TYPE THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO OPETOPES

Journées Logique Homotopie Catégories

Pierre-Louis Curien¹ Cédric Ho Thanh² Samuel Mimram³ October 18th, 2018

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This presentation informally presents the main notions and results of [CHM18] (in preparation, draft available at **chothanh.wordpress.com**).

Opetopes

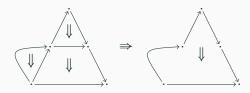
The "named" approach

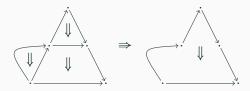
The "unnamed" approach

Conclusion

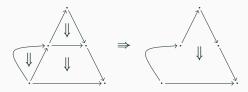
Opetopes

Opetopes are shapes (akin to globules, cubes, simplices, etc.) designed to represent the notion of composition in every dimension. As such, they were introduced in [BD98] to describe laws and coherence if weak higher categories.



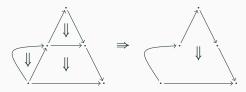


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We further ask those cells of dimension 1 to be 1-opetopes, i.e. pasting diagram (in a trivial way) of cells of dimension 0 (the points).

Definition An *n*-opetope is a pasting diagram of (n - 1)-opetopes

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 $\rightarrow \cdot$

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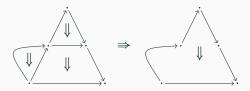


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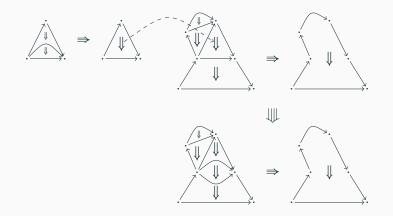


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$$\overbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}^{}$$

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This is getting out of hand...

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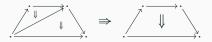
Solution

In this presentation, we give a **rough sketch** two ways to define opetopes syntactically.

The "named" approach

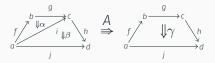


1. Take an opetope.



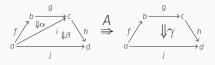


1. Take an opetope.



2. Give names to everything.

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- 2. Give names to everything.
- 3. Write down the graftings:

$$A:\beta(i\leftarrow\alpha) \bullet o h(c\leftarrow g(b\leftarrow f)) \bullet o a \bullet o \varnothing.$$

- 4. ???
- 5. Profit!



• We start with a set of variable $\mathbb{V} = \coprod_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{V}_n$, where elements of \mathbb{V}_n represent *n*-cells.

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Examples For $a, b, c \in \mathbb{V}_0, f, g, h \in \mathbb{V}_1$,

$$a \in \mathbb{T}_0, \qquad h(a \leftarrow g, b \leftarrow f) \in \mathbb{T}_1,$$

 $f(a \leftarrow f(a \leftarrow f), a \leftarrow f, a \leftarrow f) \in \mathbb{T}_1, \qquad \underline{h} \in \mathbb{T}_2.$



• An *n*-type is a sequence of terms of the form

$$S_1 \bullet S_2 \bullet \cdots \bullet S_n \bullet S_{n+1} \bullet \emptyset,$$

where $s_i \in \mathbb{T}_{n+1-i}$.

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• A *n*-typing is an expression of the form

t : T

where $t \in \mathbb{T}_n$ and T is an (n-1)-type.

Theorem Derivable typings in system **Opt**[!] of the form

$\alpha: T$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{V}_n$ (as opposed to just \mathbb{T}_n) are in bijective correspondence (up to renaming of variables) with *n*-opetopes.

