \(\mathcal{L}\)-structure, \(K : \mathcal{L}_1\), and \(a, b : M\_K\). To define indiscernibilities from \(a\) to \(b\), we consider a new \(\mathcal{L}\)-structure obtained by adding to \(M\) one element at sort \(K\): a “joker” element. We can substitute this new element by \(a\) or by \(b\); below, we call the obtained structures \(\partial_aM\) and \(\partial_bM\), respectively. An indiscernibility from \(a\) to \(b\) will be defined below to be an isomorphism of structures from \(\partial_aM\) to \(\partial_bM\) that is the identity on all the sorts not depending on the joker element. Intuitively, this means that \(a\) and \(b\) are isomorphic when one cannot discern one from the other using the rest of the structure \(M\). To make this intuition formal, we need two auxiliary definitions:

**Definition 6.1.** Consider \(L : \mathcal{U}, K : L, M : L \rightarrow \mathcal{U}, a : M(K)\). We define the **indicator function of** \(K\) to be

\[
[K] \equiv \lambda x. (x = K) : L \rightarrow \mathcal{U}
\]

and we define the function \(a : \prod_{x:L}[K]_I(x) \rightarrow M(x)\) by sending \(\text{refl}_K : [K](K)\) to \(a : M(K)\).

Below we consider the pointwise disjoint union \(M + [K]\) in \(L \rightarrow \mathcal{U}\), the canonical injection \(\iota_M : \prod_{x:L}M(x) \rightarrow (M + [K])(x)\), and the induced function \((\iota_M, a) : \prod_{x:L}(M + [K])(x) \rightarrow M(x)\).
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**Definition 6.2.** Consider \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1), K : \mathcal{L}_\perp, M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}), a : M_L(K) \). Define
\[
\partial_a M \equiv (L'_{(1M_L, a)})^* M' : \text{Str}(L'_{M_L + [k]}).
\]

Note that we require the type \( \mathcal{L}_\perp \) to be fibrant so that the fibrant indicator function \([K]\) exists. Now we can define the type of indiscernibilities between objects within an \( \mathcal{L} \)-structure:

**Definition 6.3 (Indiscernibility).** Consider \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1), K : \mathcal{L}_\perp, M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}), a, b : M_L(K) \). We define the type of **indiscernibilities from** \( a \) **to** \( b \) to be
\[
(a \cong b) \equiv \sum_{\partial_a M = \partial_b M} \epsilon_a^{-1} \cdot (L'_{(1M_L)})^p \cdot \epsilon_b = M' \equiv \text{refl}_{M'},
\]
where \( \epsilon_x \) is the concatenated identification
\[
(L'_{(1M_L)})^p \partial_x M' \equiv (L'_{(1M_L)})^p (L'_{(1M_L), x})^* M' = (L'_{(1M_L)})^* M' = M'.
\]

**Lemma 6.4.** The type \( a \cong b \) of Definition 6.3 is fibrant. \( \Box \)

**Remark 6.5.** Using identification instead of isomorphism of structures in Definition 6.3 is justified by Proposition 5.7.

**Lemma 6.6.** The type of indiscernibilities \( a \cong b \) of Definition 6.3 is equivalent to the type
\[
\sum_{\partial_a M = \partial_b M} (L'_{(1M_L)})^p = \epsilon_a \cdot \epsilon_b^{-1}.
\]

We now define **univalence of** \( \mathcal{L} \)-**structures**. For this, we first need to define the canonical map from identifications to indiscernibilities.

**Definition 6.7 (Identity indiscernibility).** For \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1), K : \mathcal{L}_\perp, M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}), \) and \( m : M_L(K) \), we define the indiscernibility \( 1 \equiv m \equiv m \). Let \( M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \). For any \( a : M_L(K) \), we have \( \text{refl}_{\partial_a M} : \partial_a M = \partial_a M \). Then
\[
\epsilon_a^{-1} \cdot (L'_{(1M_L)})^*(\text{refl}_{\partial_a M}) \cdot \epsilon_a \\
\equiv \epsilon_a^{-1} \cdot \text{refl}_{(L'_{(1M_L)})^*} \partial_a M \cdot \epsilon_a \\
= \text{refl}_{M'},
\]
where the second identification uses the groupoidal properties of types. This gives the desired indiscernibility.

**Definition 6.8.** Consider \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1), K : \mathcal{L}_\perp, M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \). For any \( a, b : M_L(K) \), let \( \text{idtoiso}_{a, b} : (a = b) \rightarrow (a \cong b) \) be the function which sends \( \text{refl}_a \) to the identity indiscernibility exhibited in Definition 6.7.

We say that \( M \) is **univalent at** \( K \) if for all \( a, b : M_L(K) \), \( \text{idtoiso}_{a, b} : (a = b) \rightarrow (a \cong b) \) is an equivalence.

**Definition 6.9 (Univalence of structures).** We define by induction what it means for a structure of a signature \( \mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n) \) to be univalent.

When \( n \equiv 0 \), every structure \( M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) is univalent.
Otherwise, a structure \( M : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) is univalent if \( M \) is univalent at all \( K : \mathcal{L}_\perp \) and \( M' \) is univalent. Let \( u\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) denote the type of univalent structures of \( \mathcal{L} \).

**Lemma 6.10.** Let \( \mathcal{L} \) be a signature.

- The type \( u\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \) is fibrant.
- For any \( \mathcal{L} \)-structure, “being univalent” is a proposition.
- Identification of univalent \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures corresponds to identification of the underlying \( \mathcal{L} \)-structures. \( \Box \)
Example 6.11. Suppose \( \mathcal{L} \) has height 1, hence is just a type \( \mathcal{L}_\perp \). Consider an \( \mathcal{L} \)-structure \( M : \mathcal{L}_\perp \to \mathcal{U} \) and \( a, b : M(K) \). Then \( \partial_a M \) and \( \partial_b M \) are structures for the trivial signature of height 0, hence uniquely identified; thus \( (a \times b) = 1 \). So any structure of a signature \( \mathcal{L} \) of height 1 is univalent just when it consists entirely of propositions.

Example 6.12. Recall from Examples 4.4 that for \( \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{cat+E}} \), we have \( \mathcal{L}_\perp = 1 \), \( M_\perp = MO : \mathcal{U} \), \( \mathcal{L}'_{\text{MO}_\perp} = MO \times MO \), and \( (M')_\perp = MA : MO \times MO \to \mathcal{U} \), while \( M'' \) consists of the sorts \( MT_{x,y,z}(f, g, h), M_{x}(f) \), and \( ME_{x,y}(f, g) \). By Example 6.11, \( M'' \) is univalent just when all these types are propositions. Now for any \( a, b : MO \), we have

\[
(\mathcal{L}'_{MO})_{MA = [A(a,b)]}(x, y) = MA(x, y) + ((a = x) \times (b = y)).
\]

Thus, the height-1 signature \( (\mathcal{L}'_{MO})_{MA = [A(a,b)]} \) is

\[
(\sum_{(x,y,z : MO)}(MA(x, y) + ((a = x) \times (b = y))) \times MA(y, z) + ((a = y) \times (b = z))) \times MA(x, z) + ((a = x) \times (b = z)))
\]

\[
+ (\sum_{x : MO}(MA(x, x) + ((a = x) \times (b = x))))
\]

\[
+ (\sum_{x, y : MO}(MA(x, y) + ((a = x) \times (b = y))) \times MA(x, y) + ((a = x) \times (b = y))))
\]

By distributing \( \sum \) and \( \times \) over \( + \) and contracting some singletons, this is equivalent to

\[(\sum_{x,y,z : MO} MA(x, y) \times MA(y, z) \times MA(x, z)) \]

\[(\sum_{x : MO} MA(b, z) \times MA(a, z)) \]

\[(\sum_{x : MO} MA(x, a) \times MA(x, b)) \]

\[(\sum_{y : MO} MA(a, y) \times MA(y, b)) \]

\[+ ((a = b) \times MA(a, b)) \]

\[+ (MA(a, a) \times (b = b)) \]

\[+ ((a = a) \times MA(b, b)) \]

\[+ ((a = b) \times (a = a) \times (b = b)) \]

\[+ (\sum_{x : MO} MA(x, x)) \]

\[+ ((a = b)) \]

\[+ (\sum_{x, y : MO} MA(x, y) \times MA(x, y)) \]

\[+ (MA(a, b)) \]

\[+ (MA(a, b)) \]

\[+ ((a = a) \times (b = b)). \]

Thus for \( f, g : MA(a,b) \), an identification \( \partial_f M = \partial_g M \) consists of equivalences between instances of the predicates \( MT, MI, ME \) indexed over the types (31)–(44). The condition on restriction along \( t \) says that the equivalences corresponding to (31), (39), and (41) are the identity, while those corresponding to (32)–(34), (35)–(38), (40), and (42)–(44) yield respectively the equivalences (20)–(22), (23)–(26), (27), and (28)–(30) from Section 2.3. Hence, indiscernibilities \( f \simeq g \) in the sense of Definition 6.3 coincide with the indiscernibilities from Definition 2.10.

