

# Lectures on Computational Type Theory

From Proofs-as-Programs to  
Proofs-as-Processes

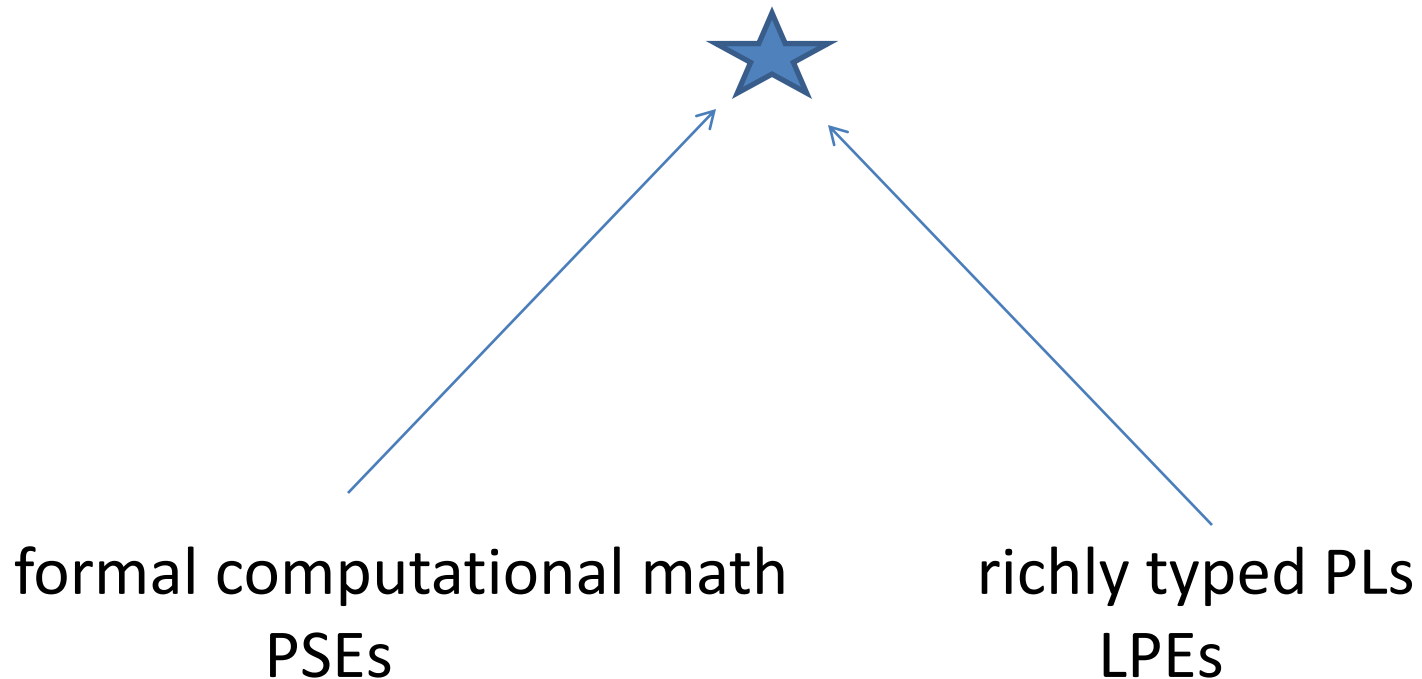
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# Lecture Schedule

- Lecture 1: Origins and Introduction to Computational Type Theory (CTT)
- Lecture 2: Logic in CTT
- Lecture 3: Proofs as Programs
- Lecture 4: The Logic of Events and Proofs as Processes

# Obsession

Since 1971 I've been obsessed with the connection between formal math and programming languages. I see a **convergence**.



# Why Study CTT?

1. CTT is a very **rich** type theory, slightly older sibling of CIC as implemented in Coq. Here is a comparison:

## CTT

grounded in semantics  
(partial equivalence)

implicitly typed

extensional equality

predicative \*

Turing-complete

elegant objects theory

processes are primitive

proofs as proof trees

\*Deep insight of Poincaré.

## CIC

grounded in proof theory  
(strong normalization)

explicitly typed

intensional equality

impredicative

sub-Turing complete

objects ?

no primitive processes

proofs as proof scripts

# Why Study CTT?

2. A “Revolution” in programming is coming.

**Logical Programming Environments** (LPEs) providing advanced formal methods including provers, like **Coq**, **HOL**, and **Nuprl**, are coming to industry, there will be room for many new ideas and a “race to the top.”

Intel understood formal methods for hardware, will they get it for software? Will Microsoft or will they have the “best 1970s technology”?

# Why Study CTT?

3. The “Idea Revolution” has happened, built on automated reasoning, constructive logics, **correct-by-construction** programming, large libraries of formal knowledge.

