

# Univalence from a Computer Science Point-of-View

Dan Licata  
Wesleyan University

# Martin-Löf type theory

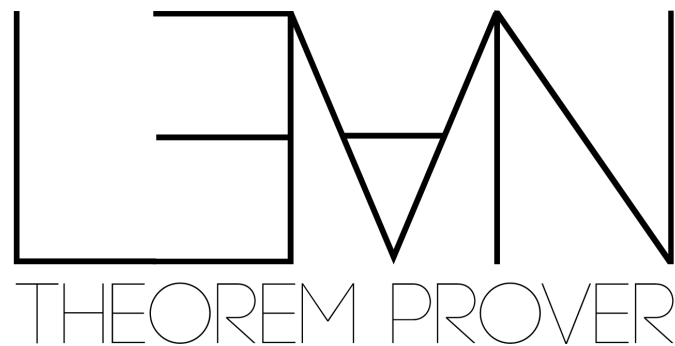
[70s-80s]



**PRL Project** "Proof/Program Refinement Logic"

Agda

**Agda is a dependently typed functional programming language.**



Proofs are programs

```
data nat =  
  zero  
  | suc (n : nat)
```

cubicaltt  
[Cohen, Coquand,  
Huber, Mörtberg]

```
double : nat -> nat = split  
  zero -> zero  
  suc n -> suc (suc (double n))
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↑  
“exists k : nat such that  $n = 2k+1$ ”

**Theorem:** every natural number is even or odd

**Proof:** induction on  $n$ .

**Base case:** 0 is even

**Inductive case:** Suppose  $n$  is even or  $n$  is odd.

**To show:**  $n+1$  is even or  $n+1$  is odd.

Case where  $n$  is even ( $n=2k$ ):

$n+1 = 2k+1$  is odd.

Case where  $n$  is odd ( $n=2k+1$ ):

$n+1 = 2k+2 = 2(k+1)$  is even.

“for all  $n : \text{nat}$ ,  $n$  is even or  $n$  is odd”



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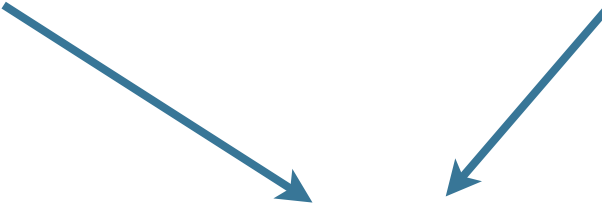


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*What program is this?*

evenodd.ctt

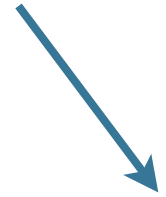
# “for all” is function      “or” is coproduct



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# coproduct injection is parity



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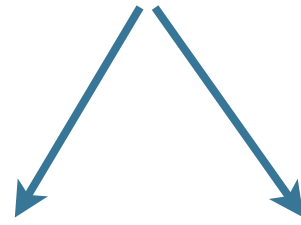
**floor(n/2)**



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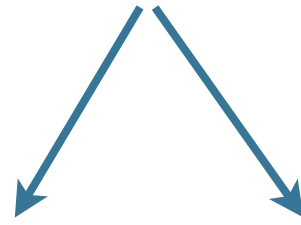
# proof that $n = 2 \cdot \text{floor}(n/2) [+1]$



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*(every element of Path nat k k is reflexivity/identity)*

# Computation

## **elimination reduces on introduction**

- \* function applied to argument reduces to body of definition
- \* projection of a pair reduces to component
- \* case distinction for coproduct reduces on injection
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**equality**

**1-simplex**

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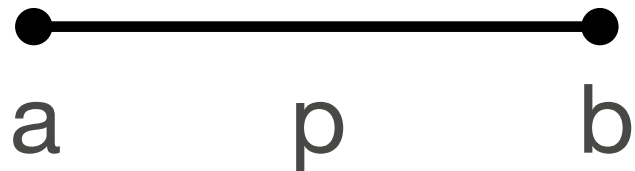
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↓  
A

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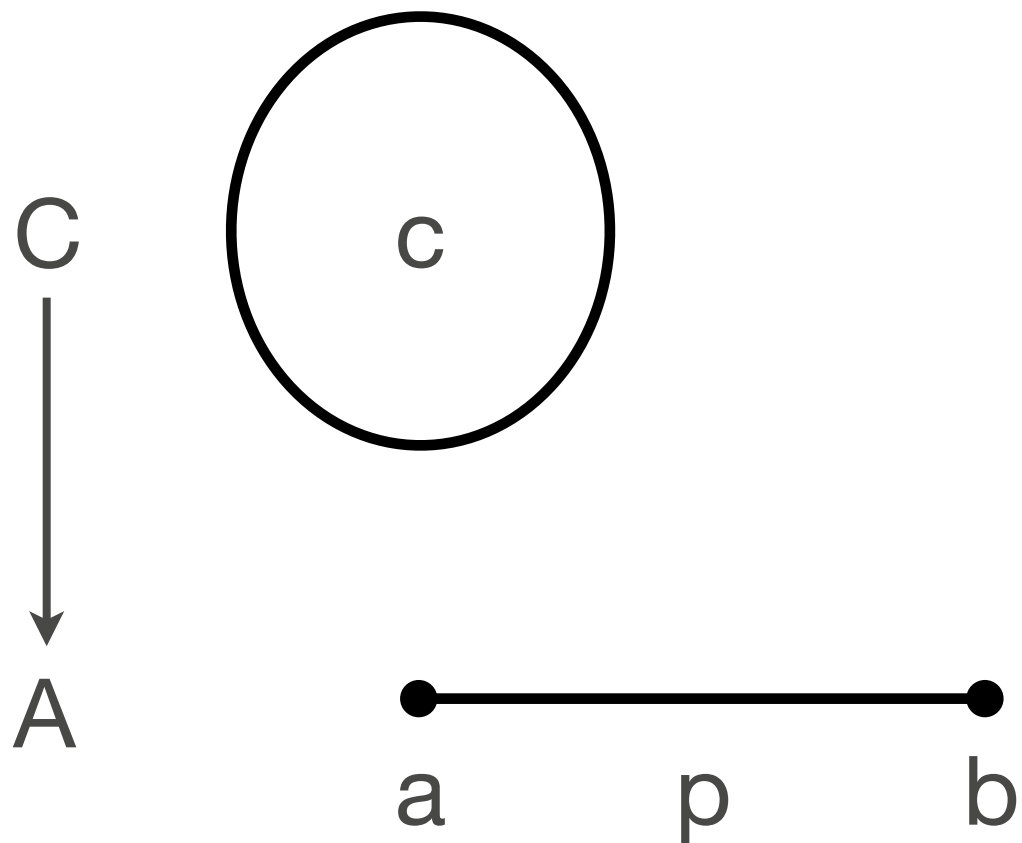