Now moving back down to the bottom rank, an \( (\mathcal{L}'_{MO}) \)-structure consists of \( MA : MO \times MO \to \mathcal{U} \) together with appropriately typed families \( MT, MI, \) and \( ME \). Since \( (MO + [O]) = MO + 1 \), for \( a : MO \) the 0th rank of \( \partial_a M \) is

\[(\partial_a M)A : (MO + 1) \times (MO + 1) \to \mathcal{U} \]
or equivalently
\[(\partial_a M)A : (MO \times MO) + MO + MO + 1 \to U\]
consisting of the types \((MA(x, y))_{x : MO}, (MA(a, y))_{y : MO}, (MA(x, a))_{x : MO}, \text{and } MA(a, a)\). The 1st rank consists of \(MT, MI, \text{and } ME\) pulled back appropriately to these families. Thus, an identification \(\partial_a M = \partial_b M\) consists of equivalences
\[
\begin{align*}
MA(x, y) &\equiv MA(x, y) \quad (45) \\
MA(x, a) &\equiv MA(x, b) \quad (46) \\
MA(a, y) &\equiv MA(b, y) \quad (47) \\
MA(a, a) &\equiv MA(b, b) \quad (48)
\end{align*}
\]
for all \(x, y : MO\) that respect the predicates \(MT, MI, ME\). The condition on restriction along \(\iota\) says that the equivalences (45) are the identity, while the remaining (46)–(48) correspond respectively to the equivalences \(\phi_x, \phi_y, \text{and } \phi_*\) from Section 2.3. Finally, respect for \(MT, MI, ME\) specializes to (9)–(16) together with analogous equivalences for \(E\) that are trivial under “standardness” of identifications. Thus, indiscernibilities \(a \equiv b\) in the sense of Definition 6.3 coincide with the indiscernibilities from Definition 2.5.

Our first general observations about univalent structures give truncation bounds for their sorts and for the type of such structures.

**Theorem 6.13.** Let \(L : \text{Sig}(n + 1), M : \text{uStr}(L), K : L_{\perp}.\) Then \(M_{\perp}(K)\) is an \((n - 1)\)-type.

**Theorem 6.14.** Let \(L : \text{Sig}(n).\) The type of univalent \(L\)-structures is an \((n - 1)\)-type.

**Proof of Theorems 6.13 and 6.14.** Define the following types.
\[
P(n) \equiv \prod_{L : \text{Sig}(n + 1)} \prod_{M : \text{uStr}(L)} \prod_{K : L_{\perp}} \text{is}-(n - 1)\text{-type}(M_{\perp}(K))
\]
\[
Q(n) \equiv \prod_{M, N : \text{Sig}(n)} \prod_{a : \text{hom}(M, N)} \text{is}-(n - 2)\text{-type}(\alpha^* N = \alpha^* N)
\]
The type \(P(n)\) is the statement of Theorem 6.13, and the type \(Q(n)\) implies the statement of Theorem 6.14 by [26, Thm. 7.2.7]. We prove \(P(n)\) and \(Q(n)\) simultaneously.

For \(P(n)\), we need to show that \(a =_{M_{\perp} K} b\) is an \((n - 2)\)-type for all \(L : \text{Sig}(n + 1), M : \text{uStr}(L), K : L_{\perp}, a, b : M_{\perp} K\). But since \(M\) is univalent, this type is equivalent to
\[
(a \equiv b) \equiv \sum_{e : \text{hom}(M, M')} e^a \cdot (L_{\perp}^{(M)})^e \cdot e_b =_{M' = M'} \text{refl}_{M'}.
\]
Thus, it will suffice to show that \(\partial_a M = \partial_b M\) and \(e^{-1} \cdot (L_{\perp}^{(M)})^e \cdot e_b =_{M' = M'} \text{refl}_{M'}\) are \((n - 2)\)-types.

To show \(P(0)\) and \(Q(0)\) consider \(L : \text{Sig}(1), M : \text{uStr}(L), K : L_{\perp}, a, b : M_{\perp} K, M, N : \text{Sig}(0), a : \text{hom}(M, N), N : \text{uStr}(N)\). We have that \(M', \partial_a M, \partial_b M, \alpha^* N : 1\) so the types \(\partial_a M = \partial_b M, e^{-1} \cdot (L_{\perp}^{(M)})^e \cdot e_b =_{M' = M'} \text{refl}_{M'},\) and \(\alpha^* N = \alpha^* N\) are contractible. Thus, \(P(0)\) and \(Q(0)\) hold.

Suppose that \(P(n)\) and \(Q(n)\) hold. We first show \(Q(n + 1)\). Consider \(M, N : \text{Sig}(n + 1), a : \text{hom}(M, N), N : \text{uStr}(N)\). We have that
\[
(\alpha^* N = \alpha^* N) \equiv \sum_{e : (\alpha^* N)_{\equiv (\alpha^* N)}} (\alpha^* N)' = e_* (\alpha^* N)'
\]
\[
\equiv \sum_{e : (N_{\equiv \alpha_{\equiv N}} \equiv (N_{\equiv \alpha_{\equiv N}})')} (\alpha'_{N_{\equiv \alpha_{\equiv N}}})' N' = e_* (\alpha'_{N_{\equiv \alpha_{\equiv N}}})' N'.
\]
Our inductive hypothesis $Q(n)$ ensures that $(\alpha'_{N_k})'N' = (\alpha'_{N_k})'N'$ is an $(n - 2)$-type, and hence $(\alpha'_{N_k})'N' = e,(\alpha'_{N_k})'N'$ is an $(n - 1)$-type by [26, Thm. 7.2.7]. It remains to show that $(N_L \circ \alpha_p) = (N_L \circ \alpha_p)$ is an $(n - 1)$-type. Note that $N$ is a univalent structure of an $(n + 1)$-signature, and our inductive hypothesis $P(n)$ then implies that for all $K : N_L$, the type $N_L(K)$ is an $(n - 1)$-type. Then since $(N_L \circ \alpha_p)$ is a function which takes values in $(n - 1)$-types, we can conclude that $(N_L \circ \alpha_p) = (N_L \circ \alpha_p)$ is an $(n - 1)$-type [26, Thm. 7.1.9]. Thus, $Q(n + 1)$ holds.

To show that $P(n + 1)$ holds, consider $L : \text{Sig}(n + 2), M : \text{uStr}(L), K : L_{\perp}, a, b : M L K$. By [26, Thm. 7.2.7], $Q(n + 1)$ implies that $\partial_0 M = \partial_0 M$ and $\epsilon^{-1}_n \cdot (L'_\text{is})'p \cdot \epsilon_b = M = M'\refl_{M'}$ are $(n - 2)$-types. Therefore, $P(n + 1)$ holds.

Example 6.15. For the signature $L_{\text{cat}^+}$ of height 3, Theorem 6.13 states that the type of objects of a univalent $L_{\text{cat}^+}$-structure, and hence also of a univalent FOLDS-category, is a 1-type. Theorem 6.14 states that the type of univalent $L_{\text{cat}^+}$-structures, and hence also the type of univalent FOLDS-categories (as a subtype of the former), is a 2-type.

7 EQUIVALENCE OF STRUCTURES AND THE HIGHER SIP

Our Higher Structure Identity Principle (Theorem 7.10) requires a notion of equivalence of structures that is a priori weaker than Definition 5.4. In the case of (pre)categories, there are two natural candidates for such a notion:

- A weak equivalence is a functor $f : M \to N$ that is fully faithful (each function $MA(x, y) \to NA(fx, fy)$ is an isomorphism of sets) and essentially surjective ($\prod_{\text{(NO)}} \| \sum_{\text{(MO)}} (fx = y) \| )$.
- A (strong) equivalence is a functor $f : M \to N$ for which there is a functor $g : N \to M$ and natural isomorphisms $gf \equiv 1_N$ and $fg \equiv 1_M$. By [2, Lemma 6.6], this is equivalent to being fully faithful and split essentially surjective ($\prod_{\text{(NO)}} \sum_{\text{(MO)}} (fx = y)$).

In addition, there are two important related auxiliary notions:

- A surjective weak equivalence is a functor $f : M \to N$ that is fully faithful (each function $MA(x, y) \to NA(fx, fy)$ is an isomorphism of sets) and surjective on objects ($\prod_{\text{(NO)}} \| \sum_{\text{(MO)}} (fx = y) \| )$.
- A split-surjective equivalence is a functor $f : M \to N$ that is fully faithful (each function $MA(x, y) \to NA(fx, fy)$ is an isomorphism of sets) and split-surjective on objects ($\prod_{\text{(NO)}} \sum_{\text{(MO)}} (fx = y)$).

