

# HF Sets in Constructive Type Theory

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A **minimal computational** axiomatization  
of HF sets  
with a **unique** model.

# What are Hereditarily Finite sets?

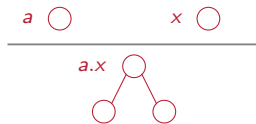
= all finite, well-founded sets whose elements are  
HF again

What are HF sets useful for?  
Świerczkowski (1994), Paulson (2015)



$$\overline{\emptyset:HF}$$

$$\frac{x:HF \quad y:HF}{\underbrace{\{x\} \cup y:HF}_{x.y}}$$



1950

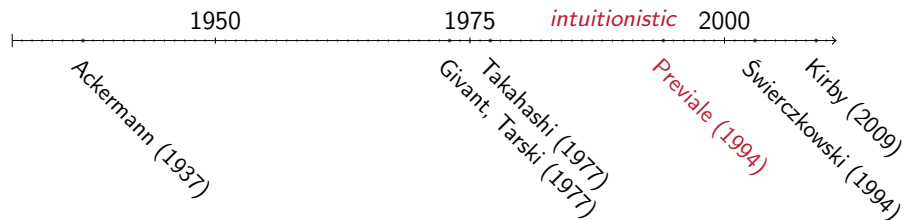
1975

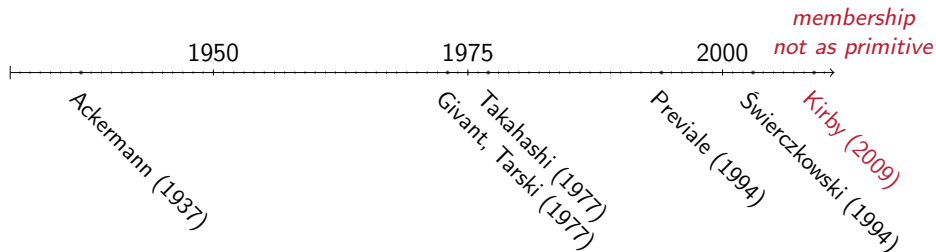
2000

Ackermann (1937)

Takahashi (1977)  
Givant, Tarski (1977)

Previale (1994)  
Świerczkowski (1994)  
Kirby (2009)







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# What is needed for HF sets?

## 1 Constants: hf, $\emptyset$ , $a.x$

$$x \in y := x.y = y$$

## 2 A characterization of equality

$$x.x.y = x.y \quad (\text{cancellation})$$

$$x.y.z = y.x.z \quad (\text{swap})$$

$$x.y \neq \emptyset \quad (\text{discreteness})$$

$$x.y.z = y.z \rightarrow x = y \vee x.z = z \quad (\text{membership})$$

$$\underbrace{x.y.z = y.z \rightarrow x = y \vee x.z = z}_{x \in y.z \rightarrow x = y \vee x \in z}$$

## 3 A strong induction principle

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall p : \text{hf} \rightarrow \text{Type}. p \emptyset \\ & \rightarrow (\forall x y. p x \rightarrow p y \rightarrow p (x.y)) \rightarrow \forall x. p x \end{aligned}$$



$$R : p \emptyset \rightarrow (\forall x y. p x \rightarrow p y \rightarrow p (x.y)) \rightarrow \forall x. p x$$

$$R p_0 p_S \emptyset \stackrel{?}{=} p_0$$
$$R p_0 p_S (a.x) \stackrel{?}{=} p_S (R p_0 p_S a) (R p_0 p_S x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1 \emptyset &= \text{None} \\ \pi_1 (a.x) &= \text{Some } a \end{aligned} \quad \color{red} \downarrow$$



$$R : p \emptyset \rightarrow (\forall x y. p x \rightarrow p y \rightarrow p (x.y)) \rightarrow \forall x. p x$$

## 1 Recursive Specification

$$\begin{aligned} \emptyset \cup y &= y \\ a.x \cup y &= a.(x \cup y) \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Membership Specification

$$z \in x \cup y \leftrightarrow z \in x \vee z \in y$$

## 1 Membership Specification

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma u. \forall z. z \in u \\ \leftrightarrow z \in x \vee z \in y \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Recursive Specification Needed: extensionality