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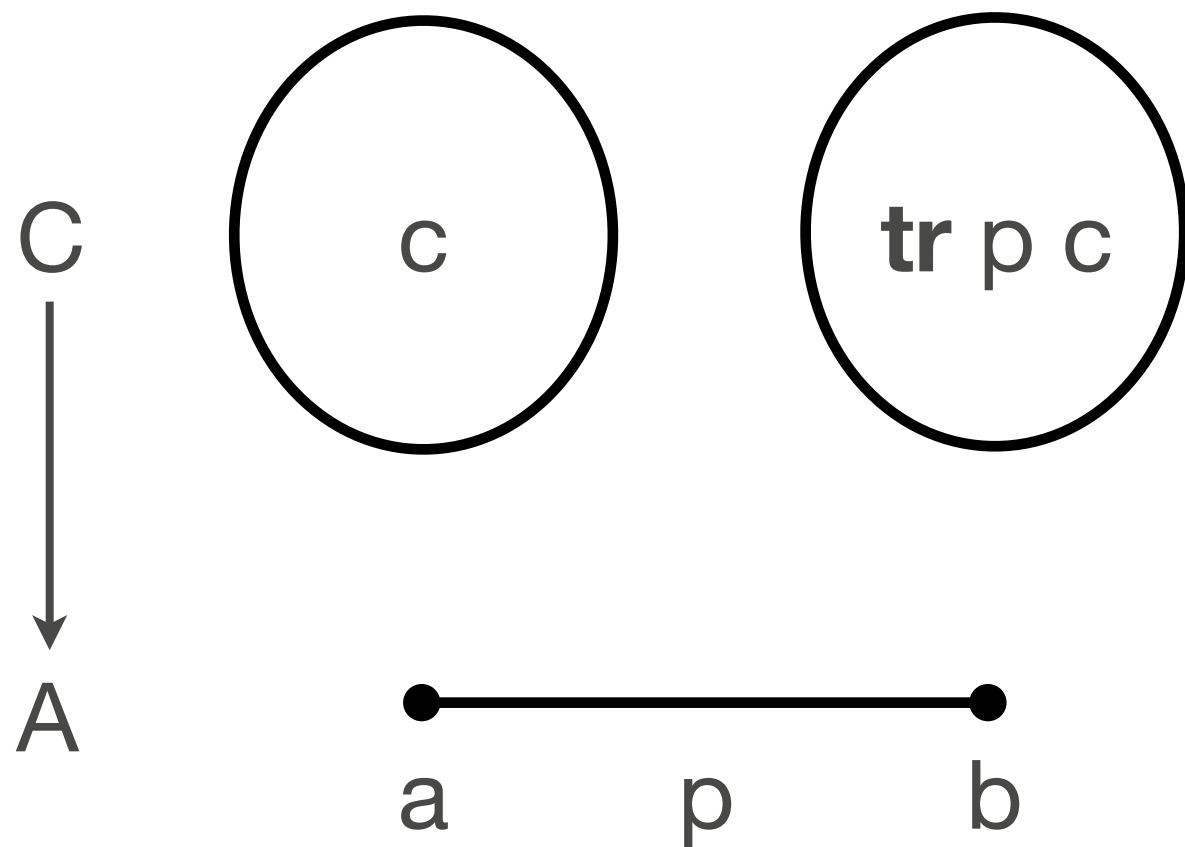
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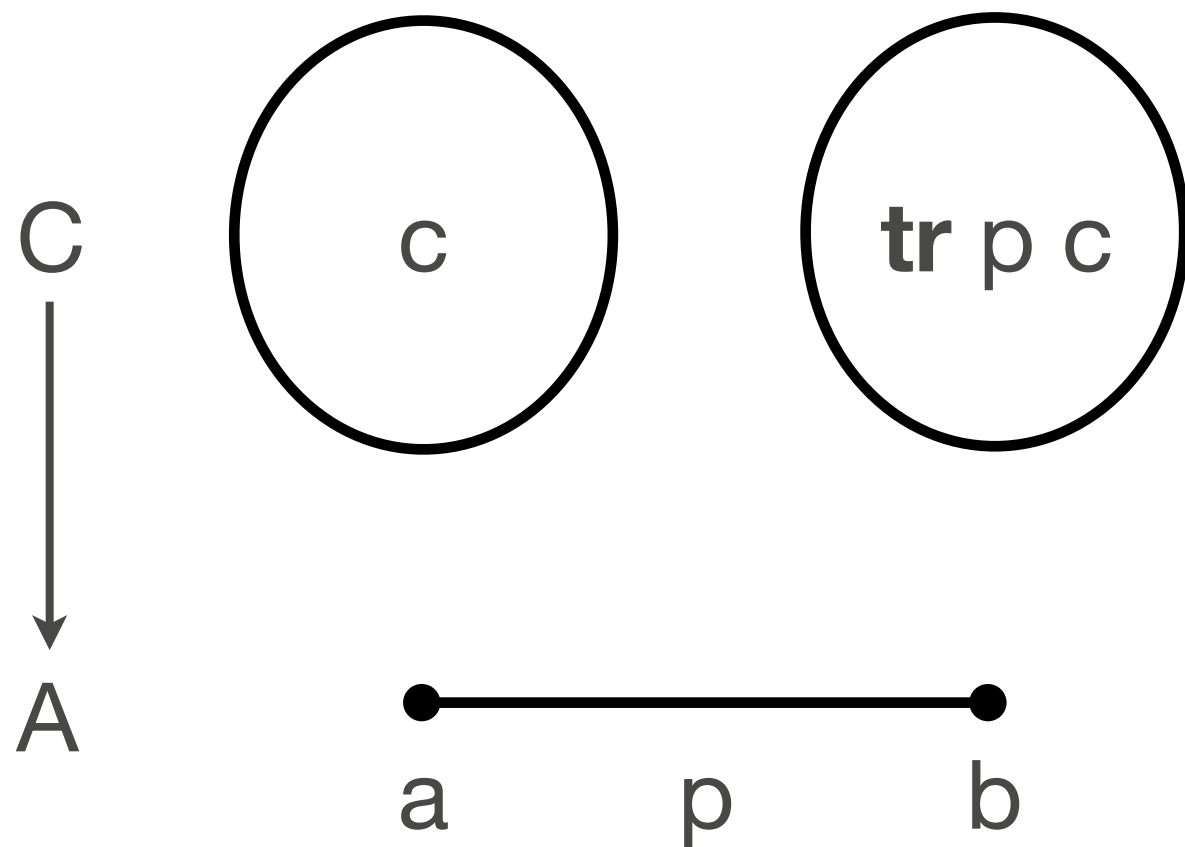
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**$\text{transport } C \ p \ c : C(b)$**

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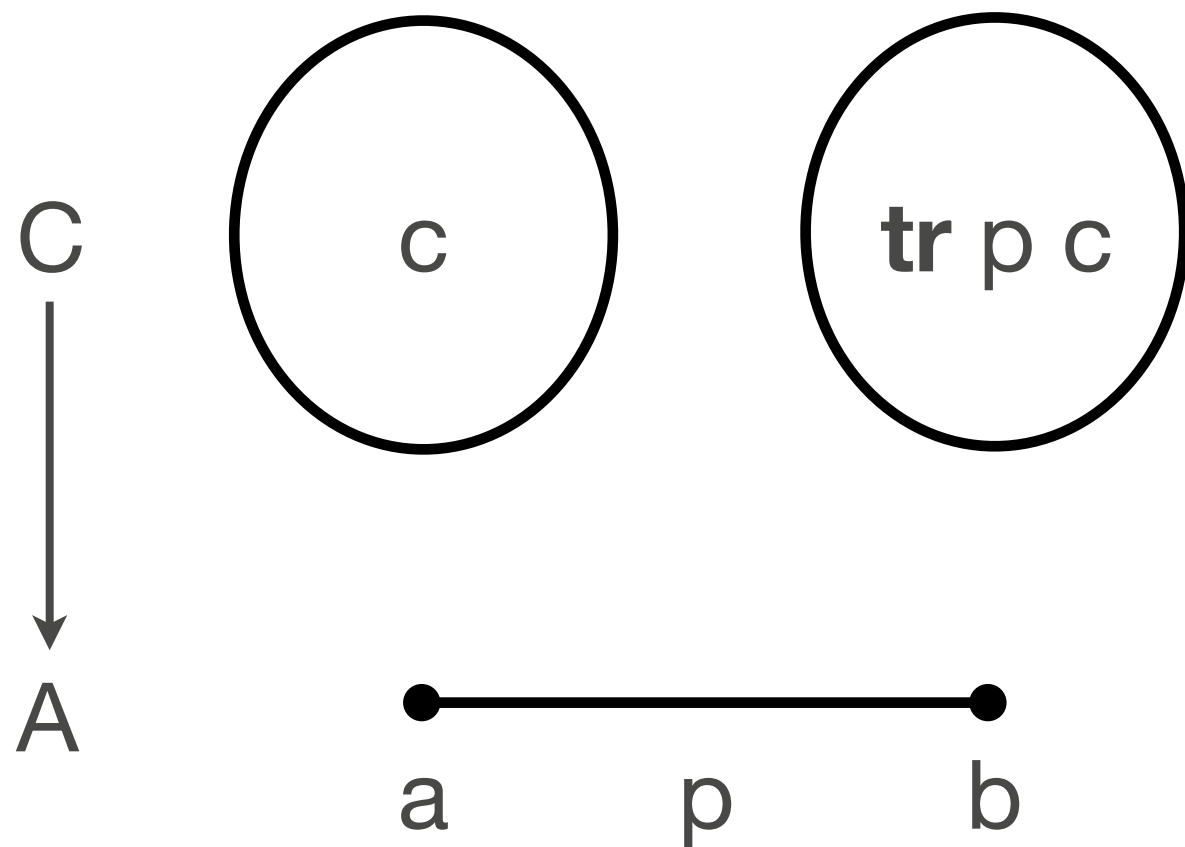
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original “intended model” of MLTT: every “path” is identity

# Canonicity theorem

## **Constructive proof of:**

For all (closed)  $t : \text{nat}$  in MLTT,  
there exists a numeral  $k$  with  
 $t$  definitionally equal to  $k$

# Univalence Axiom

$$(A, B : U) \rightarrow \text{Equiv } A \ B \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Path } U \ A \ B$$

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**axioms break canonicity**

**Central question for computation with univalence:**  
what does it mean to **transport** along such a path?

# Voevodsky's homotopy canonicity conjecture

## Some of the key univalent concepts (cont.)

9. Unlike many other axioms (e.g. the axiom of excluded middle), the univalence axiom is expected "to have computational content". In other words decidable normalization should be extendable in a certain sense to terms which involve the univalence axiom. For example there is the following precise:

*Conjecture 1.* There exists a terminating algorithm which for any term expression  $t$  of type  $[\text{nat}]$  (natural numbers) constructed using the univalence axiom returns a term expression  $t'$  of type  $[\text{nat}]$  which does not use univalence axiom and a term expression of the identity type  $[\text{Id nat } t \ t']$  which may use the univalence axiom.

**[talk in  
Göteborg,  
2011]**

# Voevodsky's homotopy canonicity conjecture

## **Constructive proof of:**

For all (closed)  $t : \text{nat}$  in  $\text{MLTT} + \text{univalence}$ ,  
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*computation valid in all models*

*ua already implies how ua “computes”*

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*definitional equalities are easier to use*



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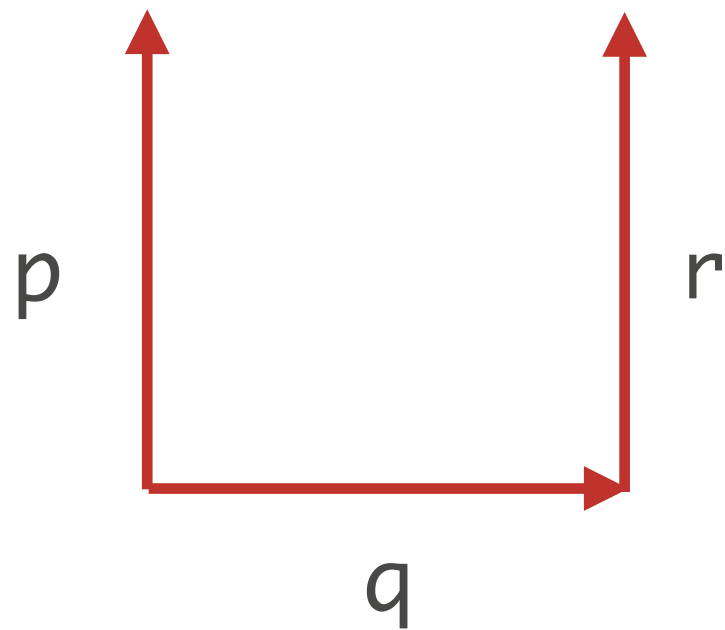