The first rule of **Opt**[!] states that we may create points without any prior assumption:

—___ point

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$$--$$
 point $-\frac{1}{X \cdot \emptyset}$ point

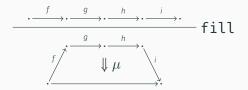
This rule takes an opetope and produces a degenerate opetope from it:



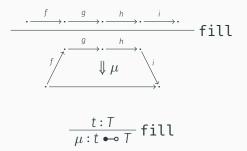
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$$\frac{x:T}{\delta:\underline{x} \leftrightarrow x \leftrightarrow T} \text{ degen-fill}$$

This rule takes a pasting diagram (that is, a term), and creates an opetope by "filling" it:



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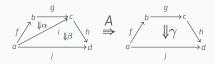
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$$\xrightarrow{\dot{I}}$$

$$\frac{t:s \bullet T \quad x:y \bullet U}{t(a \leftarrow x):s[y/a] \bullet T} \operatorname{graft}_a$$

Let's derive



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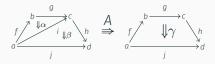
Let's derive



Derivation of α

$$\frac{\overline{b:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{\underline{g:b \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \text{ fill}} \frac{\overline{a:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{f:a \leftarrow \varnothing} \text{ fill} \frac{\overline{a:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{g(b \leftarrow f):b[a/b]} \text{ eraft-b} \frac{\overline{g(b \leftarrow f)} \text{ eraft-b}}{\overline{a:g(b \leftarrow f)} \text{ eraft-b}} \text{ fill}$$

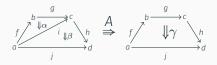
Let's derive



Derivation of β

$$\frac{\overline{c:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{h:c \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \begin{array}{c} \overline{\text{fill}} & \overline{a:\varnothing} \text{ point} \\ \hline \overline{a:\emptyset} \text{ point} \\ \hline \overline{i:a \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \text{ fill} \\ \hline h(c \leftarrow i): \underline{c[a/c]} \leftrightarrow \varnothing \\ \hline \overline{\beta:h(c \leftarrow i)} \leftrightarrow a \leftarrow \varnothing \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{fill} \\ \hline \text{fill} \\ \hline \overline{\beta:h(c \leftarrow i)} \leftarrow a \leftarrow \varnothing \end{array}$$

Let's derive



And we assemble to get A

$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots & \vdots \\ \beta:h(c \leftarrow i) \bullet a \bullet \phi & \alpha:g(b \leftarrow f) \bullet a \bullet \phi & \beta \\ \hline \beta(i \leftarrow \alpha): \underbrace{h(c \leftarrow i)[g(b \leftarrow f)/i]}_{\equiv h(c \leftarrow g(b \leftarrow f))} \bullet a \bullet \phi & \beta \\ \hline A: \beta(i \leftarrow \alpha) \bullet \phi & h(c \leftarrow g(b \leftarrow f)) \bullet \phi & a \bullet \phi & \beta \end{array} graft-i$$

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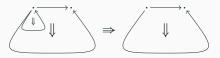


Let's derive

Top left part

$$\frac{\overline{a: \varnothing} \text{ point}}{\alpha: \underline{a} \leftrightarrow a \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \text{ degen-fill}$$

Let's derive



Bottom part

$$\frac{\overline{b:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{\frac{g:b \leftrightarrow \varnothing}{f:a \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \text{ fill}} \frac{\overline{a:\varnothing} \text{ point}}{\frac{f:a \leftrightarrow \varnothing}{f:a \leftrightarrow \varnothing} \text{ fill}} \frac{g(b \leftarrow f):a \leftrightarrow \varnothing}{graft-b}$$

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Let's derive

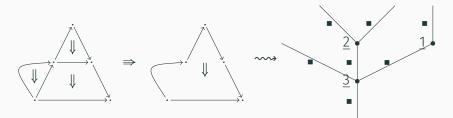


And we assemble

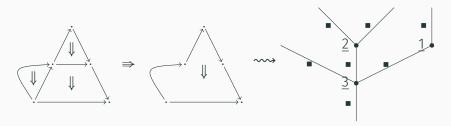
$$\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \beta:g(b \leftarrow f) \bullet a \bullet \phi \varnothing & \alpha:\underline{a} \bullet \phi & a \bullet \phi \varnothing \\ \hline a = b \vdash \beta(f \leftarrow \alpha): \underbrace{g(b \leftarrow f)[\underline{a}/f]}_{\equiv g} \bullet \phi & a \bullet \phi \varnothing \end{array} graft-f \\ \hline a = b \vdash A: \beta(f \leftarrow \alpha) \bullet \phi & g \bullet \phi & a \bullet \phi \varnothing \end{array} fill$$

The "unnamed" approach

Since opetopes are pasting diagrams whose cells are *many-to-one*, they can be represented as trees:



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Then a cell in a pasting diagram no longer needs to have a name, it can be identified by its *address* in that tree.

