

# The Category of Iterative Sets in Cubical Agda

Master Thesis, Stockholm University

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Friday, 6 February 2026

1. Motivation
  2. Iterative Sets
  3. Iterative Sets as a model of Dependent Type Theory
  4. Formalization
- Bibliography

# 1. Motivation

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**Previous article** by Gratzer, Gylterud, Mörtberg, Stenholm [1]

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**Idea:** Easier to formalize in cubical setting

## **2. Iterative Sets**

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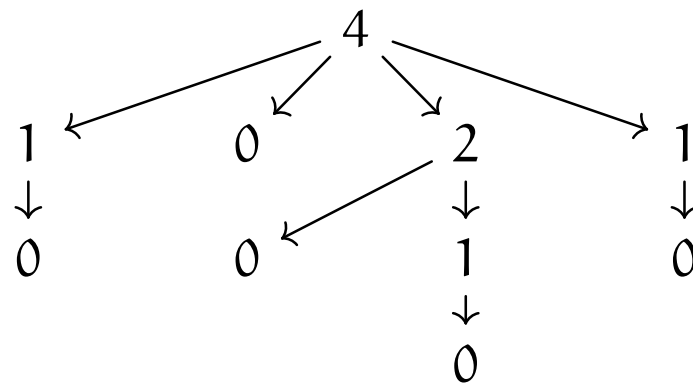
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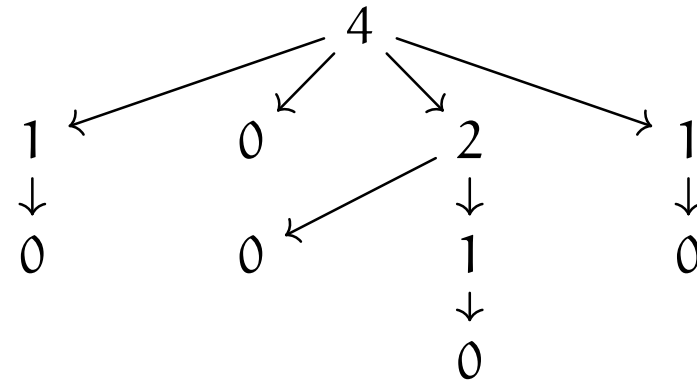
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$\{\{\emptyset\}, \emptyset, \{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\}, \{\emptyset\}\}$



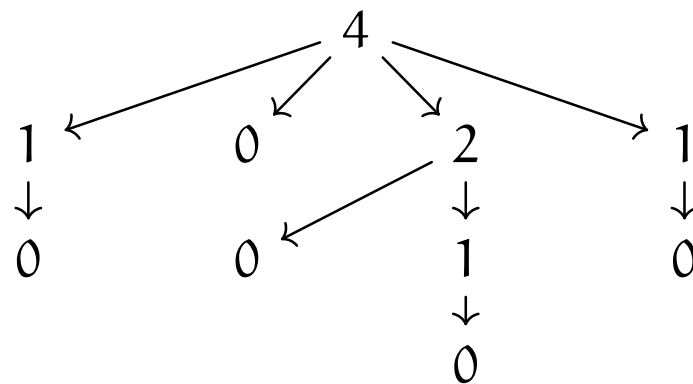
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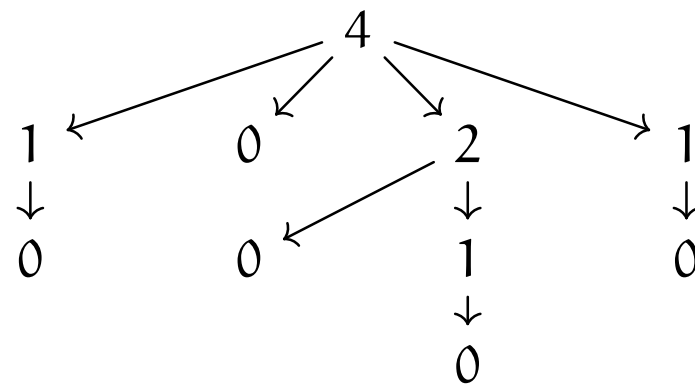
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**Definition W-types:**  $W_{x:A} B(x)$  with  $A : \text{Type}$  and  $B : A \rightarrow \text{Type}$  has elements