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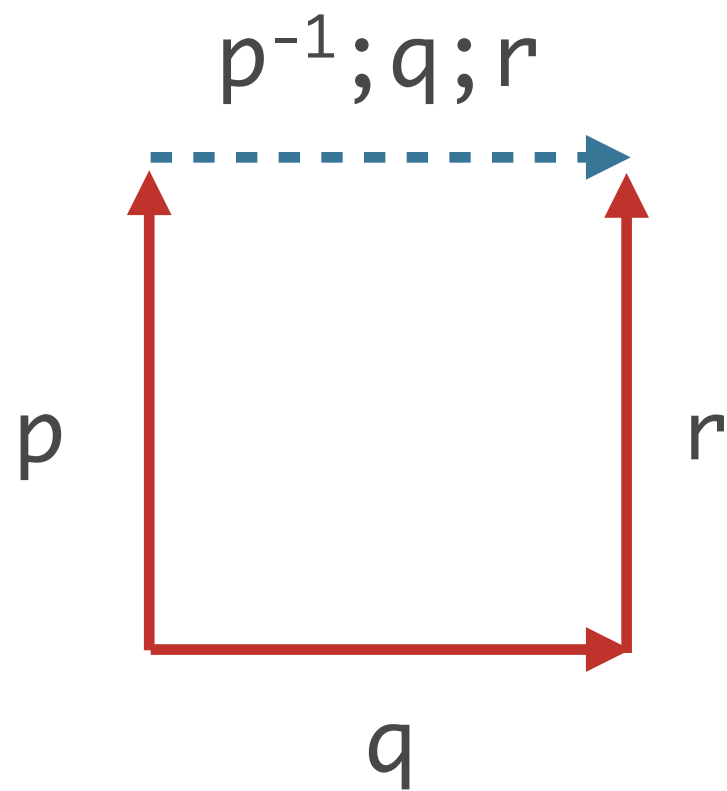
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- \* more mathematical analyses [Awodey'13-,Gambino,Sattler'15-'17]

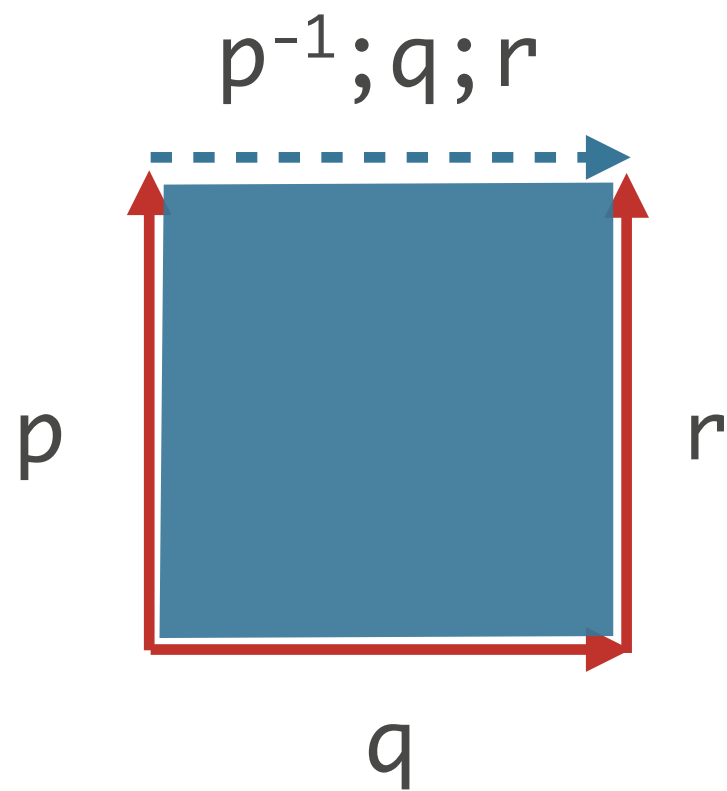
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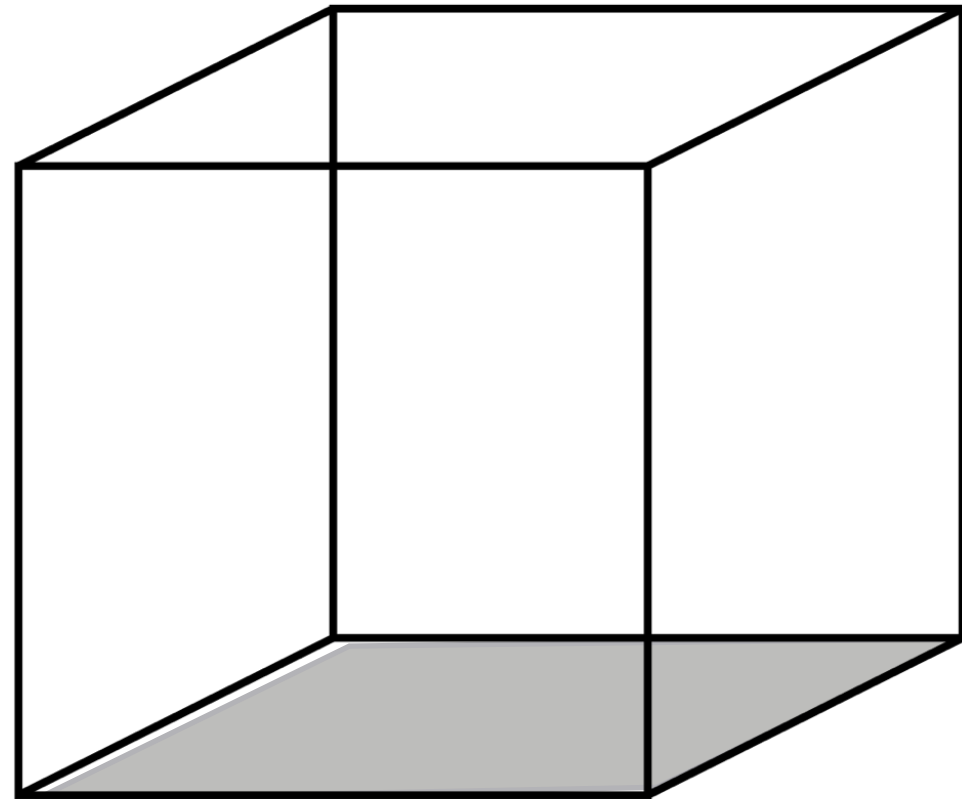
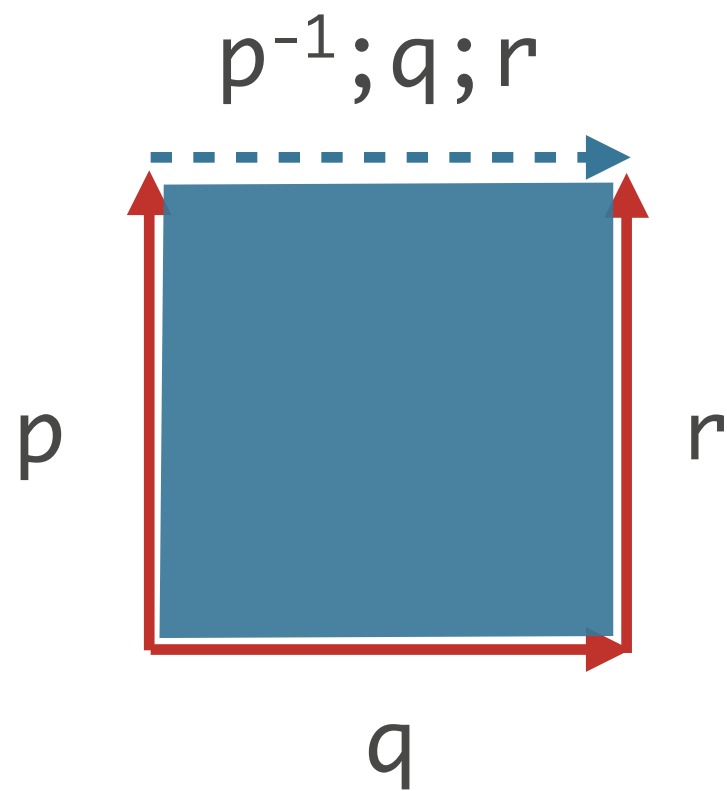
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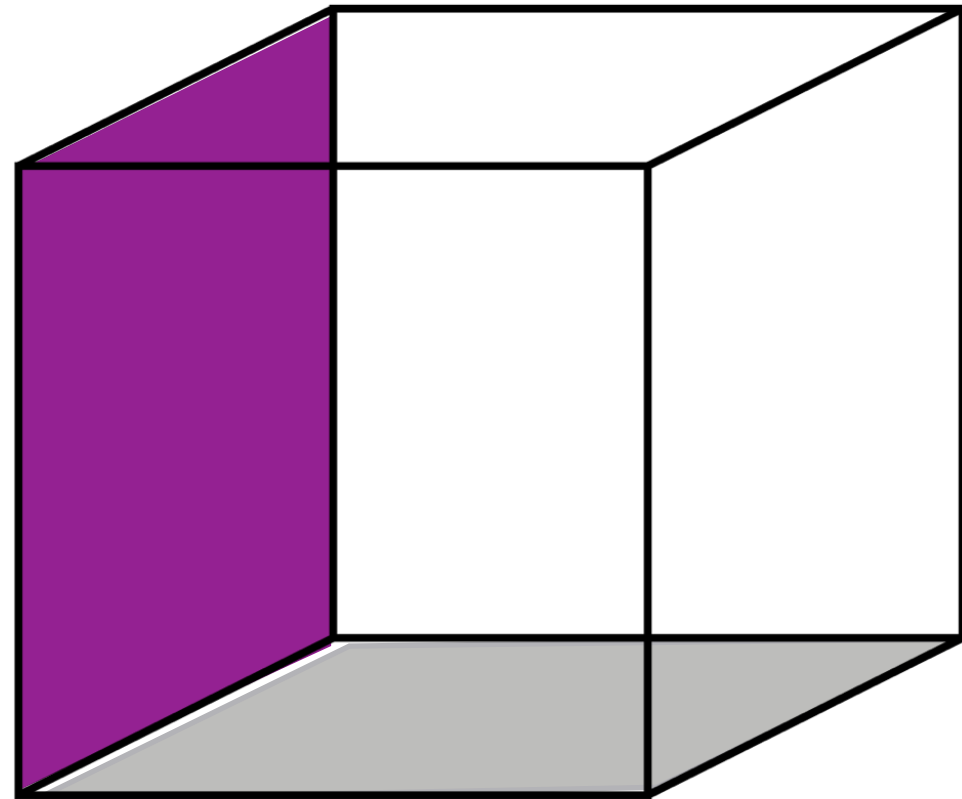
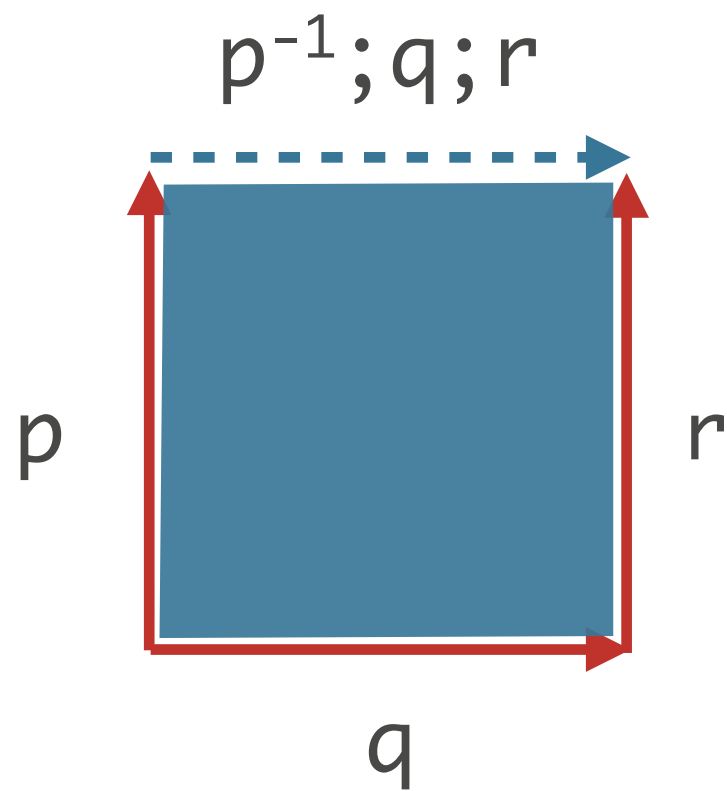
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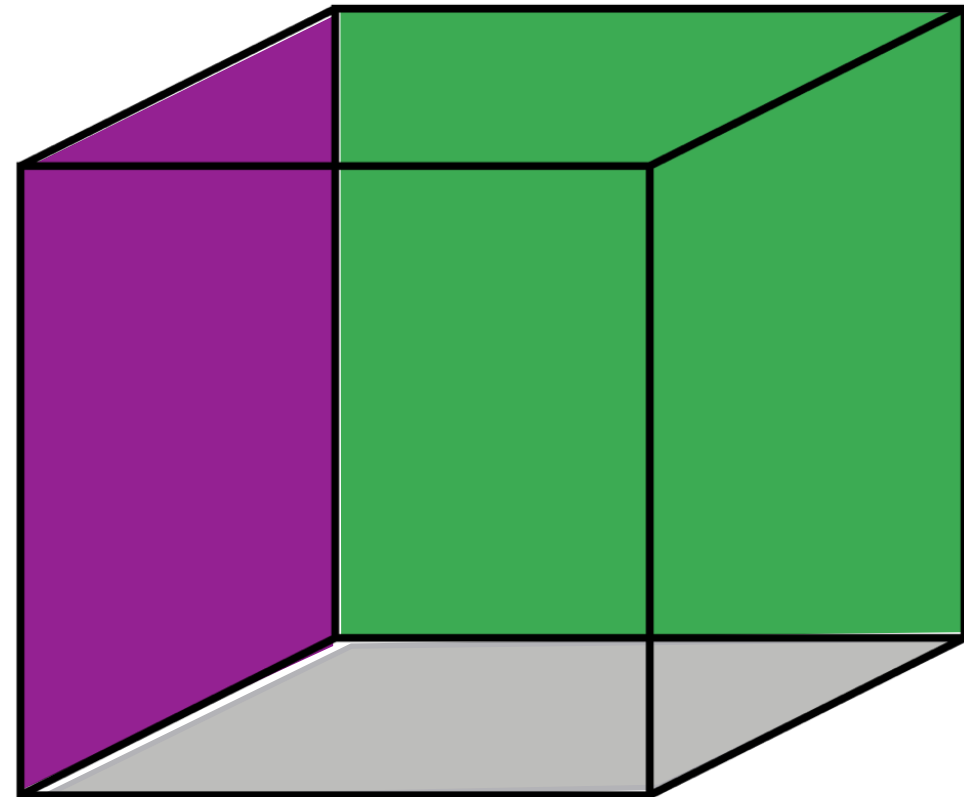
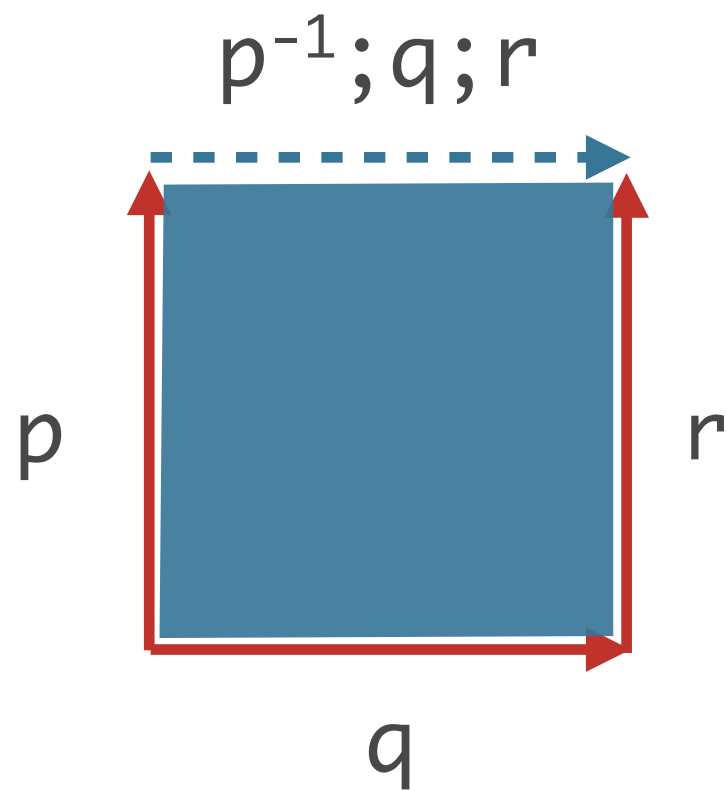
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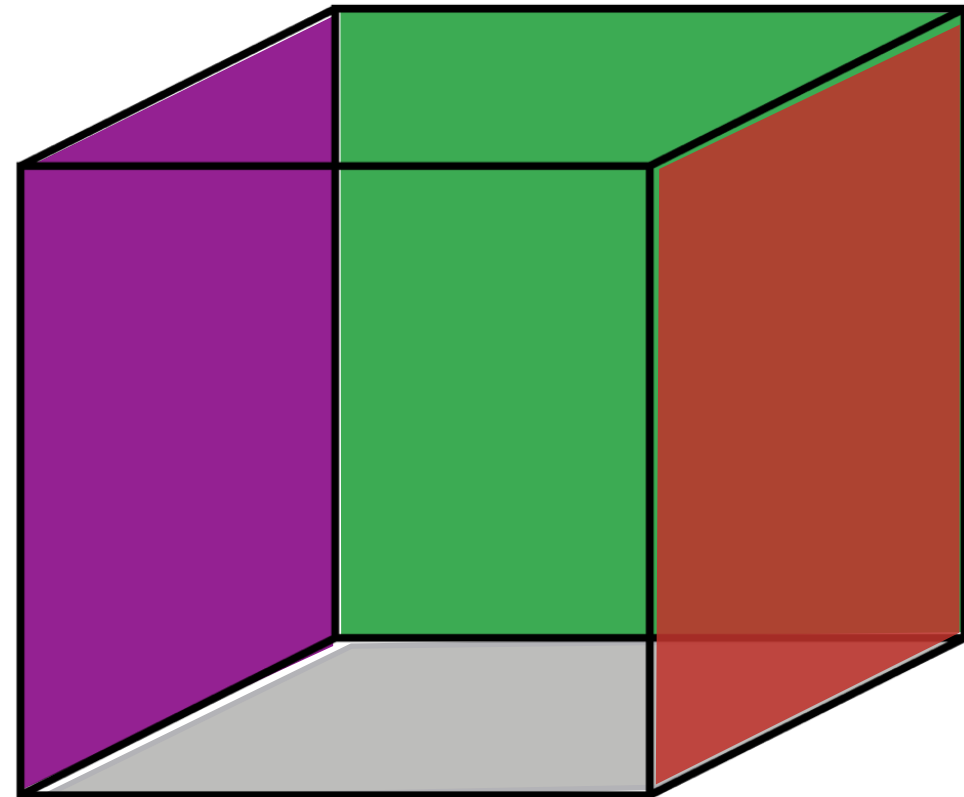
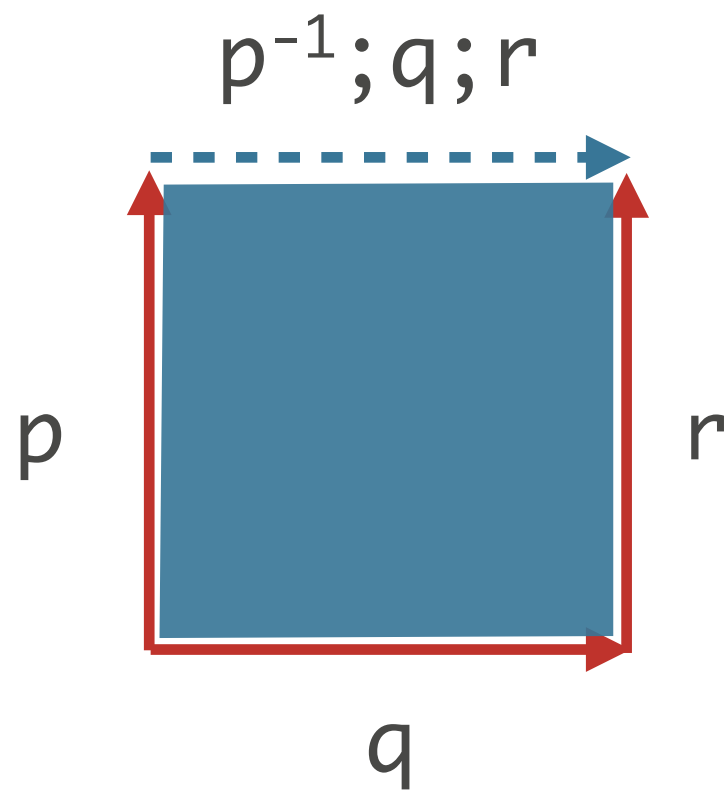
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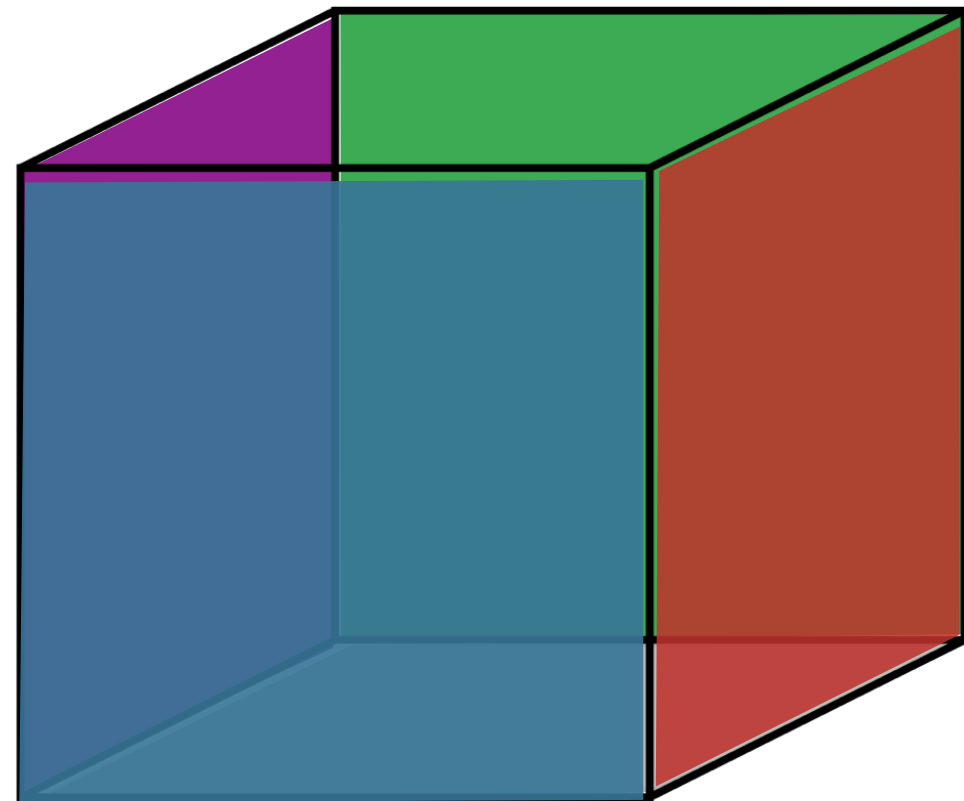
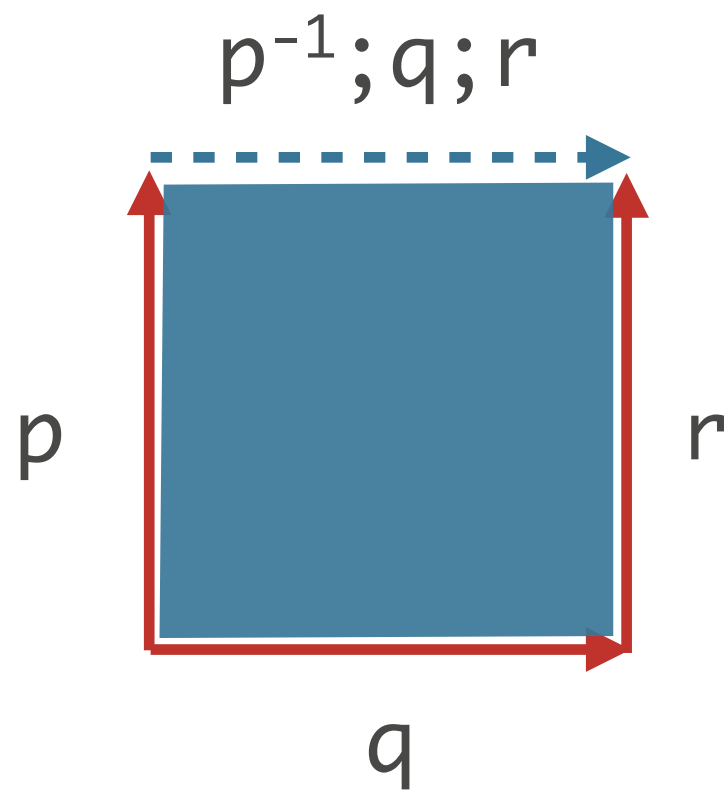


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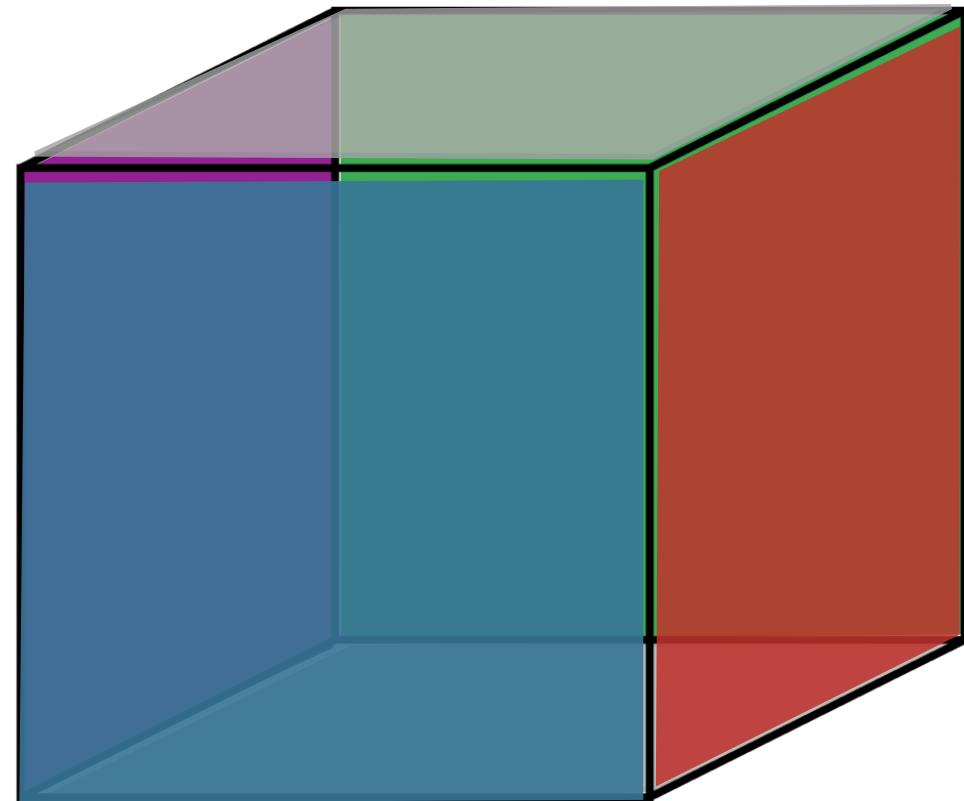
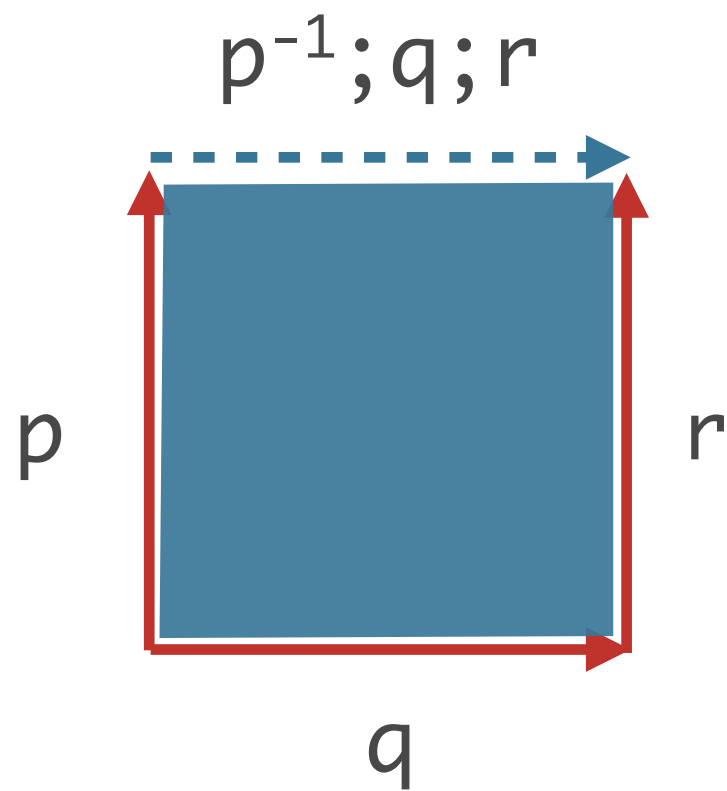




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# Main Ideas

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- \*  $\mathbf{Sets}^{\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}}}$  for  $\mathbb{C}$  free semicartesian category on  $0, 1 : * \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ ;  
free cartesian category; ...with connections/reversals

# Main Ideas

- \*  $\mathbf{Sets}^{\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}}}$  for  $\mathbb{C}$  free semicartesian category on  $0, 1 : * \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ ;  
free cartesian category; ...with connections/reversals
- \* fibration: algebraic/specified solutions to filling problems

# Main Ideas

- \*  $\mathbf{Sets}^{\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}}}$  for  $\mathbb{C}$  free semicartesian category on  $0, 1 : * \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ ; free cartesian category; ...with connections/reversals
- \* fibration: algebraic/specified solutions to filling problems
- \* algorithms for filling in  $\prod$ ,  $\sum$ , Path, universe, univalence

