



– an invitation –

**Towards multiversal modal operators for  
homotopy type theory**

# How should this notion be formalized in HoTT?

7, 4, 3, ...



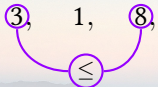
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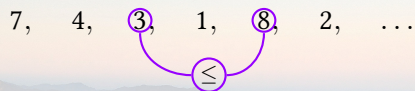
A diagram illustrating a sequence of numbers: 7, 4, 3, 1, 8, ... The numbers 3 and 8 are circled in purple. A purple curved line connects the circle around 3 to a circle containing the less-than-or-equal-to symbol ( $\leq$ ), which is then connected to the circle around 8. This visualizes the comparison  $3 \leq 8$ .

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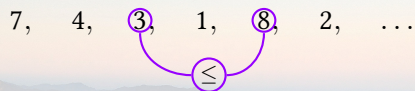
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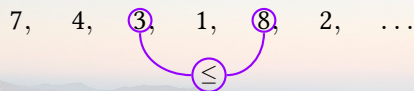
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**Examples.** (classically)  $(\mathbb{N}, \leq)$ ,  $X \times Y$ ,  $X^*$ ,  $\text{Tree}(X)$ .

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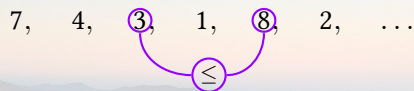
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- ✗ philosophically strenuous
- ✗ not practical
- ✗ not faithful(?)

## Sequences provided by LEM

**Lemma.** Let  $X$  be a well quasiorder. Let  $\alpha : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow X$  be a sequence. Assuming **LEM**, there merely is a monotonic subsequence  $\alpha i_0 \leq \alpha i_1 \leq \dots$ .

*Proof.* The type

$$I := \sum_{i:\mathbb{N}} \neg \sum_{j:\mathbb{N}} i < j \times \alpha i \leq \alpha j$$

cannot be in bijection with  $\mathbb{N}$ , as else the  $I$ -extracted subsequence of  $\alpha$  would not be good. By **LEM**, the type  $I$  is finite. Any index  $i_0$  larger than all the indices in  $I$  is a suitable starting point for a monotonic subsequence.  $\square$

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**Prop.** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be well quasiorders. Assuming **LEM**,  $X \times Y$  is well.

*Proof.* Let an infinite sequence  $\gamma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow X \times Y$  be given. Write  $\gamma k = (\alpha k, \beta k)$ . By the lemma, there is a monotonic subsequence  $\alpha i_0 \leq \alpha i_1 \leq \dots$ . Because  $Y$  is well, there are indices  $n < m$  such that  $\beta i_n \leq \beta i_m$ . As also  $\alpha i_n \leq \alpha i_m$ , the sequence  $\gamma$  is good.  $\square$

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*We cannot trust **LEM**-provided sequences to be available in the type  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X$ .  
Similarly with **DC**.*

## Sequences depending on an environment

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*Idea:* Approximate (fictitious) surjections  $\mathbb{N} \twoheadrightarrow X$  by finite sequences  $\sigma = x_0 \dots x_{n-1} : X^*$ . Starting with the empty sequence  $\varepsilon$ , over time, such an approximation can grow to

- 1 one of  $\sigma y$ , where  $y : X$ , so it becomes *more defined*; or
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For  $k : \mathbb{N}$  and  $a : X$ , the expression “ $\alpha k = a$ ” does not denote a proposition but rather a **stage-dependent proposition**  $X^* \rightarrow \text{Prop}$ , namely  $\lambda x_0 \dots x_{n-1}. k < n \times x_k = a$ .

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Given a stage-dependent proposition  $P$ ,  $\nabla P$  expresses that no matter how  $\sigma$  evolves to a better approximation  $\tau$ , eventually  $P \tau$  will hold:

```
data  $\nabla (P : X^* \rightarrow \text{Prop}) (\sigma : X^*) : \text{Prop}$  where
  now :  $P \sigma \rightarrow \nabla P \sigma$ 
  later1 :  $((y : X) \rightarrow \nabla P (\sigma y)) \rightarrow \nabla P \sigma$ 
  later2 :  $(a : X) \rightarrow ((\tau : X^*) \rightarrow a \in \sigma \tau \rightarrow \nabla P (\sigma \tau)) \rightarrow \nabla P \sigma$ 
```

For instance, for  $P_a \sigma := (a \in \sigma)$ , we have  $\nabla P_a \varepsilon$ . “ $\alpha$  is surjective”:  $(a : X) \rightarrow \nabla P_a \varepsilon$