Idea: dimension 0 and 1

Denote by \blacklozenge the unique 0-opetope, a.k.a. the point:

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Let us add address information.

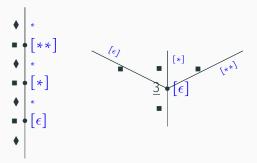
Then we can:

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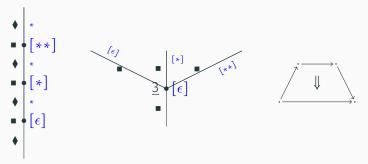
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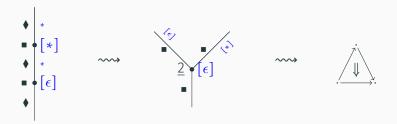
2. consider that tree like a node, where the input edges are the nodes of said tree

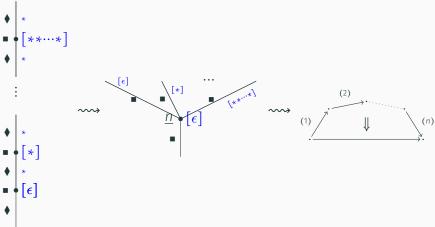
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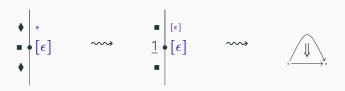
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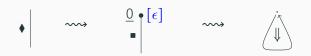


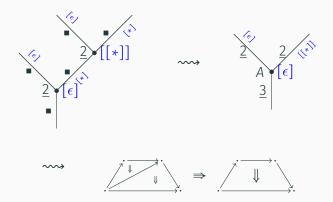
- 2. consider that tree like a node, where the input edges are the nodes of said tree
- 3. be convinced that this is a good representation of some 2-opetope!

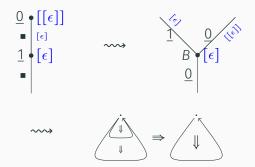


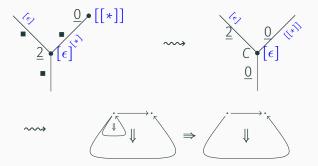


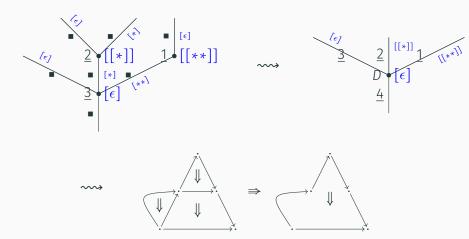






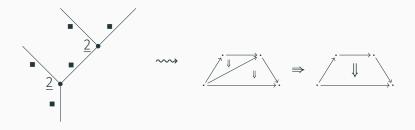






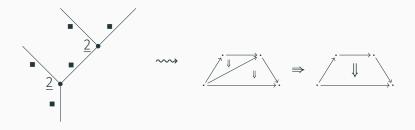
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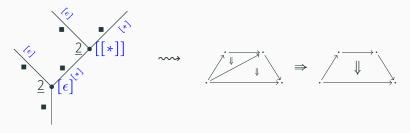
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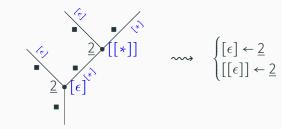
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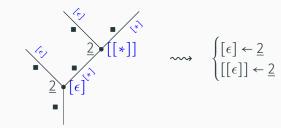
In an *n*-opetope, every node is decorated by (n - 1)-opetope, but (n - 1)-opetope does not uniquely identify a node. But addresses do! So we just need to describe a partial map

$$\mathbb{A} \longrightarrow \mathbb{O}_{n-1}.$$
²⁵

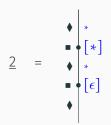






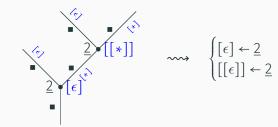


Reminder

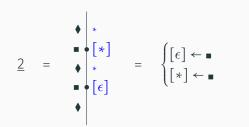


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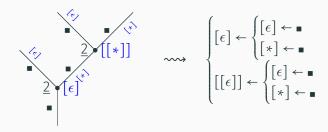