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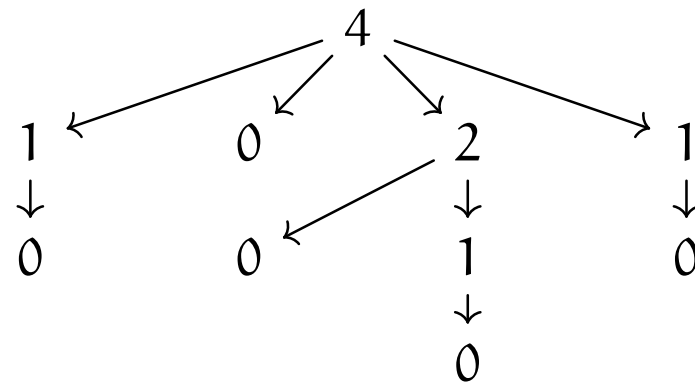
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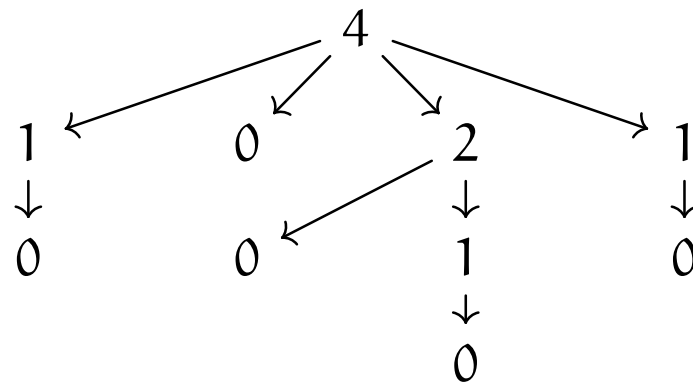


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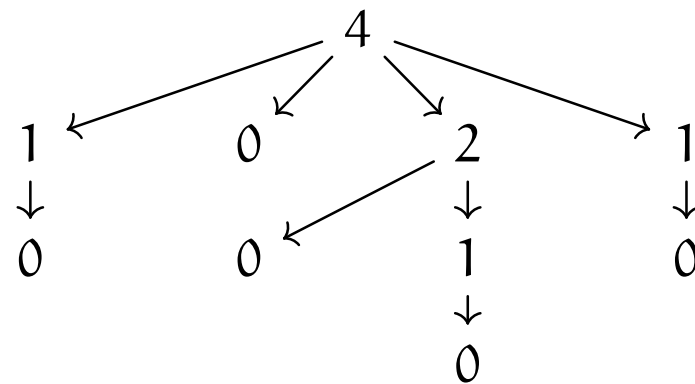
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- **multisets with multiplicities**  $(x \in^\infty (\text{sup}(B, g)) := \text{fiber}_g(x) := \sum_{b:B} g(b) \equiv_{V^\infty} x$
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- $V^0$  is a **category** closed under many standard **constructions**

### **3. Iterative Sets as a model of Dependent Type Theory**

---



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- a **functor**  $- . - : \int \mathbb{T}_y \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
- for each  $(\Gamma, A) : \int \mathbb{T}_y$  a **natural equivalence** in  $\Delta : \mathcal{C}$ :

$$\mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma . A) \simeq \sum_{\gamma : \mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma)} \mathbb{T}_m(\Delta, A \cdot \gamma)$$