Note that the latter two do not require knowing what an isomorphism between objects is. Furthermore, fully-faithfulness can be split into fullness (each function $MA(x, y) \to NA(fx, fy)$ is surjective\(^5\)) and faithfulness (each function $MA(x, y) \to NA(fx, fy)$ is injective), while faithfulness is equivalent to surjectivity on equalities: each function $MEx_y(p, q) \to NEfx_y(fp,fq)$ is surjective (which implies a similar property for $T$ and $I$). This suggests the following generalizations that apply to structures over any signature.

Definition 7.1 (Split-surjective equivalence). Suppose $f : \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(L)}(M, N)$, where $M, N : \text{Str}(L)$ and $L : \text{Sig}(n)$. If $n := 0$, then $f$ is a split-surjective equivalence. For $n > 0$, $f$ is a split-surjective equivalence if

1. $f_\ell(K)$ is a split surjection for every $K : L_{\perp},$ and
2. $f'$ is a split-surjective equivalence.

Surjective weak equivalences are defined similarly, but only requiring each $f_\ell(K)$ to be surjective.

Makkai defined surjective weak equivalences under the name very surjective morphisms; other names for them include Reedy surjections and trivial fibrations. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to prove our desired general result with surjective weak equivalences, so for the present we restrict to the split-surjective equivalences.

\(^5\)Or split-surjective; in the presence of faithfulness the two are equivalent.
A Higher Structure Identity Principle

We write $\text{SSEquiv}(f)$ for the type “$f$ is a split-surjective equivalence”, which in the inductive case is

$$\text{SSEquiv}(f) := \prod_{(K : \mathcal{L})} \prod_{(y : N)} \sum_{x : M} (f_\ast(K)(x) = y) \times \text{SSEquiv}(f')$$

and $(M \to N) := \sum_{f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N)} \text{SSEquiv}(f)$ for the type of split-surjective equivalences.

**Lemma 7.2.** The type $M \to N$ of split-surjective equivalences is fibrant. □

**Definition 7.3 (From isomorphisms to split-surjective equivalences).** Let $f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(\mathcal{L})}(M, N)$; we define $U_f : \text{isIso}(f) \to \text{SSEquiv}(f)$ by induction on $n$. If $n : 0$, $U_f$ is the identity function on $1$. For $n > 0$, we use that any equivalence of types is a split surjection, and the inductive hypothesis. Let $\text{idtosse}_{M, N} : (1, U) : (M \equiv N) \to (M \to N)$.

**Definition 7.4 (From identifications to split-surjective equivalences).** For $\mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n)$ and $M, N : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L})$ we define

$$\text{idtosse} : \equiv \text{idtosse} \circ \text{idtoiso} : (M = N) \to (M \to N)$$

Our first HSIP states that if $M$ is univalent, then $\text{idtosse}_{M, N}$ is an equivalence. It uses the following lemma.

**Lemma 7.5.** Let $\mathcal{L} : \text{Sig}(n + 1)$, $M, N : \text{Str}(\mathcal{L})$, $f_\perp : M \to N$, and $e : M' = (L'_{f_\perp})^\ast N'$. Then for $x, y : M(K)$, an indiscernibility $f_\perp x = f_\perp y$ produces an indiscernibility $x = y$.

**Proof.** By path induction on $e$, we may assume $M' = (L'_{f_\perp})^\ast N'$.

Consider the following diagram whose cells commute up to $\equiv$ or $=$, as pictured.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
M_L & \xrightarrow{s} & M_L + [K] \\
\downarrow f_L & \equiv & \downarrow f_L + [K] \\
N_L & \xrightarrow{i_{N_L}} & N_L + [K] \\
\end{array}
\quad \quad \begin{array}{ccc}
1_{M_L} & \equiv & 1_{M_L} + [K] \\
\downarrow & \equiv & \downarrow \\
1_{N_L} & \equiv & 1_{N_L} + [K] \\
\end{array}
\]

This diagram commutes 2-dimensionally, which is to say that the “pasting” of all four displayed identities is strictly equal to the strict (indeed, judgemental) equality $f_L \circ 1_{M_L} \equiv 1_{N_L} \circ f_L$. Applying the composite $s$-functor $\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}')$, we obtain:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{M_L}) & \xrightarrow{s(\epsilon_{x})} & \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{M_L + [K]}) \\
\uparrow (L'_{f_L}) & \equiv & \uparrow (L'_{f_L} + [K]) \\
\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{N_L}) & \xleftarrow{(L'_{f_L})} & \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{N_L + [K]}) \\
\end{array}
\quad \quad \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{M_L}) & \equiv & \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{M_L + [K]}) \\
\uparrow (L'_{f_L}) & \equiv & \uparrow (L'_{f_L} + [K]) \\
\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{N_L}) & \equiv & \text{Str}(\mathcal{L}'_{N_L + [K]}) \\
\end{array}
\]

which commutes in the same way. Moreover, the upper and lower strict equalities in this diagram are $\epsilon_x$ and $\epsilon_{f_L x}$ respectively; we call the others $\alpha$ and $\beta_x$.

We have an analogous diagram for $y$, in which the left-hand square $\alpha$ is the same.
When \( n \) (which is strict, though /y.alt \( \vdash \) /y.alt \( \) is not). The same can be shown for an identification \( \sigma \). The 2-dimensional identification labeled \( \nu \) is an isomorphism, thus it remains to show each \( \epsilon \) in \( \nu \) is a right inverse. Since \( \epsilon \) arises from \( \nu \) is strict, \( \epsilon \) is strict. Consider the commutative diagram in Figure 3 where straight lines denote strict equalities, squiggly lines denote identifications, and double (squiggly) lines denote identifications between identifications. The 2-dimensional identification labeled \( \nu \) arises from naturality, while those labeled \( \sigma \) arise from the 2-dimensional commutativity of Diag. (50). The concatenation of the three top horizontal identifications in Figure 3 is \( (L'_{\text{ML}})^* \). Thus, Figure 3 exhibits an identification of this with \( \epsilon \cdot \epsilon^{-1} \).

**Theorem 7.6 (Higher SIP, Split-surjective case).** Consider \( L : \text{Sig}(n) \) and \( M, N : \text{Str}(L) \) such that \( M \) is univalent. The morphism idosse : \( (M = N) \to (M \to N) \) is an equivalence.

**Proof.** It suffices to show that each \( U_f \) of Definition 7.3 is an equivalence. We proceed by induction on \( n \). When \( n = 0 \), each \( U_f \) is an endofunction on \( 1 \), and so is an equivalence.

When \( n > 0 \), we first construct a map \( F_f : \text{SSEquiv}(f) \to \text{islos}(f) \). Consider an element of \( \text{SSEquiv}(f) \): a right inverse \( s(K) \) of \( f_+(K) \) for each \( K : L \), and \( s' : \text{SSEquiv}(f') \). Since \( M' \) is univalent, the inductive hypothesis for \( s' \) implies \( f' \) is an isomorphism; thus it remains to show each \( f_+(K) \) is an equivalence.
We have \(s(K)\) is a right inverse of \(f_\alpha(K)\), it remains to show that we have \(s(K)f_\alpha(K)m = m\) for any \(m : M_\perp(K)\). We have \(f_\alpha(K)(s(K)f_\alpha(K)m) = f_\alpha(K)m\) and thus \(f_\alpha(K)(s(K)f_\alpha(K)m) \equiv f_\alpha(K)m\). We have already shown that \(f'\) is an isomorphism \(M' \equiv (f_\alpha')^*N'\); so by Proposition 5.7, we get \(M' = (F_\perp)^*N'\). Thus, by Lemma 7.5, we have \(s(K)f_\perp(K)m = m\); and since \(M\) is univalent this yields \(s(K)f_\perp(K)m = m\).

Thus, given our \((\lambda K s(K), s') : \text{SEquiv}(f)\), we have constructed an element of \(\text{SSEquiv}(f)\); this defines \(F_\perp : \text{SSEquiv}(f) \to \text{isIso}(f)\). Since \(\text{isIso}(f)\) is a proposition (by Lemma 5.5), \(F_\perp U_\perp = 1\). Moreover, we constructed \(F_\perp\) and \(U_\perp\) such that \(U_\perp F_\perp = 1\). Hence, \(U_\perp : \text{isIso}(f) \to \text{SSEquiv}(f)\) is an equivalence.

Thus, the function \(\text{isosse}_{M,N} : (M \equiv_L N) \to (M \to N)\) is also an equivalence. Using Proposition 5.7, we find that idtosse : \((M = N) \to (M \to N)\) is an equivalence.