# Main Ideas

- \*  $\mathbf{Sets}^{\mathbb{C}^{\text{op}}}$  for  $\mathbb{C}$  free semicartesian category on  $0, 1 : * \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$ ; free cartesian category; ...with connections/reversals
- \* fibration: algebraic/specified solutions to filling problems
- \* algorithms for filling in  $\prod, \sum, \text{Path}$ , universe, univalence
- \* definition of fibration chosen carefully — stable under change of base (uniformity), (trivial) cofibrations — in harmony with choice of cube category

# Relation to sSet?

- \* known methods use  $\mathbf{P} A := A(- \otimes \mathbb{I})$  or  $A^{y^{\mathbb{I}}}$  and its right adjoint to define universes and filling in them
- \* unclear if any “type theoretic model structures” are Quillen-equiv to sSet/Top; some are not [Sattler]



# Recommender System

<https://www.uwo.ca/math/faculty/kapulkin/seminars/hottest.html>

Last spring: Coquand  
Angiuli

October 11: Favonia

<https://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/summerschool/summer18/topics.php>

Harper

# Computation with univalence in...

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**definitions of  $\mathbb{Z}$**

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**fundamental groups of  $S^1$  and  $\mathbb{T}$**

# Computation with univalence in...

**definitions of  $\mathbb{Z}$**

**fundamental groups of  $S^1$  and  $\mathbb{T}$**

**calculation of  $\pi_4(S^3)$**

# Running the equivalence principle

# $\mathbb{Z}$ in type theory (1)

nat + nat

**negative**

**non-negative**

-2



inl 1

-1



inl 0

0



inr 0

1



inr 1

2



inr 2

# $\mathbb{Z}$ in type theory (2)

$\text{nat} \quad +_{(\emptyset, \emptyset)} \quad \text{nat}$

**non-positive**

**non-negative**

-2



$\text{inl } 2$

-1



$\text{inl } 1$

0



$\text{inr } 0$

$\text{inl } 0$

1



$\text{inr } 1$

2



$\text{inr } 2$



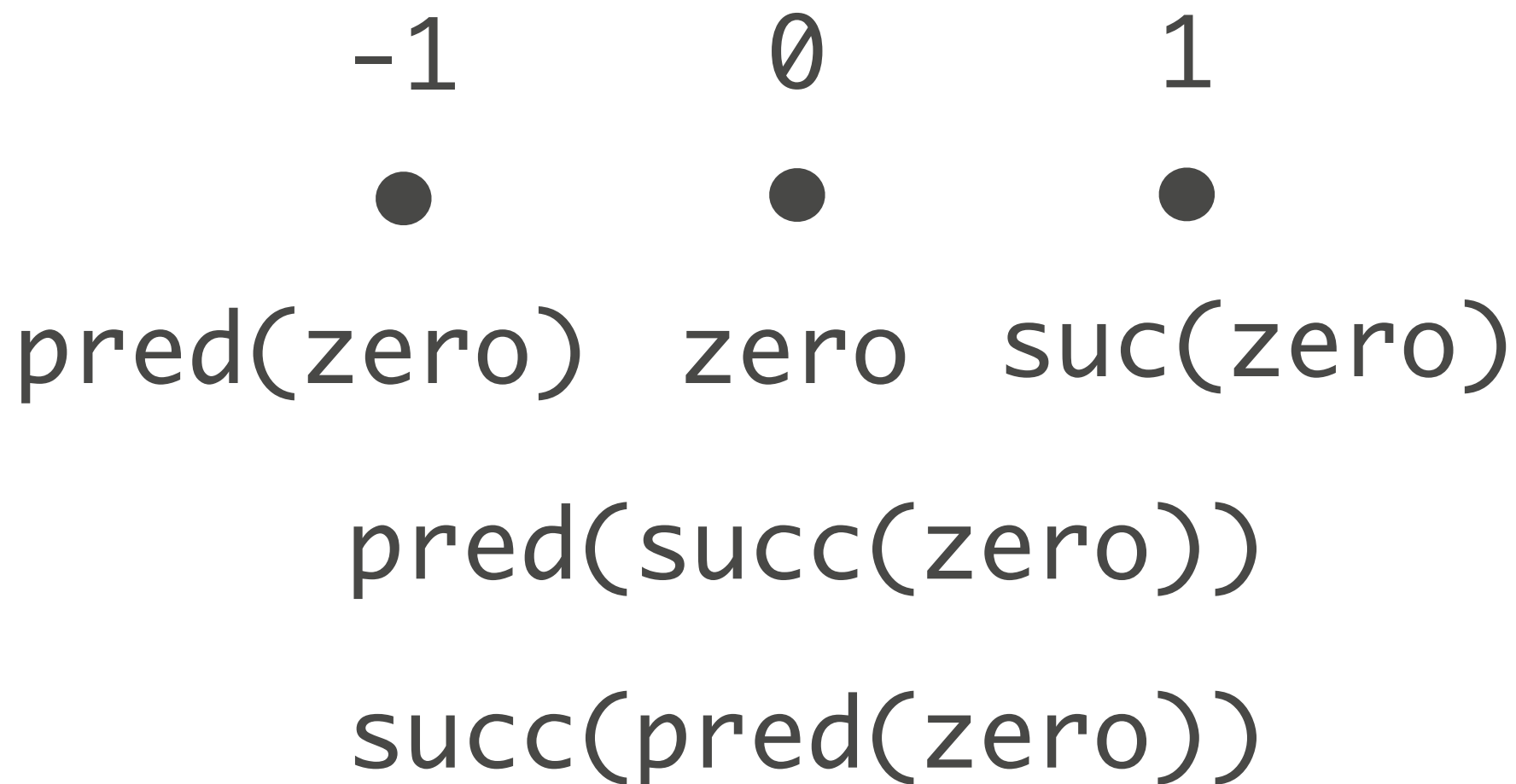
# $\mathbb{Z}$ in type theory (3)

$(\text{nat} \times \text{nat}) / (a+b' =_{\text{nat}} a'+b)$

-1	0	1
●	●	●
(0, 1)	(0, 0)	(1, 0)
(1, 2)	(1, 1)	(2, 1)

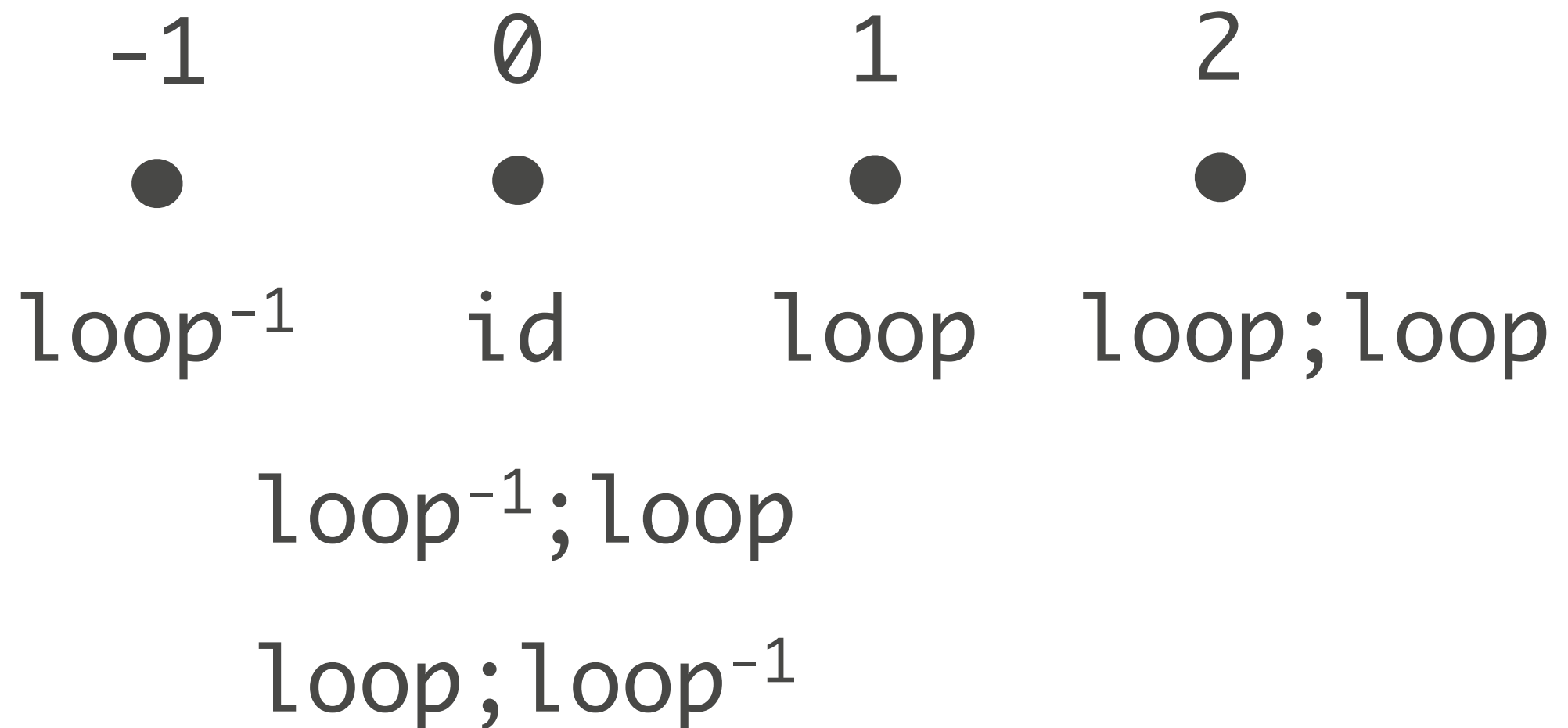
# $\mathbb{Z}$ in type theory (4)

free (set-level) group on one generator



# $\mathbb{Z}$ in type theory (5)

loops in  $S^1$



# addition (1)