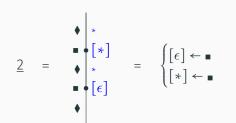


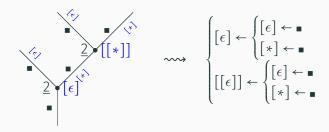
Reminder



26



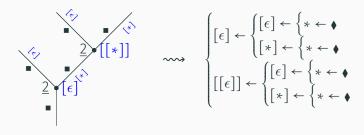




Convention

 $\bullet \rightarrow * \} = \bullet$





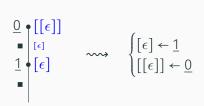
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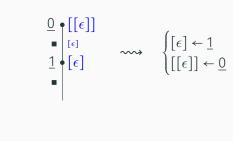
■ = {* ← ◆

$$\underline{\underline{0}} \bullet \begin{bmatrix} [\epsilon] \end{bmatrix}$$

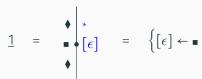
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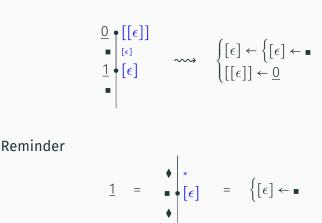
$$\underline{\underline{1}} \bullet \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon \end{bmatrix}$$

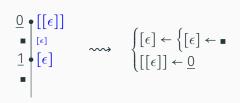
















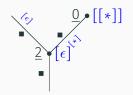
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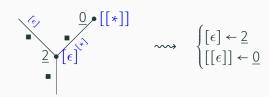
Reminder + convention

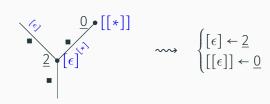
$$\underline{0} = \mathbf{A} = \{ \mathbf{A} \in \mathbf{A} \}$$

Reminder + convention

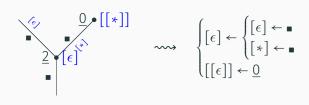
$$\underline{0} = \blacklozenge$$
 = {{



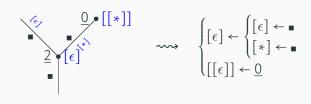


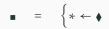


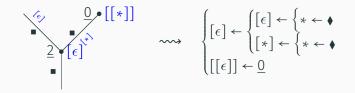
$$\underline{2} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \ast \\ \epsilon \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} [\epsilon] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [\epsilon] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [\star] \leftarrow \bullet \end{array} \right\}$$



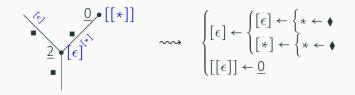
$$\underline{2} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \ast \\ \ast \\ \ast \\ \ast \\ \epsilon \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \left[\epsilon\right] \leftarrow \bullet \\ \left[\epsilon\right] \\ \ast \\ \epsilon \end{array} \right\} \\ \left[\epsilon\right] \leftarrow \bullet \end{array} \right\}$$