# What is **not** needed as primitives?

## 1 Membership

$$x \in y := x.y = y$$

## 2 Recursion equations

## 3 Decidability of equality: dep. on extensionality

## 4 Extensionality: dep. on decidability of equality

$dec(x \in \underline{y})$

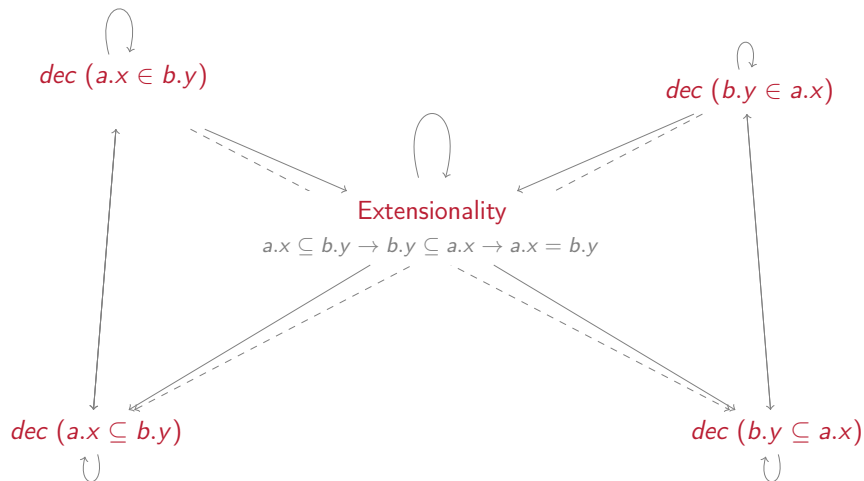
$dec(y \in \underline{x})$

Extensionality

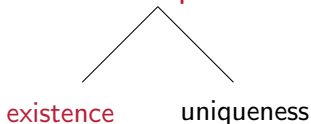
$x \subseteq y \rightarrow y \subseteq x \rightarrow \underline{x} = \underline{y}$

$dec(\underline{x} \subseteq y)$

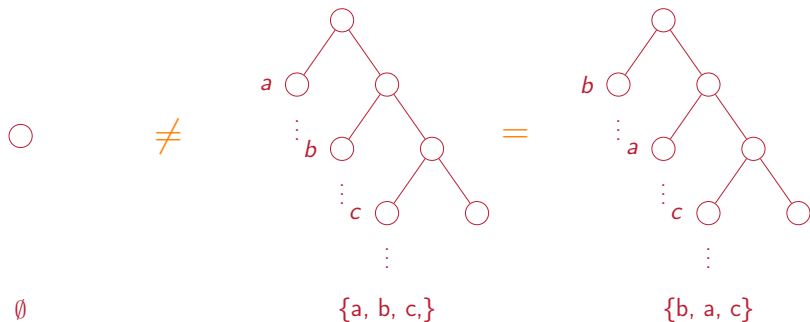
$dec(\underline{y} \subseteq x)$



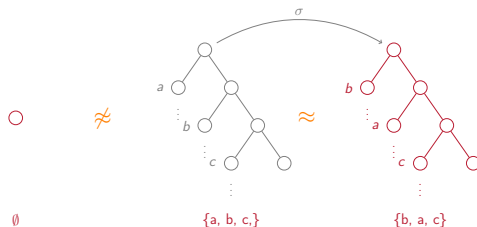
A minimal computational axiomatization  
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HF sets =  $\emptyset$  +  $a.x$  + equality + induction principle



- 1 An inductive type representing the tree structure:

$$T := 0 \mid T.T$$

- 2 An equivalence relation  $\approx: T \rightarrow T \rightarrow \text{Prop}$
- 3 An idempotent normalizer  $\sigma: T \rightarrow T$  s.t.

$$s \approx t \leftrightarrow \sigma s = \sigma t$$

- 4 Construct a subtype  $X$  of  $T$  only containing normalized trees.