```
addZ : Z -> Z -> Z = split
  inl neg_a -> split@(Z -> Z) with
    inl neg_b -> inl(suc(add neg_a neg_b))
    inr nonneg_b -> sub nonneg_b (suc neg_a)
  inr nonneg_a -> split@(Z -> Z) with
    inl neg_b -> sub nonneg_a (suc neg_b)
    inr nonneg_b -> inr(add nonneg_a nonneg_b)
```

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```

$$-1-a + -1-b = -2-(a+b)$$

$$\text{inl}(a) + \text{inl}(b) = \text{inl}(1+a+b)$$

# addition (1)

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```

$$-1-a + b = (b - (1+a))$$

sub : nat × nat → Z

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```

$$-1-a + b = (b - (1+a))$$

sub : nat × nat → Z



# addition (3)

$$\text{add } ((a, b), (a', b')) = (a+a', b+b')$$

plus proof that respects quotient

assoc:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((a_1, b_1) + (a_2, b_2)) + (a_3, b_3) \\ = & ((a_1 + a_2) + a_3, (b_1 + b_2) + b_3) \\ = & (a_1 + (a_2 + a_3), b_1 + (b_2 + b_3)) \\ = & (a_1, b_1) + ((a_2, b_2) + (a_3, b_3)) \end{aligned}$$



# Equivalence of (1) and (3)