**Example 7.7.** An equivalence between univalent FOLDS-categories is the same as a fully faithful and split essentially surjective functor, which by [2, Lemma 6.6] is the same as an equivalence of categories. Thus, Theorem 7.6 specializes to [2, Theorem 6.17].

We now move on to consider equivalences that are only essentially surjective. Makkai was unable to define non-surjective equivalences directly, instead considering **spans** of surjective equivalences; but with our notion of indiscernibility we can avoid this detour. However, we do have to be careful in the inductive step, because when considering \(f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(L)}(M, N)\) we want all the indiscernibilities to lie in \(N\) and its derivatives directly, **not** in their pullbacks to derivatives at \(M\). This forces us define a somewhat more general notion.

For \(a, b : M_\perp(K)\), we write \(a \equiv^M_N b\) instead of \(a \equiv b\) if needed to eliminate ambiguity.

**Definition 7.8 (Relative equivalence).** Let \(L, M : \text{Sig}(n)\) and \(\alpha : \text{hom}_{\text{Sig}(n)}(L, M)\), let \(M : \text{Str}(L)\) and \(N : \text{Str}(M)\), and let \(f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(L)}(M_\perp, N_\perp)\). If \(n = 0\), then \(f\) is an equivalence relative to \(\alpha\). For \(n > 0\), \(f\) is an equivalence relative to \(\alpha\) if

1. For all \(K : M_\perp\) and \(y : N_\perp(\alpha_\perp(K))\), we have a specified \(x : M_\perp(K)\) and indiscernibility \(f_\perp(x) \equiv^N_{\alpha_\perp(K)} y\).
2. \(f' : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(L)}(M_\perp, N_\perp)\) is an equivalence relative to the composite \([L_\perp : L_\perp', \alpha_\perp] : M_\perp \to N_\perp\).

**Relative weak equivalences** are defined similarly, but requiring only \(\| \sum_{x : M_\perp(K)} (f_\perp(x) \equiv^N_{\alpha_\perp(K)} y) \|^\perp\) for each \(K, y\).

An unadorned **equivalence** means one relative to \(\equiv \equiv 1_L\). We write \(\text{SEquiv}_\alpha(f)\) for the type “\(f\) is an equivalence relative to \(\alpha\)”, which in the inductive case means

\[
\text{SEquiv}_\alpha(f) := \left( \prod_{(K : L)} \prod_{(y : N_\perp(\alpha_\perp(K)))} \sum_{x : M_\perp(K)} \left( f_\perp(K)(x) \equiv^N_{\alpha_\perp(K)} y \right) \right) \times \text{SEquiv}_\alpha(f')
\]

and \((M \equiv N) := \sum_{f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(L)}(M, N)} \text{SEquiv}_1(f)\) for the type of equivalences.

Importantly, \(f_\perp(x) \equiv^N_{\alpha_\perp(K)} y\) is distinct from \(f_\perp(x) \equiv^\alpha_\perp N y\), even though \((\alpha^N_\perp)(K) \equiv N_\perp(\alpha_\perp(K))\) by definition.

**Lemma 7.9.** For \(f : \text{hom}_{\text{Str}(L)}(M, \alpha^N_\perp)\), we have a map \(\text{SEquiv}(f) \to \text{SEquiv}_\alpha(f)\), which is an equivalence if \(N\) is univalent.

---

4 Since we showed that \(f_\perp(K)\) was an equivalence by making \(s(K)\) a homotopy inverse of it, and \(U_\perp\) remembers not just the inverse map but one of the homotopies, we technically have to use here the fact that a homotopy inverse of a function \(g\) can be enhanced to an element of \(\text{isEquiv}(g)\) while changing at most one of the constituent homotopies.
Working in 2LTT, we do not need to devise a language for invariant properties ourselves; instead, we can rely on the homotopical fragment of 2LTT to sufficiently constrain our language.

One of Makkai’s goals was to define, for a given (FOLDS)-signature $\mathcal{L}$, a language for properties that are invariant under $\mathcal{L}$-equivalence. He calls such invariance the “Principle of Isomorphism” [20]:

The basic character of the Principle of Isomorphism is that of a constraint on the language of Abstract Mathematics; a welcome one, since it provides for the separation of sense from nonsense.

Working in 2LTT, we do not need to devise a language for invariant properties ourselves; instead, we can rely on the homotopical fragment of 2LTT to sufficiently constrain our language.\footnote{An internally-syntactic description of such “axioms” might nevertheless prove useful in the future.}

**Definition 8.1.** Let $\mathcal{L}$ be a signature. An $\mathcal{L}$-**axiom** is a function $\text{Str}(\mathcal{L}) \to \text{Prop}_{\text{ft}}$.

**Example 8.2.** The axioms given in Equation (4) and Equation (5) in Section 2.2 straightforwardly give rise to axioms for the signature $\mathcal{L}_{\text{cat+}}$.
A Higher Structure Identity Principle

The following is a simple consequence of our main result:

**Corollary 8.3.** Any $L$-axiom $t$ is invariant under equivalence of $L$-structures: given $L$-structures $M$, $N$ and a split-surjective equivalence $M \to N$, then $t(M) \leftrightarrow t(N)$.

A theory is a pair $(L, T)$ of a signature $L$ and a family $T$ of $L$-axioms whose indexing type is fibrant; e.g., a list of five axioms can be specified by a family indexed by the standard finite fibrant type of five elements. A (univalent) model of a theory $(L, T)$ then consists of a (univalent) $L$-structure $M$ together with a proof $t(M)$ for each axiom $t$ of $T$. The type of such models is fibrant. In the next section, we discuss some particular theories and their univalent models.

9 EXAMPLES OF THEORIES

In this section, we discuss some examples of theories and their (univalent) structures.

**Example 9.1 (First-order logic).** Consider a many-sorted first-order theory with relations and equality (assumed to be a congruence):

- Univalence at $E_i$ and $R_i$ makes them proposition-valued.
- Univalence at $A_i$ makes it a set whose equality is $E_i$.

We recover first-order logic with equality. Any instance of this example, with sorts $(A_i)_{i : I}$, is also an instance of the SIP [26, Section 9.9] over $\text{Set}^I$, including the examples of posets, monoids, groups, and fields mentioned in Section 1.2.

**Example 9.2 ($\dagger$-categories).** A $\dagger$-category is a category with coherent isomorphisms $(_{-})^{\dagger} : \text{hom}(x, y) \to \text{hom}(y, x)$. This is an interesting example to consider in structural approaches to category theory, since the correct notion of "sameness" for objects of a $\dagger$-category is not ordinary isomorphism but rather unitary isomorphism (one satisfying $f^{-1} = f^{\dagger}$), and similarly "$\dagger$-structure" on a category does not transport naturally across equivalence of categories. In our framework we can deal with this by incorporating the $\dagger$-structure into the signature, represented of course by its graph. A signature for $\dagger$-categories is as follows,

with $\text{co} \overset{\dagger}{=} \text{di}$ and $\text{do} \overset{\dagger}{=} \text{ci}$ and the strict equalities of Figure 1. Then for $\dagger$-categories regarded as structures:

- An indiscernibility between $x, y : MO$ is a unitary isomorphism $f : x \cong y$.
- In a univalent $\dagger$-category, $O$ is the groupoid of objects and unitary isomorphisms.
- Equivalences of structures are $\dagger$-equivalences, involving unitary natural isomorphisms.
Example 9.3 (Presheaves). The signature of a category with a presheaf on it is as follows:

![Diagram of a category with a presheaf]

with the equations $da = o\left(d\right)$ and $ca = o\left(c\right)$. Given a structure $M$ of this signature, univalence at $PA$ means that $MPA(f, a, b)$ is a proposition, intuitively indicating that the function $P(f)$ maps $b$ to $a$. In particular, one of the axioms we need to impose to carve out the presheaves among the structures is

$$PA(f, a, b) \to PA(f, a', b) \to PE(a, a').$$

Univalence at $PO$ means that $MPO(x)$ is a set with equality $PE$, as expected for a presheaf. Univalence at $A$ means that $MA(x, y)$ is a set with equality $ME$, as in a category: the additional dependency $PA$ doesn’t disrupt this since we impose additional axioms saying that $E$ is a congruence for it as well. Finally, an indiscernibility between elements of $MO$ consists of an indiscernibility (hence just an isomorphism) in the underlying category, together with a coherent bijection on values of the presheaf; but by an argument similar to that of Section 2, the latter part is trivial. Thus, a univalent structure satisfying appropriate axioms is precisely a univalent category together with a presheaf on it.