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In other words: *A quasiorder  $X$  is well iff the generic sequence  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X$  is good.*

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We have  $\text{Well}(X, \leq) \rightarrow \text{Well}_\infty(X, \leq)$ , but the converse only holds in presence of **bar induction**. *How much stronger exactly is the inductive rephrasing?*

# Topos for reifying generic models

Grothendieck toposes (= categories of sheaves over sites) are mathematical universes:

- The **generic sequence** is an honest function  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X$  **in** a certain topos  $\mathcal{E}$ .
- The **generic surjection** is an honest surjection **in** an appropriate subtopos of  $\mathcal{E}$ .
- In the *double-negation subtopos* of the base, a predicate  $Q : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Prop}$  such that

$$Qx \times Qy \longrightarrow x = y \quad \text{and} \quad \neg\neg \sum_{n:\mathbb{N}} Qn$$

looks like an ordinary natural number.

A statement holds in a topos iff a certain topos-directed translation holds in the base. For instance, for the double-negation subtopos the translation substitutes

$$\begin{array}{lll} \exists \rightsquigarrow \exists^{\text{cl}}, & \text{where} & \exists^{\text{cl}} := \neg\neg\exists, \\ \vee \rightsquigarrow \vee^{\text{cl}}, & \text{where} & \alpha \vee^{\text{cl}} \beta := \neg\neg(\alpha \vee \beta), \\ = \rightsquigarrow =^{\text{cl}}, & \text{where} & s =^{\text{cl}} t := \neg\neg(s = t). \end{array}$$

In general, stage-dependent  $\nabla$  instead of  $\neg\neg$ .

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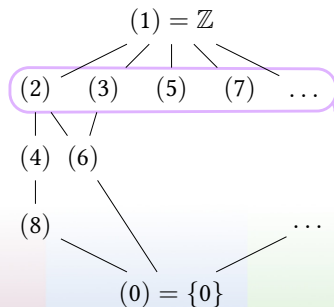
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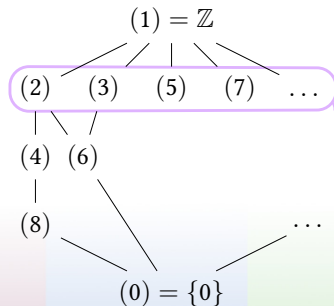
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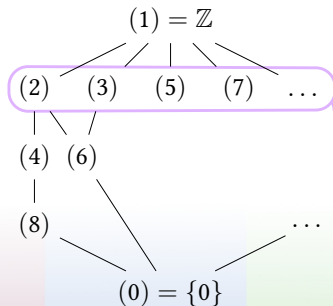
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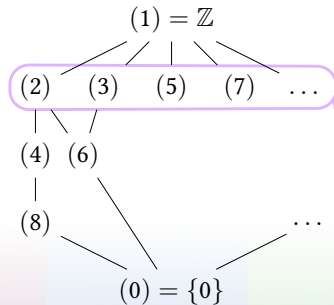
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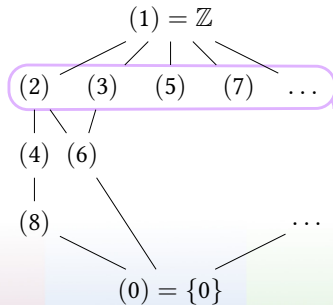
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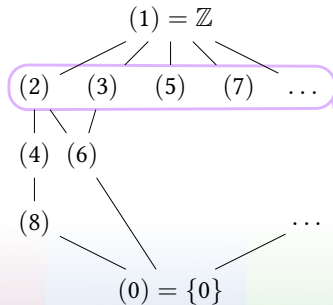
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*Does there exist a maximal ideal?* **Yes**, if  $A$  is countable. In the general case: **No**, but **yes** in a suitable topos, and bounded first-order consequences of its existence there **pass down** to the base.

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*Proof.* (constructive, special case) Write  $M = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ . By surjectivity, we have  $u, v : A$  with

$$u \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad v \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence  $1 = (vy)(ux) = (uy)(vx) = 0$ .



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Judith Roitman

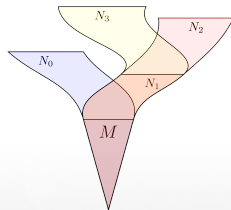
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# The modal set-theoretic multiverse

**Def.** A **model of set theory** is a (perhaps class-sized) structure  $(M, \in)$  satisfying axioms such as those of ZFC.