These ideas will be **manifest broadly**, from mathematics and physics to biology -- with exciting breakthroughs.

# Selected Notable Examples

- Four Color Theorem formalization – Gonthier
- Kepler Conjecture Work – Halles with HOL team and INRIA team
- Constructive Higman’s Lemma – Murthy
- Prime Number Theorem – Harrison, Avigad
- Kruskal’s Theorem – Seisenberger
- Intel’s verified floating point arith -- Harrison
- POPLMark Challenge – Coq, Twelf, HOL
- Paris driverless Metro line 14 – Abrial, B-tool
- Mizar’s Journal of Formalized Mathematics

# Selected Notable Examples

- Automatically Generated Correct-by-Construction Authentication Protocols – Bickford
- Verified ML Compiler – Dr. Who
- Other examples?



# Lecture 1 Outline

Brief history of type theory from 1908 to 2010

Overview of Computational Type Theory (CTT)

CTT Computation System

terms, evaluation, Howe's squiggle ( $\sim$ )

CTT Type System

Martin-Löf's semantic method,

Allen's PER model

Exercises and Recommended Reading

# Historical Backdrop

The research that led to modern type theories was done against the backdrop of a “crisis” in mathematics which caused logicians to look at ways to be more rigorous and precise about basic concepts. Key players in setting the stage were:

Frege

Begriffsschrift

1879

Cantor

Set Theory

1874

# Origins

Russell & Whitehead   Hilbert   Brouwer   Zermelo

Church   Gentzen   Herbrand   Kolmogorov

McCarthy   Kleene   Kreisel   Heyting   de Bruijn   Bishop  
Milner   Scott   Girard   Martin-Löf

Lisp   (Algol68)   ML

HOL   Nuprl   Coq   Alf   (Automath)   Mizar

# Origins

## History

### Greeks

Kronecker  
Brouwer  
Weyl  
Baire  
Borel  
Bishop

Gentzen  
Heyting  
Kleene  
M-L  
de Bruijn

Girard  
Coquand



# Origins continued

## Philosophical Issues

Logicism

Russell

Intuitionism

Brouwer

Formalism

Hilbert

# Origins continued

Philosophical issues are **harmonized** in CTT.

- CTT is formal but very abstract
- CTT is a constructive logic, but is classically sensible and consistent
- CTT uses **propositions-as-types** which relates logic and mathematics at a fundamental level

# Foundational Criteria

What is required for a constructive theory to be an adequate **foundation for computer science**?

1. Proofs-as-programs works and the theory is a **programming language** and **programming logic** combined that can be well implemented.
2. **Computational mathematics**, e.g. numerical methods, computational geometry and algebra etc. is grounded in this theory.

# Foundational Criteria continued

3. Can provide a **semantics to any programming language**.
4. All axioms and inference rules have a computational meaning, justified by **propositions-as-types**.
5. The theory explains and justifies the **principles of computing** as they unfold.
6. Reasoning can well **automated well**.
7. The theory can be read classically.



# Reading for Lecture 1

All reading material can be found at

[www.nuprl.org](http://www.nuprl.org)

**Douglas Howe:** Equality in Lazy Computation Systems, LICS 89

**Stuart Allen:** Non-type theoretic definition of Martin-Löf's types, LICS 87

**Nax Mendler:** *Inductive Definition in Type Theory*, PhD thesis, 1988 see Chapter 4

**Robert W. Harper:** Constructing Type Systems over an Operational Semantics, *J. of Symbolic Computation*, 14, 71-84, 1992

**Christoph Kreitz:** Nuprl 5 Reference Manual and User's Guide, 2002

[www.nuprl.org/html/02cucs-NuprlManual.pdf](http://www.nuprl.org/html/02cucs-NuprlManual.pdf) see Appendix A

Computational type theory: [Scholarpedia](http://Scholarpedia), 4(2):7618 2008

# Lecture 2 Outline

CTT Inference System

- judgements and sequents

- functionality semantics of sequents

- propositions-as-types principle

Intuitionistic Propositional Calculus in CTT

Intuitionistic Predicate Calculus

Heyting Arithmetic (HA)

Proofs as programs

Exercises

# Reading for Lecture 2

All reading material is at [www.nuprl.org](http://www.nuprl.org)

[Proofs as Programs](#) by **Joseph L. Bates and Robert L. Constable**, ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 53-71.