A map $f : \text{hom}(M, N)$ of structures consists of a functor $f$ between the underlying categories (given by the components $O, A, T, I, E$) of the signature, together with a natural transformation between the presheaves specified by $M$ and $N$ (given by the components $PO, PA$, and $PE$). Here, the component of $f$ on $PA$ encodes naturality. If $f$ is an equivalence of structures, then its underlying functor is an equivalence; moreover essential surjectivity on the component $PA$ implies injectivity of the underlying natural transformation, whereas on $PO$ it implies that the natural transformation is pointwise surjective—thus it is a natural isomorphism.

Example 9.4 (Functors; [18, Section 6]). Just as we can represent the composition operation in a category by the relation $T$, we can describe two categories and a functor between them by adding “relations” between their objects and arrows:

![Diagram of two categories and a functor]

with the obvious equations on arrows. Here, $DO$ is the sort of objects of the domain category (with $D$ in $DO$ standing for “domain”), $CO$ the sort of objects in the codomain, and $FO(x, y)$ the sort of “witnesses that $F(x) = y$”.

For instance, if $F$ is a cartesian product functor, then an element of $FO((x_1, x_2), y)$ would be a product diagram $x_1 \leftarrow y \rightarrow x_2$. Note that $FO$ does not generally consist of mere propositions: an object $y : CO$ can “be the image” of $x : DO$ in more than one way. (For instance, a single object can be a cartesian product of two objects $x_1, x_2$ in more than one way.)

Given two such witnesses $w_1 : FO(x_1, y_1)$ and $w_2 : FO(x_2, y_2)$ and morphisms $g : DA(x_1, x_2)$ and $h : CA(y_1, y_2)$, an element of $FA(w_1, w_2, g, h)$ represents the assertion that $F(g) = h$ according to the witnesses $w_1$ and $w_2$. We
impose axioms stating that \( F \) does have a value on each possible input object and arrow, e.g., \( \forall x : DO, \exists y : CO, FO(x, y) \), and that composition, identities, and equality are preserved. The result is what Makkai [19] calls an anafunctor, whose “values” can be specified only up to isomorphism; if dependencies are forgotten, it can be thought of as a span of functors between (pre)categories in which the first leg is a surjective equivalence.

As in Example 9.3, univalence at \( DA \) and \( CA \) just means they are sets with equalities \( DE \) and \( CE \). Univalence at \( FO \) is more subtle since it has no specified equality; of course it implies that two witnesses \( w_1, w_2 : FO(x, y) \) are equal if they induce the same action on all arrows whose domain or codomain (or both) is \( x \). This is the uniqueness part of “saturatedness” for an anafunctor; the rest can be imposed by a pure existence axiom.

Uniscernibility at \( DO \) and \( CO \) does not reduce to ordinary univalence of the domain and codomain categories. An indiscernibility in \( DO \) is an isomorphism in the domain category equipped with a transport function for \( FO \), i.e., an isomorphism \( x_1 \cong x_2 \) together with bijections \( FO(x_1, y) \cong FO(x_2, y) \) that respect the functorial action on arrows (\( FA \)), and similarly for \( CO \). Note that since \( F \) acts on isomorphisms, transport for isomorphisms in the domain can be obtained from transport in the codomain. Thus, if an anafunctor is a univalent structure for this signature, then its domain and codomain are univalent categories in the usual sense if and only if it is saturated.

Finally, a morphism between two saturated anafunctors qua structures consists of functors between the underlying categories (parts \( D \) and \( C \) of the signature) together with an (ana)natural isomorphism inhabiting the appropriate square. The components of the latter come from the action of the morphism on \( FO \), while naturality comes from its action on \( FA \). A morphism between unsaturated anafunctors is a square that commutes up to specified witnesses in \( FO \), which may be more restricted than arbitrary isomorphisms.

**Example 9.5 (Profunctors).** A profunctor from \( C \) to \( D \) is a functor \( F : C^{\text{op}} \times D \to \text{Set} \). We can represent two categories and a profunctor between them using the following signature:

![Diagram showing profunctor structure](image)

This looks very much like the signature for anafunctors, but we include an equality relation on \( FO \), and moreover the composition equations are different: we have \( da \cong \sigma \) and \( ca \cong \overline{o} \) imposing contravariance in the first factor. The rest of the theory of this structure is just a two-sided version of Example 9.3.

**Example 9.6 (Semi-displayed categories; see also [18, p. 107]).** Displayed categories [3] were developed, in particular, as a framework to define, in type theory, fibrations of categories without referring to equality of objects. A displayed category \( \mathcal{D} \) over a category \( C \) is given by, for any \( c : C_0 \), a type \( \mathcal{D}(c) \) of “objects over \( c \)”, and, for any morphism \( f : C(a, b) \) and \( x : \mathcal{D}(a) \) and \( y : \mathcal{D}(b) \), a type \( \mathcal{D}_f(x, y) \) of “morphisms from \( x \) to \( y \) over \( f \)”, together with suitably typed composition and identity operations. This definition can be translated directly into a
but the result is not well-behaved. In particular, since $A$ has rank 1 in a height-4 signature, it might not be a set even in a univalent structure, and similarly $O$ might not be a 1-type. When discussing fibrations, Makkai makes essentially the same point by saying that this signature disqualifies $A$ from carrying an equality relation, since it only makes sense to impose equality relations, in the usual sense, on sorts that are only one level below the top.

One way to solve this problem would be to allow the base category to be a bicategory (though the fibers are only 1-categories), as in Example 9.7 below. However, we can avoid this complexity with the following signature due to Makkai, whose only dependency is for the objects:

The dependency $DA \to A$ is replaced by the relation $FA$, asserted to be a functional relation, and the dependencies $DT \to T$ and $DI \to I$ are replaced by axioms, e.g., $DI_{x,s}(f) \land FA_{c,x,s}(f,\overline{f}) \to I_c(f)$. A structure for this signature might be called a “semi-displayed category”; it consists of, for any $c : C_0$, a type $D(c)$ of objects over $C$, and for any $x : D(a)$ and $y : D(b)$ a type $D(x, y)$ with a function $D(x, y) \to C(a, b)$. While they may appear more ad hoc than displayed categories, semi-displayed categories do suffice to define notions involving strict fibers of functors, such as fibrations of categories.

As usual, we assert that $E$ and $DE$ are congruences for all the relations, including $FA$. Thus, in a univalent structure $M$, all the top sorts are propositions, both $A$ and $DA$ are sets with standard equality, and each fiber category over $c : MO$ is a univalent category in the usual sense. An indiscernibility between objects $c, d : MO$ consists of an ordinary isomorphism $\phi : c \equiv d$ in the underlying base category together with all possible liftings of it in both directions, e.g., for any $x : MDO(c)$ a choice of a $y : MDO(d)$ and an isomorphism $x \equiv y$ over $\phi$, and dually. Since (assuming univalence at $DO$ and above) such liftings are unique when they exist, the type of such indiscernibilities is a subtype of that of ordinary isomorphisms. Thus, in a univalent semi-displayed category, $MO$ is a 1-type, even though Theorem 6.13 only implies that it is a 2-type. Moreover, when $M$ is univalent, the
underlying ordinary category of the base category is univalent if and only if the semi-displayed category is an isofibration (which is a pure existence axiom; cf. also [3, Problem 5.11]).

A morphism of structures consists of a functor between the underlying categories and a “semi-displayed functor” above it; it is an equivalence of structures when both functors are equivalences.

Example 9.7 (Bicategories; [18, Section 7]). It is not possible to describe strict 2-categories of any sort as univalent structures for one of our signatures, since the notion of a strict 2-category requires the 1-cells to form a set (so that composition can be strictly associative, i.e., up to a proposition-valued equality), but the 1-cells have two levels of dependency above them and so cannot be expected to be a set in a univalent structure. However, we can represent bicategories with the following signature from [18, p. 110] (with equality added):

Here $C_0, C_1, C_2$ are the sorts of objects, 1-cells, and 2-cells. The relations $T_2, I_2,$ and $E$, with their axioms, make the 1-cells and 2-cells into hom-categories. The type $T_1$, which depends on a triangle of elements of $C_1$, represents composition: $t : T_1(f, g, h)$ is a “reason why” $g \circ f$ is equal to $h$. In general this is not a proposition, so composition is an anafunctor; thus (again following Makkai) we are actually representing “anabicategories”. Similarly, $I_1(f)$ is the type of witnesses that $f$ is an identity 1-cell. The relation $A$ specifies the associativity isomorphisms: given $t_{12} : T_1(f_1, f_2, f_{12})$ and $t_{123} : T_1(f_{12}, f_3, f_{123})$ and also $t_{23} : T_1(f_2, f_3, f_{23})$ and $t_{123}' : T_1(f_1, f_{23}, f_{123}'),$ the relation $A$ specifies a 2-cell in $C_2(f_{123}, f_{123}')$ that plays the role of the associativity isomorphism. Similarly, $L$ and $R$ specify the left and right unit isomorphisms. Finally, the relation $H$ specifies the “horizontal” composite of two 2-cells along an object, given witnesses for how to compose their domains and codomains.