```
from : Zd -> Z = split
  diff a b -> sub a b
  quot a b a' b' q @ x -> q @ x
  setZ i j p q @ x y ->
    ZSet (from i) (from j) (<x> from (p @ x))
      (<x> from (q @ x)) @ x @ y

to : Z -> Zd = split
  inl n -> diff zero (suc n)
  inr n -> diff n zero
```

plus proof mutually inverse

# Using univalence

```
ZisZd : Path U Z Zd =  
  isoPath Z Zd to from fromto tofrom
```

**Therefore:**

**any construction on types  
that can be defined for Zd  
can be transferred to Z, and vice versa**

# Group structure

```
data GroupStr (X : U) =  
  groupstr (op : X -> X -> X)  
    (unit : X)  
    (inv : X -> X)  
    (unitl : (x : X) -> Path X (op unit x) x)  
    (unitr : (x : X) -> Path X (op x unit) x)  
    (assoc : (x y z : X) ->  
      Path X (op (op x y) z) (op x (op y z)))  
    (invl : (x : X) -> Path X (op (inv x) x) unit)  
    (invr : (x : X) -> Path X (op x (inv x)) unit)
```

# Without univalence

Given  $e : A \simeq B$

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GroupStr :  $U \rightarrow U$

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Given  $e : A \simeq B$

$\text{GroupStr} : U \rightarrow U$

**define**  $\text{GroupStr } A \simeq \text{GroupStr } B$

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Given  $e : A \simeq B$

$\text{GroupStr} : U \rightarrow U$

**define**  $\text{GroupStr } A \simeq \text{GroupStr } B$

e.g.  $b_1 \odot_B b_2 = e(e^{-1}(b_1) \odot_A e^{-1}(b_2))$

# Without univalence

Given  $e : A \simeq B$

$\text{GroupStr} : U \rightarrow U$

**define**  $\text{GroupStr } A \simeq \text{GroupStr } B$

e.g.  $b_1 \odot_B b_2 = e(e^{-1}(b_1) \odot_A e^{-1}(b_2))$

*No definable construction on types  
differentiates equivalent types*



# Using univalence

$Z \approx Z_d$  : Path U Z  $Z_d$  **univalence**

# Using univalence

$Z \simeq Z_d$  : Path U Z  $Z_d$  **univalence**

GroupStr : U  $\rightarrow$  U

# Using univalence

$Z \simeq Zd$  : Path U Z Zd **univalence**

GroupStr : U  $\rightarrow$  U

**define** GroupStr Zd

# Using univalence

$Z \simeq Z_d$  : Path U Z  $Z_d$  **univalence**

GroupStr : U  $\rightarrow$  U

**define** GroupStr  $Z_d$

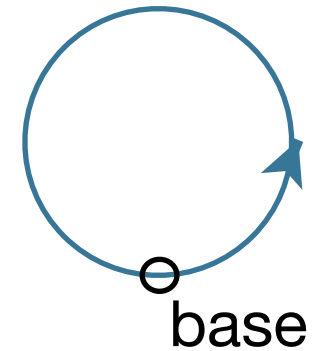
**mechanically derive** GroupStr Z  
**by transporting along the equivalence**

intdiff.ctt

# Higher inductive types and synthetic homotopy theory

# Circle

Circle  $S^1$  is a **higher inductive type** generated by

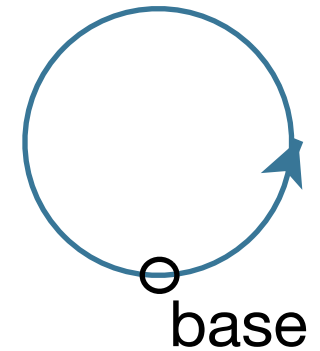


# Circle

Circle  $S^1$  is a **higher inductive type** generated by

base :  $S^1$

loop : Path  $S^1$  base base



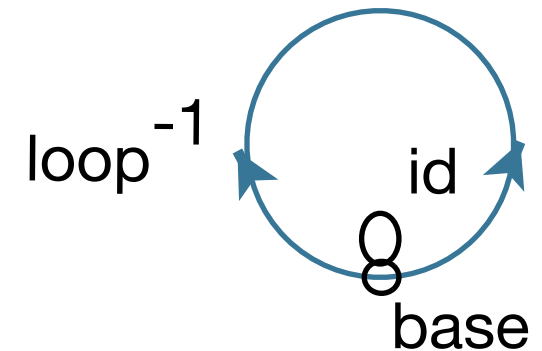


# Circle

Circle  $S^1$  is a **higher inductive type** generated by

$\text{base} : \mathbb{S}^1$

$\text{loop} : \text{Path } \mathbb{S}^1 \text{ base base}$



*Free type ( $\infty$ -groupoid/uniform Kan cubical set):*

$\text{id}$

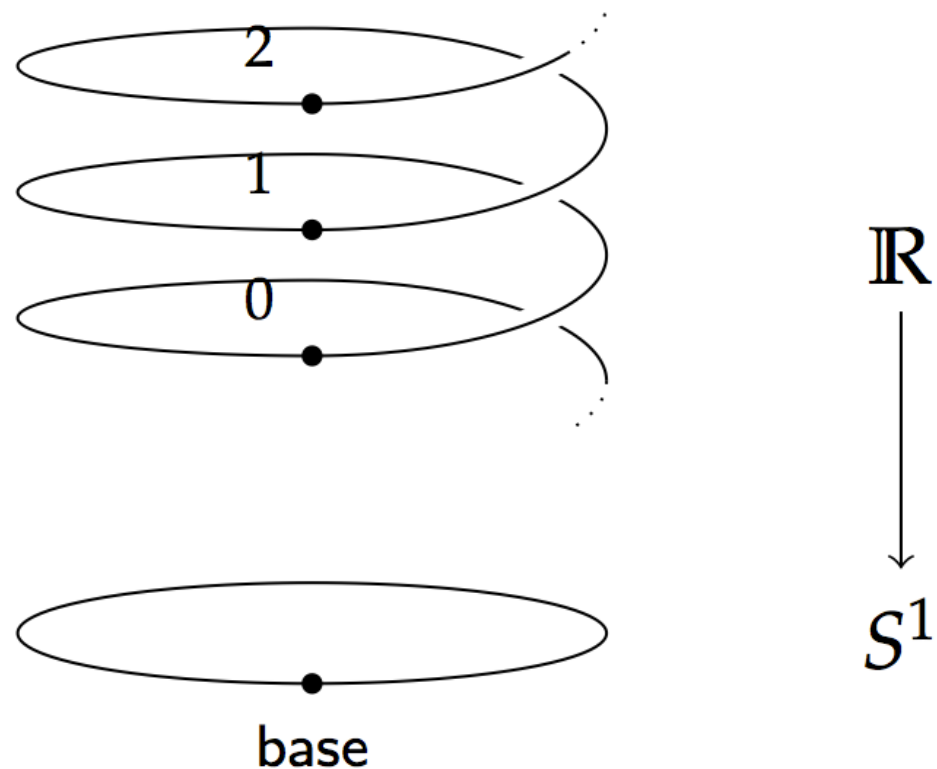
$\text{inv} : \text{loop}; \text{loop}^{-1} = \text{id}$

$\text{loop}^{-1}$

$\dots$

$\text{loop}; \text{loop}$

# Universal Cover



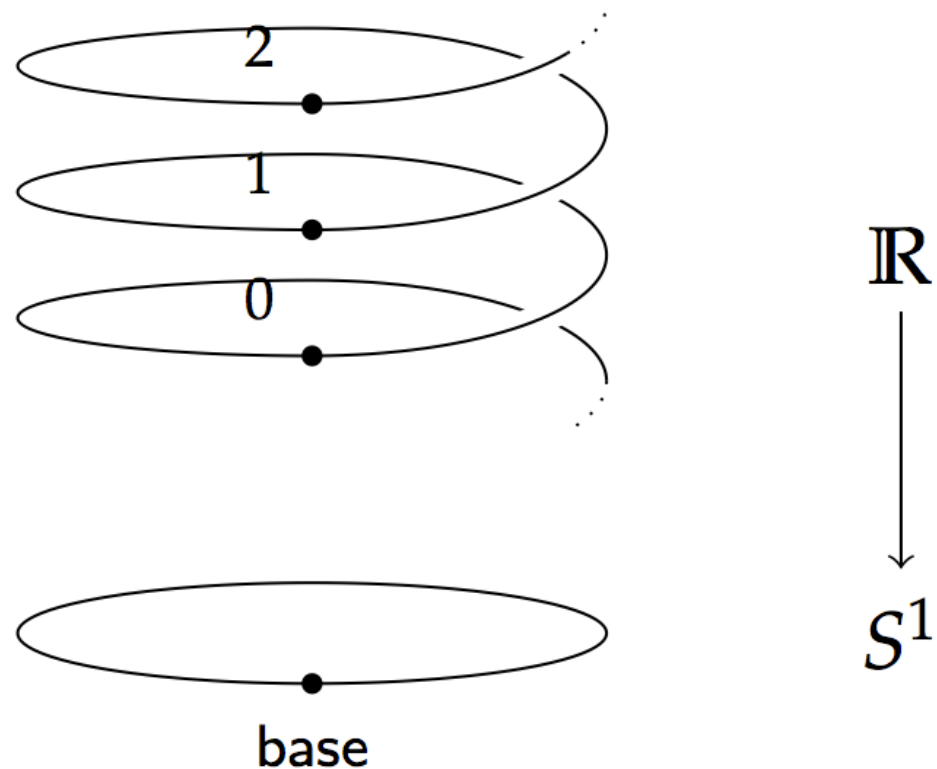
$$\text{wind} : \Omega(S^1) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

defined by **lifting** a loop  
to the cover, and giving  
the other endpoint of 0

lifting  $\text{loop}$  adds 1

lifting  $\text{loop}^{-1}$  subtracts 1

# Universal Cover



$$\text{Helix} : S^1 \rightarrow U$$

$$\text{Helix}(\text{base}) := \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\text{Helix}(\text{loop}) :=$$

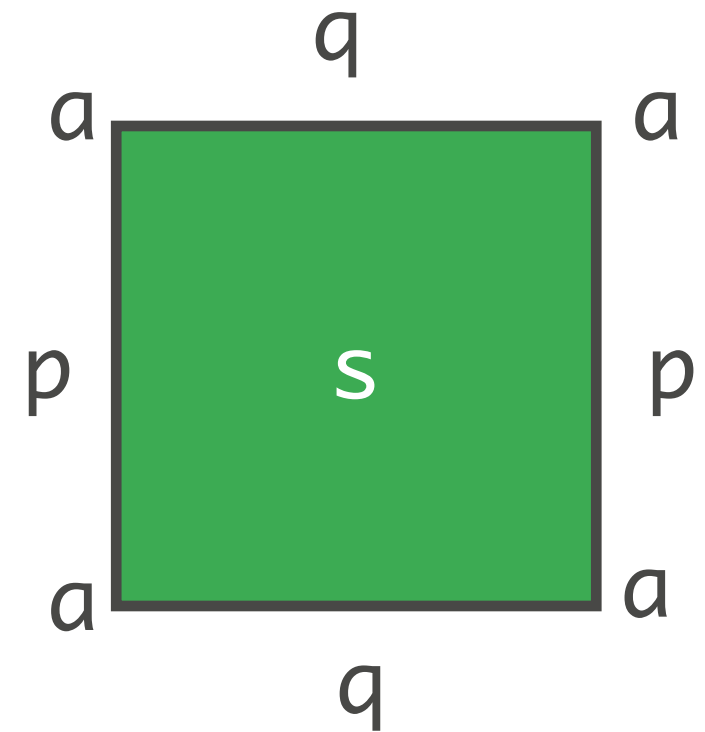
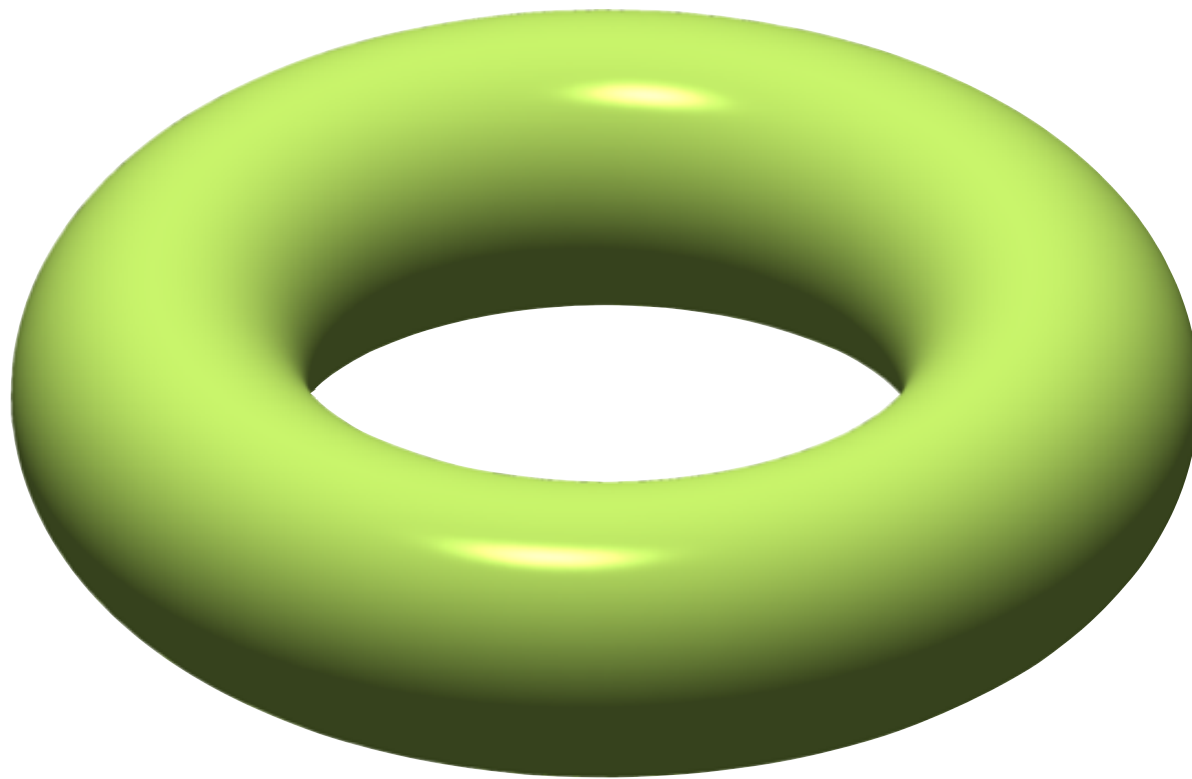
$$\text{ua}(x \mapsto x+1 : \mathbb{Z} \simeq \mathbb{Z})$$

lifting  $\text{loop}$  adds 1

lifting  $\text{loop}^{-1}$  subtracts 1

circletalk.ctt

# Torus



$a$  : Torus

$p, q$  : Path  $a$   $a$

$s$  : Square  $q$   $q$   $p$   $p$

$$\mathbb{T} \simeq S^1 \times S^1$$