**Christoph Kreitz**: Nuprl 5 Reference Manual and User's Guide, 2002  
[www.nuprl.org/html/02cucs-NuprlManual.pdf](http://www.nuprl.org/html/02cucs-NuprlManual.pdf) see A.3 Inference Rules

[Implementing Metamathematics as an Approach to Automatic Theorem Proving](#) by **Robert L. Constable and Douglas J. Howe**, Formal Techniques in Artificial Intelligence: A Source Book, R.B. Banerji (ed.), pp. 45-76, Elsevier Science, North-Holland, 1990.

# Lecture 3 Outline

Review and answers to exercises

Programming in CTT, efficient extracts

Universes and Higher-Order Logic

Object-oriented types

- subtyping, Top type, unit records

- records and intersection types

Exercises and Recommended Reading

# Reading for Lecture 3

All reading material is at [www.nuprl.org](http://www.nuprl.org)

*Dependent Intersection: A New Way of Defining Records in Type Theory* by **Alexei Kopylov**,  
Proceedings of 18th Annual IEEE Symposium on  
Logic in Computer Science, pp. 86-95, 2003.

*Type Theoretical Foundations for Data Structures, Classes, and Objects* by **Alexei Kopylov**, Cornell  
University Ph.D. Thesis, 2004.

# Lecture 4 Outline

Objectives of Proofs-as-Processes

Distributed Computing Model

Event Structures

A Logic of Events

Specifying Protocols

Extracting Processes from Proofs

General Process Model

# Reading for Lecture 4

All reading material is located at [www.nuprl.org](http://www.nuprl.org)

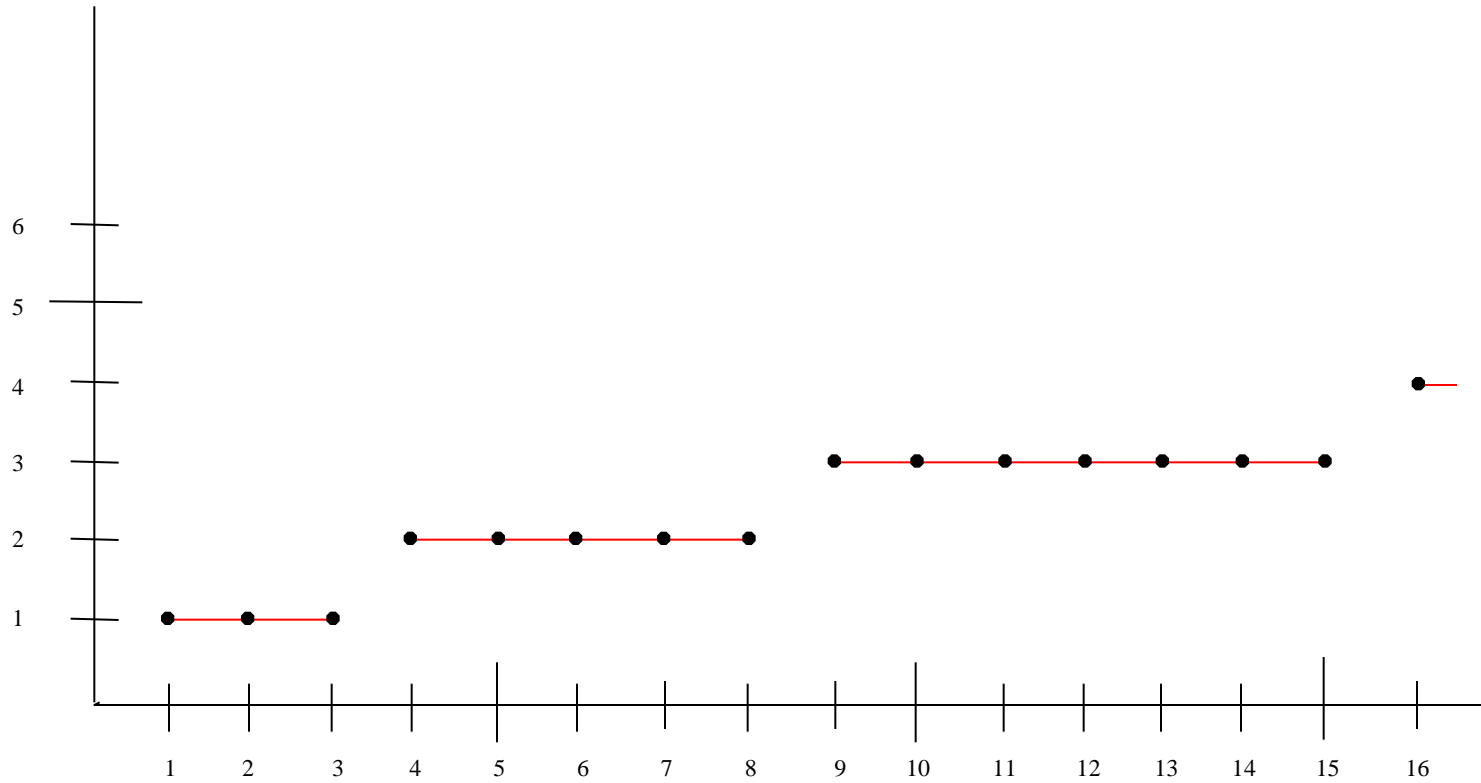
- [\*Formal Foundations of Computer Security\*](#) by **Mark Bickford and Robert Constable**, NATO Science for Peace and Security Series, D: Information and Communication Security, Vol. 14, pages 29 - 52, 2008., 2008.
- [\*Unguessable Atoms: A Logical Foundation for Security\*](#) by **Mark Bickford**, Verified Software: Theories, Tools, Experiments, Second International Conference, VSTTE 2008 Toronto, Canada, pp 30 - 53, 2008.