Note that if we drop the sorts $I_1, I_2, L, R$ relating to identities, the resulting inverse category is a truncation of the coface maps in Joyal’s category $\Theta_2$ [15], which can be used to define non-algebraic notions of 2-category and (∞, 2)-category [6, 21]. The identity sorts are a “fattening” of this to incorporate the degeneracies while remaining inverse, as done for the simplex category in [17].

We assert as an axiom that $E$ is a congruence for all the top-rank relations, so univalence at $C_2$ makes it consist of sets with equality $E$. As was the case for $FO$ in Example 9.4, univalence at $T_1$ means that two witnesses of composition are equal if they induce all the same horizontal composites of 2-cells and the same associators, and similarly for $I_1$. Thus, an indiscernibility between two elements of $C_1$ is a 2-cell isomorphism together with transport functions acting on $T_1$ and $I_1$. So if an anabicategory is univalent, then its hom-categories are individually univalent in the ordinary sense if and only if it is a saturated anabicategory (which, as before, can be imposed axiomatically as a pure existence condition). Finally, a “two-sided bicategorical Yoneda lemma” implies that indiscernibilities in $C_1$ are equivalent to internal adjoint equivalences, so univalence at $C_0$ means that these are equivalent to identifications.

The possible failure of saturation is due to the fact that we have two different “shapes of 2-cells”: globes in $C_2$ and simplices in $T_1$. This can be avoided by building on a non-algebraic definition of bicategory involving only one shape of 2-cell, such as a semisimplicial version of the Street–Duskin [12, 24] simplicial nerve, or the opetopic nerve [7, 10, 14].
A morphism of saturated anabicategories corresponds to a (pseudo) functor of bicategories. It is an equivalence of structures if the functor is a (strong) biequivalence, i.e., such that the maps on hom-types of all dimensions are split essentially surjective.

Example 9.8 ($T_0$-spaces). We end by sketching some signatures whose structures include topological spaces, showing that our abstract signatures are more general than FOLDS-signatures. Since a topology is a structure on one underlying set, it suffices to consider height-2 signatures with $L_{\perp} := 1$, with $L' : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ remaining to be specified.

A first guess might be $L'_M := (M \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}})$, so that an $L$-structure would be a type $M$ with a predicate on its "type of subsets" $M \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}}$ representing "is open". Unfortunately, this is not a covariant s-functor. We can make it covariant via direct images (using propositional truncation), but this is not strictly functorial, and moreover the resulting morphisms of structures would be open maps rather than continuous ones.

Covariant strict functoriality does hold, however, for the double-powerset functor $M \mapsto ((M \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}}) \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}})$, so we can use a definition of topological spaces that refers to sets of subsets instead of individual subsets. For instance, a topology is equivalent to a convergence relation between filters (which are sets of subsets) and points, hence can be regarded as a particular $L$-structure with

$$L'_M := (M \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}}) \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}} \times M.$$ 

The covariant functoriality specializes to the direct image of filters, so the $L'$-structure morphisms between topological spaces will be functions that preserve convergence, which is equivalent to continuity. Finally, univalence means that convergence is a proposition, that $M$ is a set, and that two points are identified if exactly the same filters converge to them; the latter is an equivalent way of saying the space is $T_0$. Of course, not every $L$-structure is a topological space; we could hope to single out the spaces with a theory in an appropriate logic based on our signatures.

We can also take $L'_M := ((M \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}}) \rightarrow \text{Prop}_{\mathcal{U}})$ and associate a topological space $M$ to the set of all sets of subsets $\mathcal{T}$ such that all open subsets belong to $\mathcal{T}$. Once again the structure morphisms between topological spaces are the continuous maps, and the univalent such structures are the $T_0$-spaces. Other topological structures such as uniform spaces and proximity spaces can similarly be represented as structures over suitable height-2 signatures.

10 CONCLUSION

Using a relativized form of the identity of indiscernibles, we defined a general notion of indiscernibility of objects in a categorical structure, yielding a notion of univalence for such structures. These notions depend only on the shape of the structures as specified by the signature, not on any axioms they satisfy. We then showed a Structure Identity Principle for univalent structures that specializes to known results for first-order logic and univalent 1-categories, as well as many other important examples.

Regarding the setting we have chosen for our work, it seems impossible to define a fully coherent notion of signature without 2LTT. A sufficiently-coherent "wild" notion might suffice for our particular results, but further development of the theory may require the fully coherent version. In addition, 2LTT is necessary for treating FOLDS-signatures of arbitrary height (cf. Appendix A).

Some goals for further work include:

- Removing the splitness condition from Theorem 7.6, as discussed at the end of Section 7.
- Developing a completion operation for structures, i.e., a universal way to turn a structure into a univalent one, generalizing the Rezk completion for categories [2, Section 8].
- Formalizing the results presented here in a computer proof assistant implementing 2LTT.
11 VERSION HISTORY

This article is an extended version of an article of the same title, published in LICS 2020 [4]. Compared to that version, the present version contains

- a variant of the HSIP for essentially split-surjective equivalences (see Theorem 7.10);
- an appendix on FOLDS-signatures in 2LTT and a translation from FOLDS- to abstract signatures (see Appendix A); and
- more examples in Section 9.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Nicolai Kraus for helpful discussions on 2LTT, and the anonymous referees for their constructive criticism.

Ahrens and North acknowledge the support of the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) in Oslo, Norway, which funded and hosted the research project Homotopy Type Theory and Univalent Foundations during the 2018/19 academic year.

This work was partially funded by EPSRC under agreement number EP/T000252/1.

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This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DMS-1554092. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

A FOLDS-SIGNATURES AND TRANSLATION TO ABSTRACT SIGNATURES

Definition A.1. Let \( p : \mathbb{N}^+ \). An inverse semi-category\(^8\) \( \mathcal{L} \) of height \( p \) consists of

- A family of types of objects \( \mathcal{L} : \mathbb{N}_{<p}^+ \to \mathcal{U}^s \). We call \( \mathcal{L}(n) \) the family of sorts of rank \( n \).
- A family of types of morphisms

\[
\text{hom}_\mathcal{L} : \prod_{n \in \mathbb{N}_{<p}^+} \mathcal{L}(n) \to \mathcal{L}(m) \to \mathcal{U}^s.
\]

- A suitably typed composition operation on morphisms

\[
(\cdot) : \text{hom}_\mathcal{L}(x, y) \to \text{hom}_\mathcal{L}(y, z) \to \text{hom}_\mathcal{L}(x, z)
\]

that is strictly associative: \( f \cdot (g \cdot h) \approx (f \cdot g) \cdot h \).

The objects of \( \mathcal{L} \) denote sorts and the morphisms dependencies. Morphisms can only go "downwards", that is, a sort can only depend on sorts "below" it; see Figure 1.

Definition A.2. Given an inverse semi-category \( \mathcal{L} \), the fanout type of \( K : \mathcal{L}(n) \) at \( m < n \) is

\[
\text{Fanout}_m(K) : \sum_{L: \mathcal{L}(m)} \text{hom}_\mathcal{L}(K, L).
\]

\(^8\)Makkai uses honest categories, but any inverse category is freely generated by a semi-category, so it is simpler to leave out the identity morphisms.
Definition A.3. A FOLDS-signature of height $p$ is an inverse semi-category $L$ of height $p$ for which each $L(n)$ is fibrant and each Fanout$_m(K)$ is cofibrant. The type of FOLDS-signatures of height $p$ is denoted by $\text{FSig}(p)$.

Examples A.4. We denote the FOLDS-signatures shown in Figure 1 by $L_{\text{sig}}$, $L_{\text{cat}}$, and $L_{\text{cat+E}}$ respectively. At each rank we have a finite-fibrant type of objects of that rank.

Definition A.5. For $L, M : \text{FSig}(p)$, a strict semi-functor $F : L \to M$ consists of functions

- $F : \prod_{(n \in \mathbb{N}^+ \times p)} L(n) \to M(n)$
- $F : \prod_{(n \in \mathbb{N}^+ \times m)} \prod_{(x : L(m))} \prod_{(y : L(n))} \text{hom}_L(x, y) \to \text{hom}_M(Fx, Fy)$

which strictly preserves composition.

Note that we take the ranks of objects to be specified data, which are preserved strictly by strict semi-functors.

In particular, a strict semi-functor $F : L \to M$ induces a function $F_m(K) : \text{Fanout}_m(K) \to \text{Fanout}_m(FK)$ for every $K : L(n)$ and $m < n$. We sometimes write $F$ instead of $F_m(K)$ when no confusion can arise.