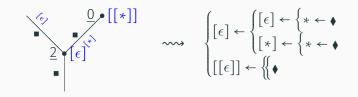




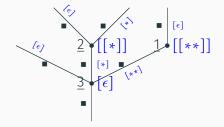


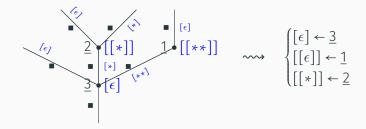


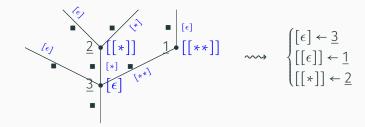




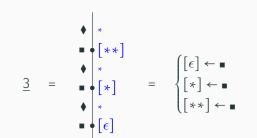




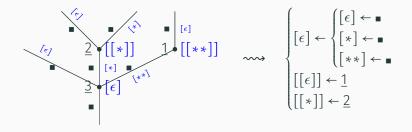




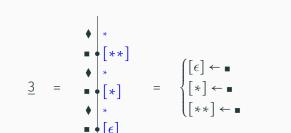
Reminder



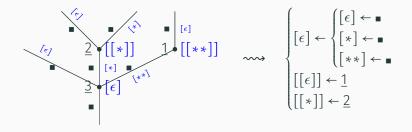
29



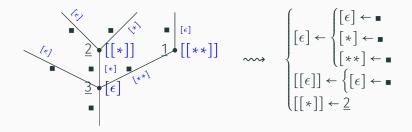
Reminder



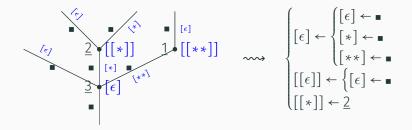
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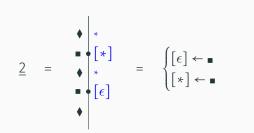


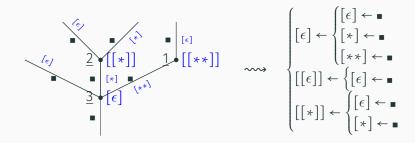
$$\underline{1} = \left. \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} \right|_{\epsilon}^{*} = \left\{ \left[\epsilon \right] \leftarrow \bullet \right\}$$

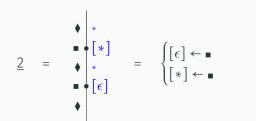


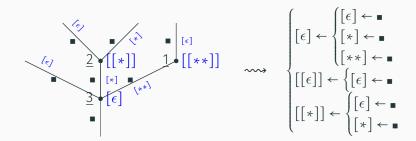
$$\underline{1} = \left. \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} \right|_{\epsilon}^{*} = \left\{ \left[\epsilon \right] \leftarrow \bullet \right\}$$





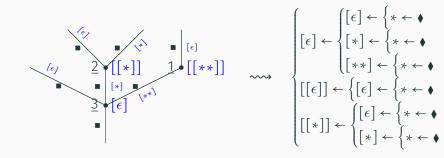






Reminder

■ = {* ← ♦



Reminder

 $\bullet \rightarrow *$

Question Is this an opetope?

$$\begin{cases} [\epsilon] \leftarrow \begin{cases} [*] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [**] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [**] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [**] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [**] \leftarrow & \\ [\epsilon] \leftarrow & \\ [**] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [**] \leftarrow \bullet \\ [[\epsilon]] \leftarrow & \\ [\epsilon] \leftarrow$$

System Opt?

The set of preopetopes \mathbb{P} is defined by the following grammar:

$$\mathbb{P} ::= \blacklozenge$$

$$| \qquad \begin{cases} \mathbb{A} \leftarrow \mathbb{P} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{A} \leftarrow \mathbb{P} \\ | \qquad \end{cases}$$

$$| \qquad \{ \mathbb{P} \}$$

The set of preopetopes ${\mathbb P}$ is defined by the following grammar:

$$\mathbb{P} ::= \blacklozenge$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathbb{A} \leftarrow \mathbb{P} \\ \mathbb{I} \\ \mathbb{A} \leftarrow \mathbb{P} \\ \mathbb{I} \\ \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right\}$$

The **Opt**? system aims to characterize preopetopes that actually are opetopes:

Theorem

Derivable preopetopes in system **Opt**[?] are in bijective correspondence with opetopes.

The first rule of **Opt**[?] states that we may create points without any prior assumption:

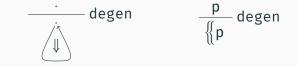
—___ point

The first rule of **Opt**[?] states that we may create points without any prior assumption:

This rule takes an opetope and produces a degenerate opetope from it:

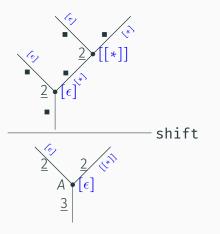
- degen

This rule takes an opetope and produces a degenerate opetope from it:



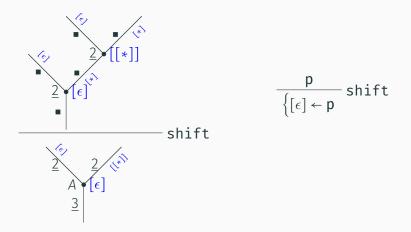
System Opt?: the shift rule

This rule takes an opetope **p** and produces a new opetope having a unique node, decorated in **p**:



System Opt?: the shift rule

This rule takes an opetope **p** and produces a new opetope having a unique node, decorated in **p**:



System Opt[?]: the graft rule

This rule glues an *n*-opetope \mathbf{q} to an (n + 1)-opetope \mathbf{p} , the latter really just being a pasting diagram of *n*-opetopes:

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$$\underbrace{\xrightarrow{i}}_{i} \xrightarrow{i} \xrightarrow{i} \xrightarrow{i}_{i}}_{j} graft-[b] \xrightarrow{\begin{cases} [a_{1}] \leftarrow r_{1} \\ \vdots & q \\ [a_{k}] \leftarrow r_{k} \\ \vdots \\ [a_{k}] \leftarrow r_{1} \\ \vdots \\ [a_{k}] \leftarrow r_{k} \\ [b] \leftarrow q \\ \end{cases}} graft-[b]$$

(we omitted some technical assumptions that ensure this operation is geometrically meaningful)

The proof tree of



The proof tree of

is:

 $\frac{- \mathbf{e} \operatorname{point}}{\{[\epsilon] \leftarrow \mathbf{e} \}}$ shift

 $\cdot \longrightarrow \cdot$

The proof tree of

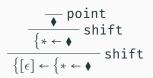
is:

$$\frac{}{} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ {* \leftarrow \bullet} \end{array}$$
shift

 $\cdot \longrightarrow \cdot$

The proof tree of





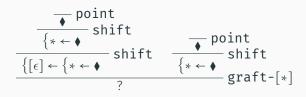
The proof tree of



$$\frac{\overbrace{\{\ast \leftarrow \phi } \text{shift}}{\{\epsilon \in \{\ast \leftarrow \phi } \text{shift}} \\
\frac{}{\left\{ [\epsilon] \leftarrow \{\ast \leftarrow \phi } \text{shift} \\
\frac{}{?} \\
\end{array} graft-[*] \\$$

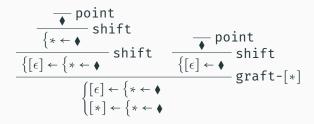
The proof tree of





is:

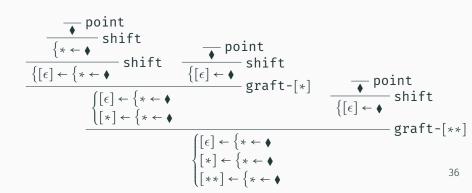
The proof tree of



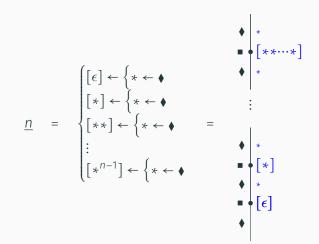
36

The proof tree of

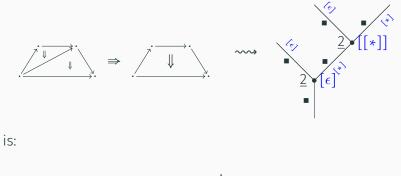




Write

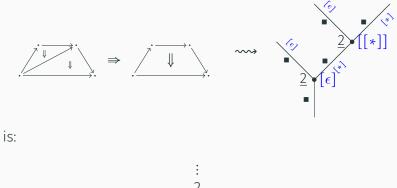


The proof tree of



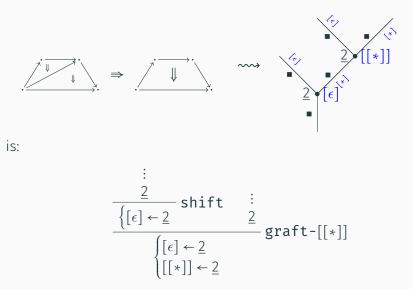
: 2

The proof tree of



$$\frac{\frac{2}{2}}{\left\{ \left[\epsilon \right] \leftarrow \underline{2} \right]} \text{ shift }$$