# Lecture 2 Slides

Integer square root example



# Integer Square Root



# Proof of Root Theorem

$\forall n : \mathbb{N}. \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq n < (r + 1)^2$

BY `allR`

$n : \mathbb{N}$

$\vdash \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq n < (r + 1)^2$

BY `NatInd 1`

....induction case....

$\vdash \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq 0 < (r + 1)^2$

BY `existsR [0]` THEN `Auto`

....induction case....

$i : \mathbb{N}^+, r : \mathbb{N}, r^2 \leq i - 1 < (r + 1)^2$

$\vdash \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq i < (r + 1)^2$

BY `Decide [r + 1^2 ≤ i]` THEN `Auto`

## Proof of Root Theorem (cont.)

.....Case 1.....

$$i : \mathbb{N}^+, r : \mathbb{N}, r^2 \leq i - 1 < r + 1^2, r + 1^2 \leq i$$

$$\vdash \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq i < r + 1^2$$

BY `existsR [r + 1]` THEN `Auto` '

.....Case 2.....

$$i : \mathbb{N}^+, r : \mathbb{N}, r^2 \leq i - 1 < r + 1^2, \neg r + 1^2 \leq i$$

$$\vdash \exists r : \mathbb{N}. r^2 \leq i < r + 1^2$$

BY `existsR [r]` THEN `Auto`

## The Root Program Extract

Here is the **extract term** for this proof in ML notation with **proof terms** (pf) included:

```
let rec sqrt i =  
  if i = 0 then < 0, pf0 >  
  else let < r, pfi-1 > = sqrt i - 1  
  in if r + 12 ≤ n then < r + 1, pfi >  
  else < r, pfi' >
```

# A Recursive Program for Integer Roots

Here is a very clean **functional program**

```
r(n):= if n= 0 then 0
      else let r0 = r (n-1) in
      if (r0 + 1)2 ≤ n then r0 + 1
      else r0 fi
fi
```

This program is close to a declarative mathematical description of roots given by the following theorem.

# Efficient Root Program

The interactive code and the recursive program are both very inefficient. It is easy to make them efficient.

```
root(n) := if n=0 then 0
else let r0 = root (n/4) in
if (2·r0+1)2 ≤ n
    then 2·r0+1
    else 2·r0 fi
fi
since if n ≠ 0, n/4 < n
```

This is an efficient recursive function, but why is it correct?

# A Theorem that Roots Exist (Can be Found)

**Theorem**  $\forall n: \mathbb{N}. \exists r: \mathbb{N}. \text{Root}(r, n)$

**Pf** by **efficient induction**

**Base**  $n = 0$  let  $r = 0$

**Induction** case assume  $\exists r: \mathbb{N}. \text{Root}(r, n/4)$

**Choose**  $r_0$  **where**  $r_0^2 \leq n/4 < (r_0 + 1)^2$

note  $4 \cdot r_0^2 \leq n < 4 \cdot (r_0 + 1)^2 = 4 \cdot r_0^2 + 8 \cdot r_0 + 4$

thus  $2 \cdot r_0 \leq \text{root}(n) < 2 \cdot (r_0 + 1)$

**if**  $(2 \cdot r_0 + 1)^2 \leq n$  **then**  $r = 2 \times r_0 + 1$

since  $(2 \cdot r_0)^2 = 4 \cdot r_0^2 + 8 \cdot r_0 + 4$

**else**  $r = 2 \times r_0$  since  $(2 \cdot r_0)^2 \leq n < (2 \cdot r_0 + 1)^2$

**Qed**

# Correctness of the Recursive Program

Using this “efficient induction principle”.

We can give a nice proof of the principle by ordinary induction.

$$P(0) \ \& \ \forall n: \mathbb{N}.(P(n/4) \Rightarrow P(n)) \Rightarrow \forall n: \mathbb{N}.P(n)$$