## Equivalence

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{s \approx s} \qquad \frac{s \approx t}{t \approx s} \qquad \frac{s \approx t \quad t \approx u}{s \approx u} \qquad \frac{s \approx s' \quad t \approx t'}{s.t \approx s'.t'} \\
 \\
 \frac{}{s.s.t \approx s.t} \qquad \frac{}{s.t.u \approx t.s.u}
 \end{array}$$

To show:  $\approx$  satisfies the equality axioms of HFs, for example

- 1  $s.s.t \approx s.t$
- 2  $s.t.u \approx t.u \rightarrow s \approx t \vee s.u \approx u$

Idea: Use sorted trees as normal form.

## Lexical Tree Order

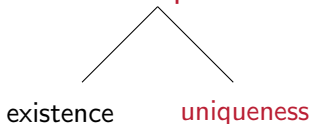
$$\frac{}{0 < s.t} \quad \frac{s < s'}{s.t < s'.t'} \quad \frac{t < t'}{s.t < s.t'}$$

Define a sort function  $\sigma : T \rightarrow T$  according to the above order satisfying

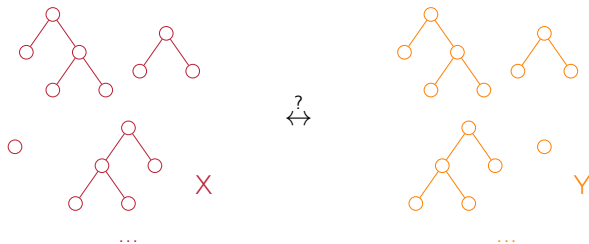
- 1  $\sigma(\sigma s) = \sigma s$
- 2  $s \approx t \leftrightarrow \sigma s = \sigma t$

$\Rightarrow$  There exists a type  $\{t \mid \sigma t = t\}$ .

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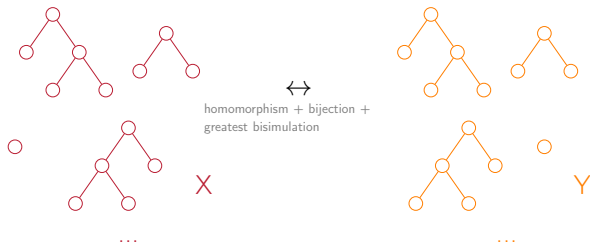
# Are all HF structures the same?



$f : X \rightarrow Y$   
homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} f \emptyset &= \emptyset \\ f (a.x) &= (f a).(f x) \end{aligned}$$

# Are all HF structures the same?



$$\frac{R a b \quad R x y}{R a.x b.y}$$

- 1 **Totality**  $\forall x. \Sigma y. R x y.$
- 2 **Functionality**  $R x y \rightarrow R x y' \rightarrow y = y'$ 
  - ▶ **Simulation**  $R x y \rightarrow a \in x \rightarrow \exists b. b \in y \wedge R a b$
- 3  $f$  homomorphism  $\Rightarrow R x (f x)$
- 4 All homomorphisms between HF structures are equivalent.
- 5 All HF structures are isomorphic.

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Axiomatization + Discreteness +  
Operations + Ordinals + Categoricity +  
Model Construction

**Everything** is formalized in Coq.

~ 2000 lines

Everything is **formalized** in Coq.

similar to proofs in paper  
special-purpose tactic based on intro-elim  
rules

Everything is formalized in Coq.

no inductive types except for the  
model construction

Everything is formalized in Coq.

Where? - [www.ps.uni-saarland.de/extras/hfs](http://www.ps.uni-saarland.de/extras/hfs)

- First minimal, computationally complete axiomatization of HF sets
- Operationally complete axiomatization
- First proof of categoricity

## Further Work

- A recursor with equations
- Axiomatization of non-wellfounded sets

Thank you for your attention!

Where? - [www.ps.uni-saarland.de/extras/hfs](http://www.ps.uni-saarland.de/extras/hfs)