The proof tree of



The proof tree of

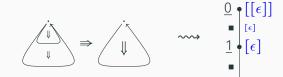




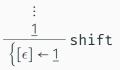
 \longrightarrow

: 1

The proof tree of

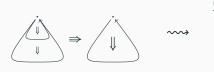


is



39

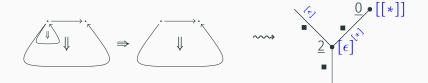
The proof tree of





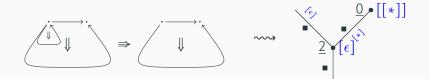
$$\frac{\underline{1}}{\frac{\left[\epsilon\right] \leftarrow \underline{1}}{\left[\epsilon\right] \leftarrow \underline{1}}} \operatorname{shift} \quad \underline{\underline{0}}} \operatorname{graft-} \left[\left[\epsilon\right]\right]} \frac{\left[\epsilon\right] \leftarrow \underline{1}}{\left[\left[\epsilon\right]\right] \leftarrow \underline{0}}$$

The proof tree of



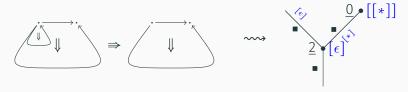


The proof tree of

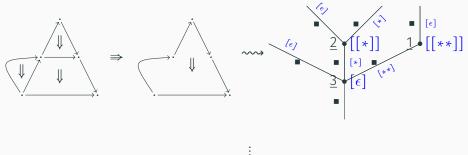


$$\frac{\frac{2}{2}}{\left\{ \left[\epsilon \right] \leftarrow \underline{2} \right\}} \text{ shift }$$

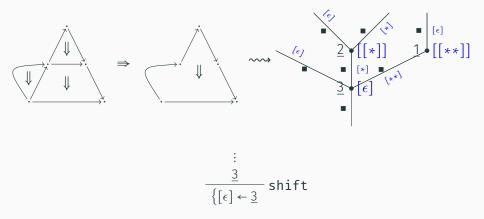
The proof tree of



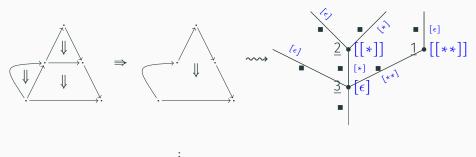
$$\frac{\underline{2}}{\left\{\left[\epsilon\right]\leftarrow\underline{2}\right]} \text{ shift } \vdots \\
\underline{\left\{\left[\epsilon\right]\leftarrow\underline{2}\right\}} \\
\frac{\left[\left[\epsilon\right]\leftarrow\underline{2}\right]}{\left\{\left[\left[*\right]\right]\leftarrow\underline{0}\right\}} \text{ graft-}\left[\left[*\right]\right]$$



: <u>3</u>

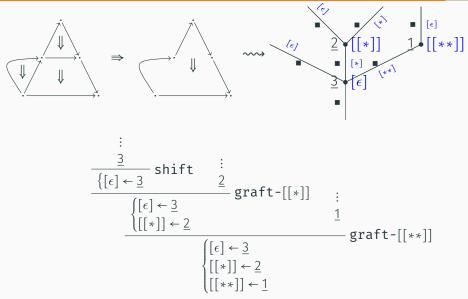


41



$$\frac{3}{\left\{\left[\epsilon\right]\leftarrow\underline{3}\right\}} \text{ shift } \frac{1}{2} \text{ graft-}[[*]] \\ \left\{\begin{array}{c} \left[\epsilon\right]\leftarrow\underline{3}\\ \left[\left[*\right]\right]\leftarrow\underline{2} \end{array}\right\}$$

41



- In this presentation, we gave two ways to define opetopes syntactically:
 - 1. in a "named" way, using terms and system **Opt**[!];
 - 2. in an "unnamed" way, using preopetopes and system **Opt**?;

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- The various constructs and algorithms can be easily[™] implemented, and opetopes amount to valid proof trees. An example implementation in Python 3 is available at [Ho 18], where valid proof trees are represented by certain expressions that evaluate without throwing any exception.

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- In [CHM18] (see link on the first slide for a draft), we also present variants of those systems for opetopic sets.
- We are experimenting with those new tools to automatically check coherence laws for an appropriate definition of opetopic ω-groupoid.

Thank you for your attention!

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