```

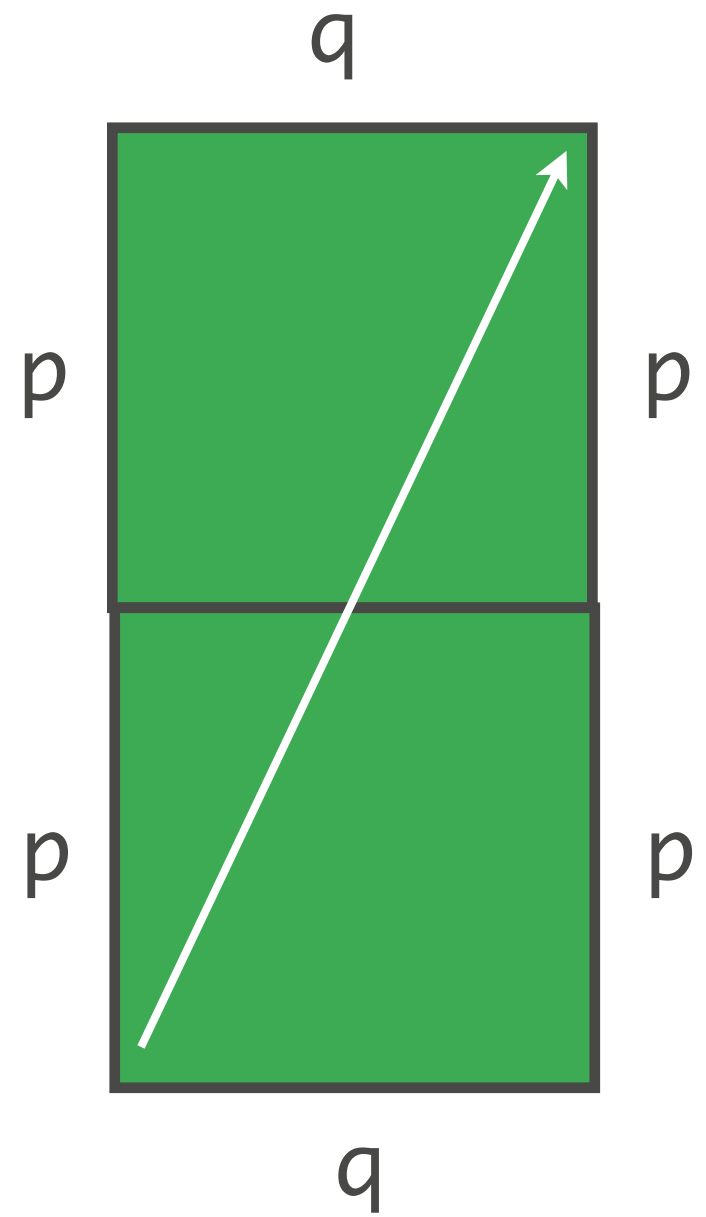
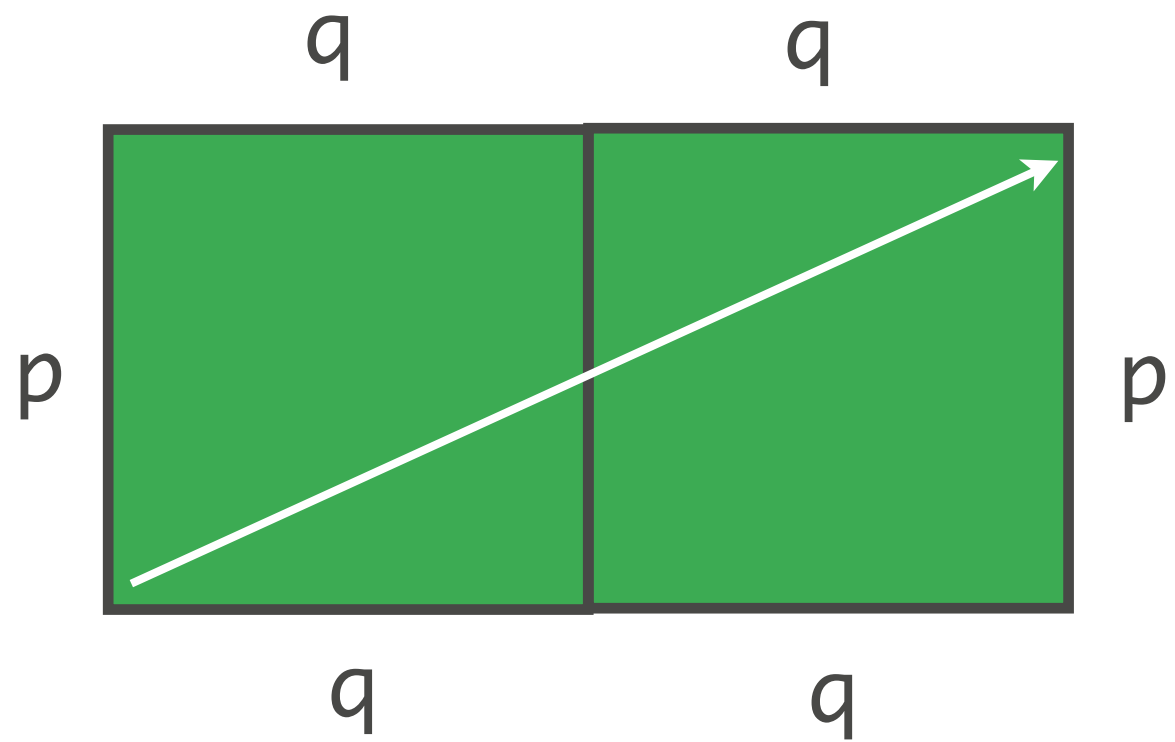
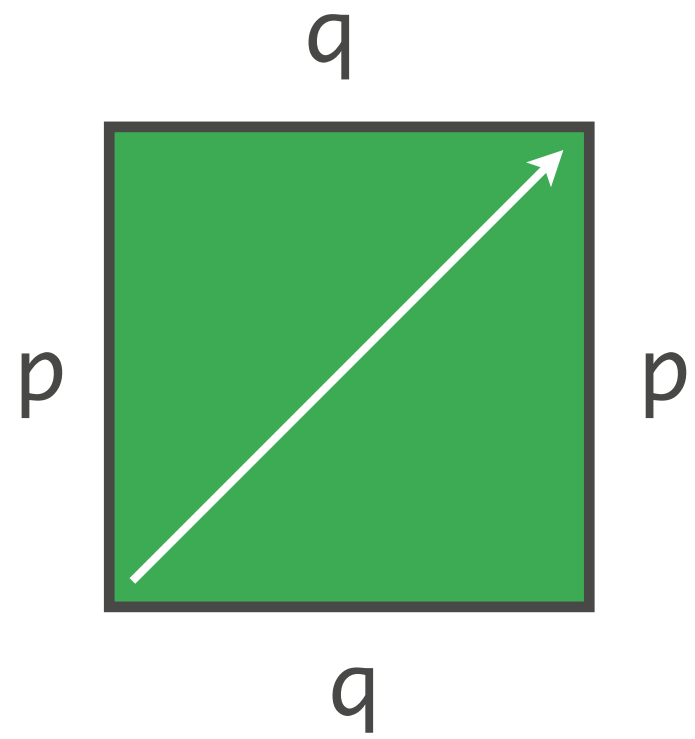
t2c : Torus -> and S1 S1 = split
  a -> (base, base)
  p @ y -> (loop @ y, base)
  q @ x -> (base, loop @ x)
  s @ x y -> (loop @ y, loop @ x)

```

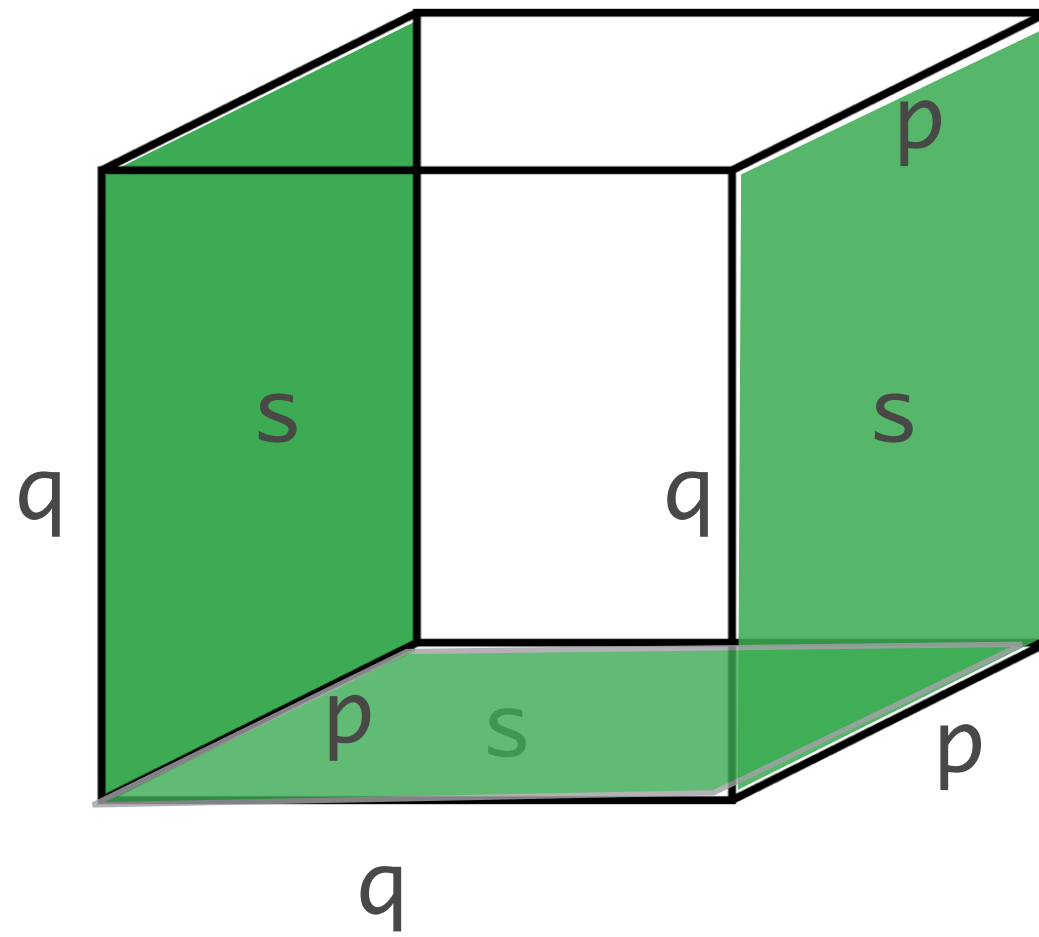
**free type: suffices to specify images of generators**

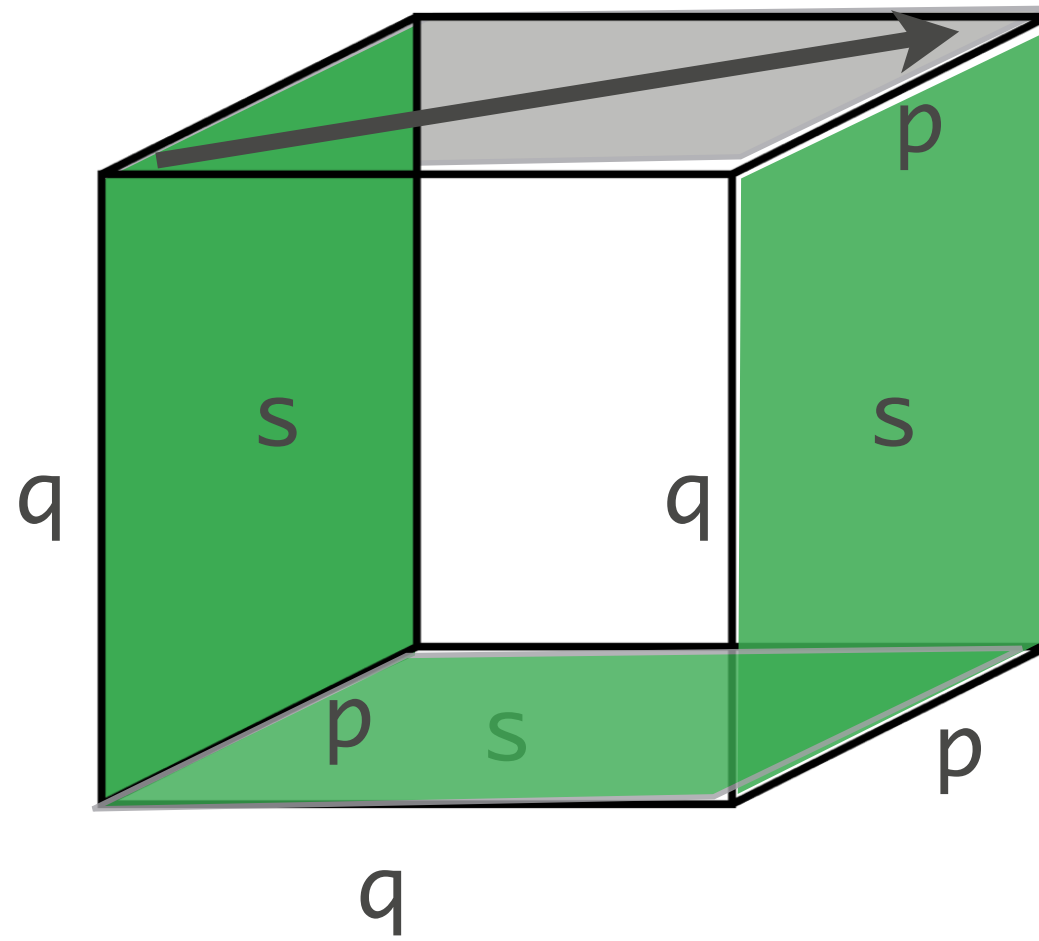
$$\Omega(\mathbb{T}) \rightarrow \Omega(S^1 \times S^1) \rightarrow \Omega(S^1) \times \Omega(S^1)$$