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$$\text{Tm}(\Gamma, S_{\Gamma}(A, B)) \simeq \sum_{\alpha : \text{Tm}(\Gamma, A)} \text{Tm}(\Gamma, B \cdot \langle 1_{\Gamma}, \alpha \rangle)$$

## 4. Formalization

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- Iterative **multisets**
- Iterative **sets**
- ... as **universe**
- ... as **category**

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- **CwF** and  $\Sigma$ -**structure** (general)

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  2. "Cubical"
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**Total:** ~4700 LOC

# Naturality of $\Sigma$ -structure

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Gamma' \\
 \uparrow \\
 \sigma \\
 \Gamma \\
 \parallel \\
 \Gamma
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Tm}(\Gamma', S_{\Gamma'}(A, B)) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \sum_{a': \text{Tm}(\Gamma', A)} \text{Tm}(\Gamma', (B \cdot \langle 1_{\Gamma'}, a' \rangle)) \\
 \downarrow -[\sigma] & & \downarrow (\text{id}, -[\sigma]) \\
 \text{Tm}(\Gamma, (S_{\Gamma'}(A, B) \cdot \sigma)) & & \sum_{a': \text{Tm}(\Gamma', A)} \text{Tm}(\Gamma, (B \cdot \langle 1_{\Gamma'}, a' \rangle \cdot \sigma)) \\
 \parallel \text{subst}_p^{\text{Tm}(\Gamma, -)} & & \parallel (\text{id}, \text{subst}_q^{\text{Tm}(\Gamma, -)}(-)) \\
 \text{Tm}(\Gamma, S_{\Gamma}(A \cdot \sigma, B \cdot \langle \sigma, A \rangle)) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \sum_{a: \text{Tm}(\Gamma, (A \cdot \sigma))} \text{Tm}(\Gamma, (B \cdot \langle \sigma, A \rangle \cdot \langle 1_{\Gamma}, a \rangle))
 \end{array}$$

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## Bibliography

- [1] Daniel Gratzer, Håkon Robbestad Gylderud, Anders Mörtberg, and Elisabeth Stenholm, "The category of iterative sets in homotopy type theory and univalent foundations," *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2024, doi: 10.1017/S0960129524000288.

# 5. Appendix

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# Naturality of Context Extension

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Delta \\
 \uparrow \\
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 \Delta'
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma . A) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \sum_{\tau: \mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma)} \text{Tm}(\Delta, (A \cdot \tau)) \\
 \downarrow \sigma^* & & \downarrow (\text{id}, -[\sigma]) \\
 & & \sum_{\tau: \mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma)} \text{Tm}(\Delta', ((A \cdot \tau) \cdot \sigma)) \\
 & & \parallel (\text{id}, \text{transport}_p(-)) \\
 & & \sum_{\tau: \mathcal{C}(\Delta, \Gamma)} \text{Tm}(\Delta', (A \cdot (\tau \circ \sigma))) \\
 & & \downarrow (\sigma^*, \text{id}) \\
 \mathcal{C}(\Delta', \Gamma . A) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \sum_{\tau: \mathcal{C}(\Delta', \Gamma)} \text{Tm}(\Delta', (A \cdot \tau))
 \end{array}$$



- **objects:**  $\mathcal{V}^0$
- **arrows:**  $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma, \Delta) := \text{El}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \text{El}(\Delta)$
- **types:**  $\text{Ty}(\Gamma) := \text{El}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^0$
- **terms:**  $\text{Tm}(\Gamma, A) := \prod_{y: \text{El}(\Gamma)} \text{El}(A(y))$

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- **terms:**  $\text{Tm}(\Gamma, A) := \prod_{y: \text{El}(\Gamma)} \text{El}(A(y))$
- **context extension:**  $\Gamma . A := \Sigma^0(\Gamma, A)$
- **$\Sigma$ -structure:**  $S_\Gamma(A, B) := \lambda x : \text{El}(\Gamma). \Sigma^0(A(x), \lambda a. B(x, a))$