*Examples.*

- $V$ , the class of all sets
- $L$ , Gödel's constructible universe
- $V[G]$ , a forcing extension containing a generic filter  $G$  of some poset of forcing conditions
- Henkin/term models from consistency of (extensions of) ZFC

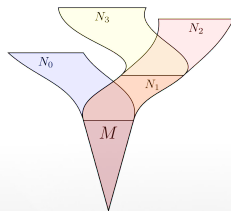


# The modal set-theoretic multiverse

**Def.** A **model of set theory** is a (perhaps class-sized) structure  $(M, \in)$  satisfying axioms such as those of ZFC.

*Examples.*

- $V$ , the class of all sets
- $L$ , Gödel's constructible universe
- $V[G]$ , a forcing extension containing a generic filter  $G$  of some poset of forcing conditions
- Henkin/term models from consistency of (extensions of) ZFC



*We embrace all models of set theory:*

**Def.**  $\Diamond \varphi$  iff  $\varphi$  holds in **some extension** of the current universe.

$\Box \varphi$  iff  $\varphi$  holds in **all extensions** of the current universe.

- $\Box(\Diamond CH \wedge \Diamond \neg CH)$ , the continuum hypothesis is a **switch**.
- $\Box \Diamond \Box(X \text{ is countable})$ , existence of an enumeration is a **button**.



# The modal topos-theoretic multiverse

**Def.** A statement  $\varphi$  holds ...

- 1 **everywhere** ( $\Box \varphi$ ) iff it holds in every topos (over the current base).
- 2 **somewhere** ( $\Diamond \varphi$ ) iff it holds in some positive topos.
- 3 **proximally** ( $\Diamond \varphi$ ) iff it holds in some positive overt topos.



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*Traveling the multiverse:*

- For every inhabited set  $X$ , *proximally* there is an enumeration  $\mathbb{N} \twoheadrightarrow X$ .
- A quasiorder is well iff *everywhere*, every sequence is good.
- A ring element is nilpotent iff all prime ideals *everywhere* contain it.
- For every ring, *proximally* there is a maximal ideal.
- A relation is well-founded iff *everywhere*, there is no descending chain.
- *Somewhere*, the law of excluded middle holds.



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**Prop.** Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a well quasiorder. Then  $(<)$ , where  $x < y \equiv (x \leq y \wedge \neg(y \leq x))$ , is well-founded.

*Proof.* Everywhere, there can be no infinite descending chain, as any such would also be good.  $\square$

Unrolling this proof gives a program  $\nabla \text{Good } \varepsilon \rightarrow \prod_{x:X} \text{Acc } x$ .



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*Foreshadowed by:*

- 1984 André Joyal, Miles Tierney. “An extension of the Galois theory of Grothendieck”.
- 1987 Andreas Blass. “Well-ordering and induction in intuitionistic logic and topoi”.
- 2010s Milly Maietti, Steve Vickers. Ongoing work on arithmetic universes.
- 2011 Joel David Hamkins. “The set-theoretic multiverse”.
- 2013 Shawn Henry. “Classifying topoi and preservation of higher order logic by geometric morphisms”.



# Towards the modal type-theoretic multiverse

✓ *There are type-theoretic multiverses, such as*

- the collection of all  $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{B})$ , where  $\mathcal{B}$  ranges over cube categories and  $\mathcal{C}$  over arbitrary small categories, and their corresponding sheaf models

Coquand. “A survey of constructive presheaf models of univalence”. *ACM SIGLOG News*, 5.3 (2018).

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✗ *Accessing the multiverse from within type theory is tricky:*

- Given a model of  $\mathsf{sCIC}$  and a category  $\mathcal{C}$  in it, we have a syntactic presheaf model of  $\mathsf{CIC}$ .

Coquand, Jaber. “A note on forcing and type theory”. *Fundamenta Informaticae* 100 (2010).

Jaber, Lewertowski, Pédrot, Sozeau, Tabareau. “The definitional side of the forcing”. *Proceedings of LICS '16* (2016).

Pédrot. “Russian constructivism in a prefascist theory”. *Proceedings of LICS '20* (2020).

- Given a suitable lex modality, we have a syntactic sheaf model (model of modal types).

Coquand, Ruch, Sattler. “Constructive sheaf models of type theory.” *Math. Struct. Comput. Sci.* 31.9 (2021).

Escardó, Xu. “Sheaf models of type theory in type theory”. Unpublished (2016).

Quirin. “Lawvere–Tierney sheafification in Homotopy Type Theory”. PhD thesis (2016).

- (I believe) we have syntactic sheaf models in certain special cases, when no coherence issues arise in defining the notion of presheaves.

Still, can pragmatically use  $\nabla$  and feel philosophically inspired.