```
count (t : OmegaT) : (and Z Z) =
  (winding (<x> (t2c (t@x)).1) ,
   winding (<x> (t2c (t@x)).2))
```



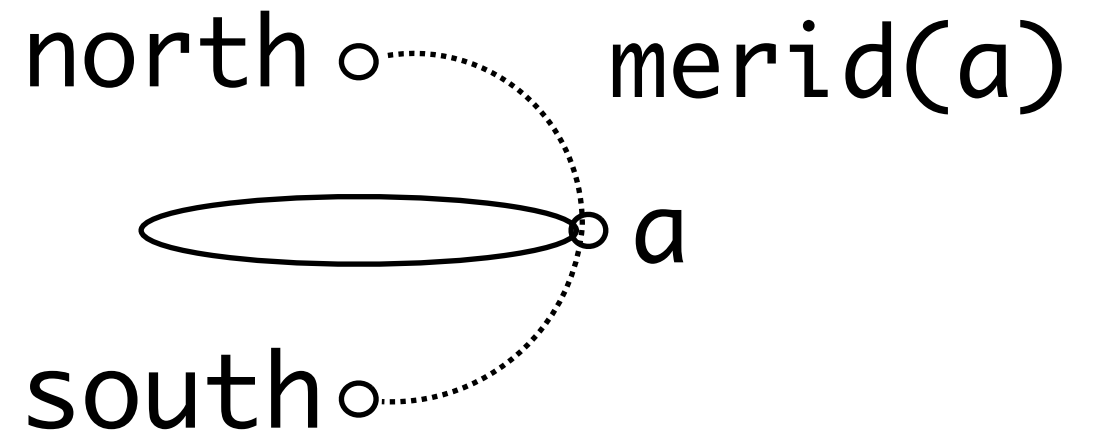






torustalk.ctt

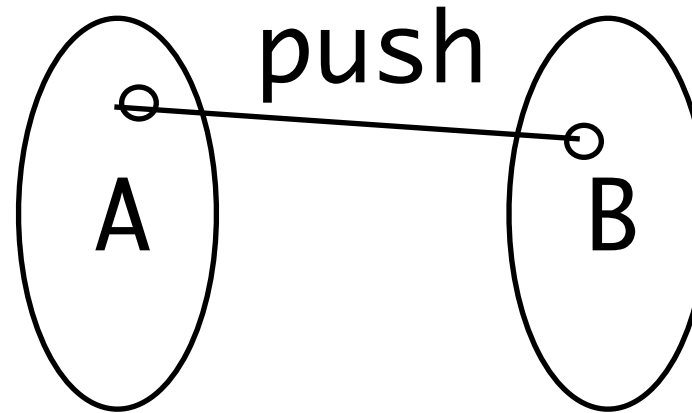
# Suspension



```
data susp (A : U) = north
                  | south
                  | merid (a : A)
                  <i> [ (i=0) -> north
                    , (i=1) -> south ]
```

```
-- n-spheres
sphere : nat -> U = split
  zero  -> bool
  suc n -> susp (sphere n)
```

# Join



```
data join (A B : U) = inl (a : A)
  | inr (b : B)
  | push (a : A) (b : B)
    <i> [ (i = 0) -> inl a
      , (i = 1) -> inr b ]
```

# Synth homotopy theory

$$\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$$

**Freudenthal**

**Van Kampen**

$$\pi_{k < n}(S^n) = 0$$

$$\pi_n(S^n) = \mathbb{Z}$$

**Covering spaces**

**Hopf fibration**

**$K(G, n)$**

**Whitehead**

$$\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$$

**Blakers-Massey**

**for n-types**

$$\pi_3(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$T^2 = S^1 \times S^1$$

**(Co)homology**

**James  
Construction**

**Mayer-Vietoris**

$$\pi_4(S^3) = \mathbb{Z}_2$$

**[Brunerie, Cavallo, Favonia, Finster,  
Licata, Lumsdaine, Sojakova, Shulman]**

# Synth homotopy theory

**Serre Spectral Sequence** [Avigad, Awodey, Buchholtz, van Doorn, Newstead, Rijke, Shulman]

**Cellular Cohomology** [Favonia, Buchholtz]

Higher Groups [Buchholtz, van Doorn, Rijke]

Cayley-Dickson, Quaternionic Hopf [Buchholtz, Rijke]

Real projective spaces [Buchholtz, Rijke]

Free Higher Groups [Kraus, Altenkirch]

# Brunerie's number

**Constructive proof in type theory of:**

There exists a  $k$  such that  $\pi_4(\mathbb{S}^3) \cong \mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$

$$\Omega^3 \mathbb{S}^3 \xrightarrow{\Omega^3 e} \Omega^3 (\mathbb{S}^1 * \mathbb{S}^1) \xrightarrow{\Omega^3 \alpha} \Omega^3 \mathbb{S}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$



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**view  $\mathbb{S}^3$   
as join**

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**view  $\mathbb{S}^3$   
as join**                      **main map**                       **$\pi_3(\mathbb{S}^2)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}$**

# Proof Assistants

cubicaltt [Cohen,Coquand,Huber,Mörtberg]

cubical Agda [Vezzosi]

redtt [Angiuli,Cavallo,Favonia,Harper,Mörtberg,Sterling]

yacctl [Angiuli,Mörtberg]

redprl [Angiuli,Cavallo,Favonia,Harper,Sterling]

- \* different cube categories, filling operations
- \* optimized definitions of filling operations
- \* term representations, evaluation strategies, def. equality
- \* non-fibrant types and exact equalities

# CS Applications

- \* guarded recursion  
[Birkedal, Bizjak, Clouston, Spitters, Vezzosi]
- \* relational parametricity [Bernardy, Coquand, Moulin; Nuyts, Vezzosi, Devriese]
- \* effects in computational cubical type theory?  
[Angiuli, Cavallo, Favonia, Harper, Sterling, Wilson]
- \* transporting along functions in directed type theories? [Riehl, Shulman; Riehl, Sattler; L., Weaver]

# Questions

- \* homotopy theories of cubical sets models?  
[Sattler; Kapulkin, Voevodsky'18]
- \* interpret cubical type theory in other models?
- \* homotopy canonicity for MLTT+ua?
- \*  $\text{Path } U \ A \ B$  definitionally equal to  $\text{Equiv } A \ B$ ?  
[Altenkrich, Kaposi]
- \* regularity?  $A^{\mathbb{I}}$  + transport id def. equal to id [Awodey]

Thanks!