Definition A.6. A strict semi-functor $F : L \to M$ is a discrete opfibration when all the functions

$$F_m(K) : \text{Fanout}_m(K) \to \text{Fanout}_m(FK)$$

are isomorphisms. Let $\text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(L, M)$ denote the type of such discrete opfibrations.

We can think of each Fanout$_m(K)$ as the structure on which $K$ depends, and then discrete opfibrations are exactly those functors which preserve this dependency structure.

Proposition A.7. The type $\text{FSig}(p)$, the types of morphisms $\text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(L, M)$ given by discrete opfibrations, and the obvious composition and identity form an $s$-category.

Proof. Consider $L, M, N : \text{FSig}(p)$ and $F : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(L, M), F : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(M, N)$. Let $(G \circ F)(n) := G(n) \circ F(n)$ and $(G \circ F)_{x, y} := G_{F(n)(x), F(n)(y)} \circ F_{x, y}$. It is clear that this forms a strict semi-functor. It forms a discrete opfibration since for every $n \in \mathbb{N}^+_p, K : L(n)$, $G \circ F : \text{Fanout}_m(K) \to \text{Fanout}_m(GFK)$ is the composition of the isomorphisms $F : \text{Fanout}_m(K) \to \text{Fanout}_m(FK)$ and $G : \text{Fanout}_m(FK) \to \text{Fanout}_m(GFK)$.

For any $L \in \text{FSig}(p)$, there is an identity discrete opfibration $1_L : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(L, L)$ whose components are all identity functions.

The composition defined above is clearly associative and left and right unital. □

A FOLDS-signature $L$ will be mapped to an abstract signature whose $\bot$ is $L(0)$, so we define:

Notation A.8. For $p > 0$, $L : \text{FSig}(p)$, let $L_\bot := L(0)$.

Now we formally define the derivative operation on FOLDS-signatures discussed in Section 4.

Definition A.9. Consider $p > 0$, $L : \text{FSig}(p)$, and $M : L_\bot \to \mathcal{U}$. The derivative of $L$ with respect to $M$ is the inverse semi-category $L'_M$ of height $p - 1$ with objects and morphisms defined as follows:

- $L'_M(n) := \sum_{K, L(n+1)} \prod_{(F : \text{Fanout}_0(K))} M(\pi_1 F)$
- $\text{hom}_{L'_M}(\mathcal{K}_1, \alpha_1), (\mathcal{K}_2, \alpha_2)) := \sum_{(f : \text{hom}_{\mathcal{K}_1}, \mathcal{K}_2))} \prod_{(F : \text{Fanout}_0(K_2))} \alpha_1(F \circ f) \circ \alpha_2(F)$

where $\pi_1 : \text{Fanout}_0(K) \to L_\bot$ is the projection and $F \circ f$ denotes the function $\text{Fanout}_0(K_2) \to \text{Fanout}_0(K_1)$ given by precomposition.

Example A.10. If $p \equiv 1$ then $L_{>0}$ is empty. Thus, no matter what $M : L_\bot \to \mathcal{U}$ we choose, $L'_M$ is the empty signature.
A Higher Structure Identity Principle

**Example A.11.** If $L$ is a signature of height 2, then it consists of two types of sorts $L(0)$ and $L(1)$ and a family of hom-types $\text{hom}_L : L(1) \to L(0) \to \mathcal{U}^\perp$. Then for any $M : L(0) \to \mathcal{U}$, the signature $L'_M$ has height 1 consisting of just a single type of sorts of rank 0. Each such sort is, by definition, a sort together with, for any $L$ signature $\text{fanout}_1$ is isomorphic to $\text{example A.11}$. If $M$ is a function picking out the two-element set $\{a, b\}$. Then $(L'_M)_{\text{fanout}_1}$ is the following signature, with four sorts of rank 0 and two sorts of rank 1:

$$
\begin{array}{cccc}
1 & I(a, a) & I(b, b) \\
0 & A(a, a) & A(a, b) & A(b, a) & A(b, b)
\end{array}
$$

The extra conditions on FOLDS-signatures in Definition A.3 ensure that these signatures are closed under derivation:

**Proposition A.13.** For $p > 0$, $L : \text{FSig}(p)$, and $M : \mathcal{L}_1 \to \mathcal{U}$, the inverse semi-category $L'_M$ is a FOLDS-signature.

**Proof.** Since each Fanout$_0(K)$ is cofibrant and each $M(\pi_1 F)$ is fibrant, we have that $\prod_{(F, \text{Fanout}_0(K))} M(L)$ is fibrant. Since $L(n + 1)$ is fibrant, so is

$$
\sum_{(K, L(n+1))} \prod_{(F, \text{Fanout}_0(K))} M(\pi_1 F).
$$

Now consider $n : \mathbb{N}^\geq_p$, $m : \mathbb{N}^\leq_m$, and $(K, \alpha) : L'_M(n)$, We have

$$
\text{Fanout}_m(K, \alpha) \\
\equiv \sum_{(L, \beta) : L'_M(m)} \text{hom}_{L'_M} (K, L) \\
\equiv \sum_{L, \beta : L'_M(m+1)} \prod_{(N, g) : \text{Fanout}_0(L)} \alpha(N, g f) \simeq \beta(N, g) \\
\equiv \sum_{G: \text{Fanout}_{m+1}(K)} \prod_{(N, g) : \text{Fanout}_0(L)} \alpha(N, g f) \simeq \beta(N, g) \\
\equiv \sum_{G: \text{Fanout}_{m+1}(K)} 1 \\
\equiv \text{Fanout}_{m+1}(K)
$$

Here, we expand $L'_M(m)$ and hom $L'_M(K, L)$ to get the first isomorphism. We rearrange pairs and use the definition of Fanout$_{m+1}(K)$ to get the second isomorphism. To get the third, observe that

$$
\sum_{(\beta : L'_M(m+1))} \prod_{(N, g) : \text{Fanout}_0(L)} \alpha(N, g f) \simeq \beta(N, g)
$$

is isomorphic to 1.

Since Fanout$_{m+1}(K)$ is cofibrant, so is Fanout$_m(K, \alpha)$. □
Definition A.14. Consider \( p : \mathbb{N}^3, \mathcal{L}, M : \text{FSig}(p), H : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(\mathcal{L}, M), L : \mathcal{L}_\perp \to \mathcal{U}, M : \mathcal{M}_\perp \to \mathcal{U} \), and \( h : \prod_{(k \in \mathbb{N})} L_k \to MH_k \).

We define the functor \( H'_h : \mathcal{L}'_\perp \to \mathcal{M}'_M \) as follows.

- Consider an \( n : \mathbb{N}^3_{<p-1} \) and a \((K, a) : \mathcal{L}'_\perp(n)\), (so \( \alpha : \prod_{(f : \text{Fanout}_K(0))} L(f) \)). We define \( H'_h(K, a) : \mathcal{M}'_M(n) \) to be \((H(K), \beta)\), where

\[
\beta(F) := h_{\pi_1(H^{-1}F)}(\alpha(H^{-1}F)) : MH_\perp(\pi_1H^{-1}F) \xrightarrow{\simeq} M(\pi_1F)
\]

for \( F : \text{Fanout}_K(0) \).

- Consider a morphism \((f, \phi) : \text{hom}_{\mathcal{L}'_\perp}((K_1, a_1), (K_2, a_2))\). We define \( H'_h(f, \phi) : \text{hom}_{\mathcal{M}'_M}((HK_1, \beta_1), (HK_2, \beta_2)) \) to be \((Hf, \psi)\). To define \( \psi \) on \( F : \text{Fanout}_K(0) \), we must check that

\[
h_{\pi_1(H^{-1}(f \circ Hf))}(\alpha_1(H^{-1}(f \circ Hf))) \simeq h_{\pi_1(H^{-1}F)}(\alpha_2(H^{-1}F)).
\]

But we have \( H^{-1}(f \circ Hf) \simeq H^{-1}(F) \circ f \) (since applying the isomorphism \( H \) produces \( F \circ Hf \) on both sides) and

\[
\alpha_1(H^{-1}(F) \circ f) \simeq \alpha_2(H^{-1}(F)) \text{ by } \phi.
\]

Lemma A.15. We have that

1. For \( \mathcal{L} : \text{FSig}(p) \)

\[
(1_{\mathcal{L}})'_{\perp, 1_{\mathcal{L}}} \xrightarrow{\simeq} 1_{\mathcal{L}}
\]

2. For \( \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} : \text{FSig}(p), H : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{M}), I : \text{hom}_{\text{FSig}(p)}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N}), L : \mathcal{L}_\perp \to \mathcal{U}, M : \mathcal{M}_\perp \to \mathcal{U}, N : \mathcal{N}_\perp \to \mathcal{U}, h : \prod_{(x : \mathcal{L}_\perp)} Lx \to MH_\perp x, \) and \( i : \prod_{(x : \mathcal{M}_\perp)} Mx \to NI_\perp x, \)

\[
I' \circ H'_h \xrightarrow{\simeq} (I \circ H)'_{1\circ h}
\]

where \( i \circ h(x, \ell) := i(H_\perp x, h(x, \ell)). \)

Proof. Note that the desired strict equalities are obvious on the first components of objects and morphisms in \( \mathcal{L}'_\perp \). The desired strict equalities on the second components of morphisms follow from UIP and function extensionality. Thus, we check the strict equalities just on the second components of objects.

To check the strict equality (1) on objects, observe that

\[
\pi_2(1_{\mathcal{L}})'_{1\perp}(K, a) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \lambda F. \lambda x. 1_{\perp}(\pi_1(1_{\mathcal{L}})'_F, \alpha(1_{\mathcal{L}})'_F)
\]

\[
\equiv \alpha.
\]

To check the strict equality (2) on objects, calculate that

\[
(\pi_2(I \circ H)'_{1\circ h}(K, a))(F)
\]

\[
\xrightarrow{\simeq} ih(\pi_1((IH)^{-1}F), \alpha((IH)^{-1}F))
\]

\[
\equiv i(H_\perp \pi_1((IH)^{-1}F), h(\pi_1((IH)^{-1}F), \alpha((IH)^{-1}F)))
\]

\[
\equiv i(\pi_1(I^{-1}F), h(\pi_1(H^{-1}I^{-1}F), \alpha(H^{-1}I^{-1}F)))
\]

\[
\xrightarrow{\simeq} \pi_2(I' \circ H'_h(K, a))(F).
\]

\[\square\]

Lemma A.16. Consider \( \mathcal{L} : \text{FSig}(p) \) and \( M : \mathcal{L}_\perp \to \mathcal{U} \). Let \( \mathcal{L}_0 > 0 \) be the inverse semi-category given by \( \mathcal{L}_0(0, n) := \mathcal{L}_0(n + 1) \) and \( \text{hom}_{\mathcal{L}_0}(x, y) := \text{hom}_{\mathcal{L}}(x, y) \).

The evident forgetful functor \( U : \mathcal{L}'_M \to \mathcal{L}_0 > 0 \) is a discrete opfibration.
A Higher Structure Identity Principle

PROOF. Consider a \((K, \alpha) : L'_M\) where \(K : L(n + 1), \alpha : \prod_{(F \text{Fanout}_L(K))} M(\pi_1 F)\) and a \((L, f) : \text{Fanout}_m(K)\) where \(L : L(m), f : \text{hom}(K, L)\). Let \(U^{-1}(L, f) = ((L, \beta), (f, \gamma))\) where we define \(\beta : \prod_{(F \text{Fanout}_L(L))} M(\pi_1 F)\) and \(\gamma : \prod_{(F \text{Fanout}_L(L))} \alpha(F \circ f) \triangleq \beta(F)\) as follows. Let \(\beta(F) \triangleq \alpha(F \circ f)\). Then we have \(\gamma\) by construction.

Clearly, \(U U^{-1} \triangleq 1_{\text{Fanout}_m(K)}\). To show
\[
U U^{-1} \triangleq 1_{\text{Fanout}_m((K, \alpha))},
\]
consider a \(((L, \beta), (f, \gamma)) : \text{Fanout}_m((K, \alpha))\). We get that
\[
U^{-1} U ((L, \beta), (f, \gamma)) \triangleq ((L, \beta'), (f, \gamma'))
\]
and
\[
\gamma^{-1} * \gamma' : \prod_{F \text{Fanout}_L(L)} \beta(F) \triangleq \beta'(F)
\]
By function extensionality, \(\beta \triangleq \beta'\) and by UIP and function extensionality, \(\gamma \triangleq \gamma'\). \(\Box\)

**Lemma A.17.** Consider \(L, M, N : \text{FSig}(p)\). Consider functors \(F\) from \(L\) to \(M\) and \(G\) from \(M\) to \(N\) such that \(G \circ F\) and \(G\) are discrete opfibrations. Then \(F\) is a discrete opfibration.

**Proof.** Consider a \(K : L(n)\). The following strictly commutative diagram shows that \(F\) is an isomorphism on fanouts, and thus a discrete opfibration.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Fanout}_m(K) & \xrightarrow{F} & \text{Fanout}_m(FK) \\
\downarrow G \circ F & & \downarrow G \\
& \xrightarrow{\gamma^{-1} * \gamma'} & \text{Fanout}_m(GFK)
\end{array}
\]

**Proposition A.18.** The functor \(H'_h : L'_L \rightarrow M'_M\) from Definition A.14 is a discrete opfibration.

**Proof.** The following square commutes.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
L'_L & \xrightarrow{H'_h} & M'_M \\
\downarrow U & & \downarrow U \\
L_{>0} & \xrightarrow{H_{>0}} & M_{>0}
\end{array}
\]

Note that since \(H\) is a discrete opfibration, so is \(H_{>0}\). Since both instances of \(U\) are also discrete opfibrations (Lemma A.16), we find (using Lemma A.17) that \(H'_h\) is a discrete opfibration. \(\Box\)

We now have all the ingredients for our translation.

**Theorem A.19.** For each \(p : \mathbb{N}^+\), define an s-functor \(E_p : \text{FSig}(p) \rightarrow \text{Sig}(p)\) by induction on \(p\) as follows.

Since \(\text{Sig}(0)\) is the trivial category on \(1\), there is a unique s-functor \(E\text{Sig}(0) \rightarrow \text{Sig}(0)\) (which is actually an equivalence).

For \(p > 0\) and \(L : \text{FSig}(p)\), let \(E_p(L)\) consist of:

1. The type \(L_{>0} : \mathcal{U}\).
2. The functor \(E_{p-1}L_{>0} : (L_{>0} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \rightarrow \text{Sig}(p - 1)\) defined on objects as in Definition A.9 and Proposition A.13 and on morphisms as in Definition A.14 and Proposition A.18.

For \(L, M : \text{FSig}(p)\) and \(F : \text{hom}(L, M)\), let \(E_p(F)\) consist of:

1. The function \(F_L : L_{>0} \rightarrow M_{>0}\).
The natural transformation with underlying function
\[ E_p^{-1}F'_\lambda x.1_{-x} : \prod_{M : M \perp \to U} \text{hom}(L'_M \circ F'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}}, M'_M) \]
defined in Definition A.14 and Proposition A.18.

Proof. We check that \( E_p \) is functorial. For any \( L : \text{FSig}(p) \), we have the following.
\[
\begin{align*}
\pi_1 E_p(1_L) & \triangleq 1_{L_\perp} \\
& \equiv \pi_1(1_{E_p L}) \\
\pi_2 E_p(1_L) & \triangleq E_p^{-1} \circ 1_{L_\perp}^{-1}_{x.1_{-x}} \\
& \equiv 1_{E_p^{-1}L_\perp^{-1}_{x.1_{-x}}} \\
& \equiv \pi_2(1_{E_p L})
\end{align*}
\]

For any \( M, N, \mathcal{P} : \text{FSig}(p), F : \text{hom}(M, N), G : \text{hom}(N, \mathcal{P}) \), we have the following.
\[
\begin{align*}
\pi_1 E_p(G \circ F) & \triangleq (G \circ F)_\perp \\
& \equiv G_\perp \circ F_\perp \\
& \equiv \pi_1(E_p G \circ E_p F) \\
(\pi_2 E_p(G \circ F))(M) & \triangleq E_p^{-1} \circ (G \circ F)'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}}^{-1}_{x.1_{-x}} \\
& \equiv E_p^{-1}(G'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}} \circ F'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}}^{-1}) \\
& \equiv (E_p^{-1}G'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}}) \circ (E_p^{-1}F'_{\lambda x.1_{-x}}^{-1}) \\
& \equiv \pi_2 E_p^{-1}G \circ \pi_2 E_p^{-1}F.
\end{align*}
\]

Intuitively, this can be thought of as mapping into the \( s \)-category coinductively defined by a derivative functor, with the result landing inside the inductive part (our abstract signatures) because our FOLDS-signatures have finite height.

Remark A.20. We expect structures, morphisms of structures, isomorphisms of structure, and split-surjective equivalences of structures over the abstract signature induced by a FOLDS-signature to correspond to Reedy fibrant diagrams, natural transformations of such, levelwise equivalences, and "Reedy split-surjections" (cf. [5, 22, 23]). Proving this precisely is left for future work.

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