

# The HoTT/HoTT Library in Coq

## Designing for Speed

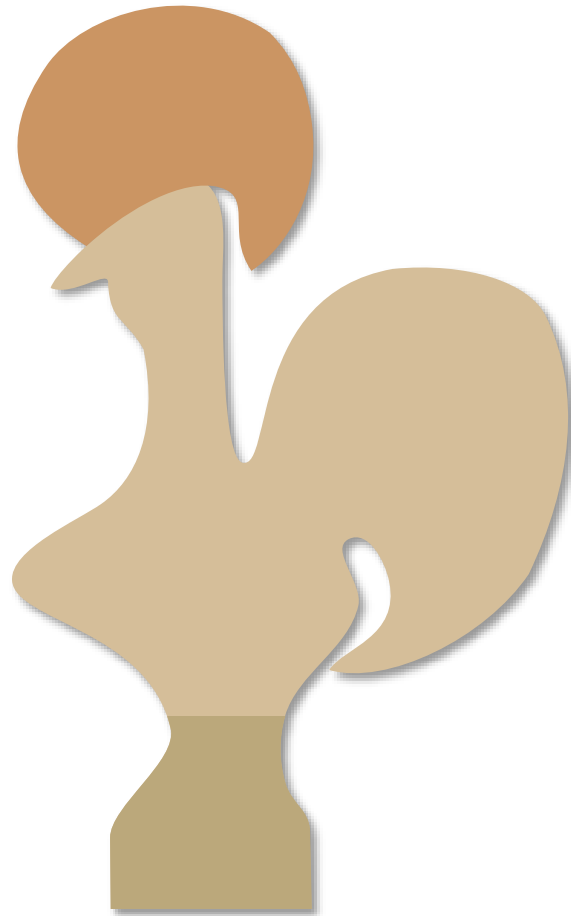
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For ICMS 2016, adapted from ITP 2014 presentation

Category theory work done with Adam Chlipala and David I. Spivak  
HoTT/HoTT library additionally co-authored by Andrej Bauer, Peter LeFanu Lumsdaine, Mike Shulman, Bas Spitters, and includes contributions from Assia Mahboubi, Marc Bezem, Kristina Sojakova, Daniel R. Grayson, Gaetan Gilbert, Matthieu Sozeau, Jérémy Ledent, Kevin Quirin, Steve Awodey, Cyril Cohen, Egbert, Benedikt Ahrens, Edward Z. Yang, Georgy Dunaev, Jesse C. McKeown, Simon Boulier, Alexander Karpich, Jelle Herold, John Dougherty, Matěj Grabovský, Michael Nahas, and Yves Bertot

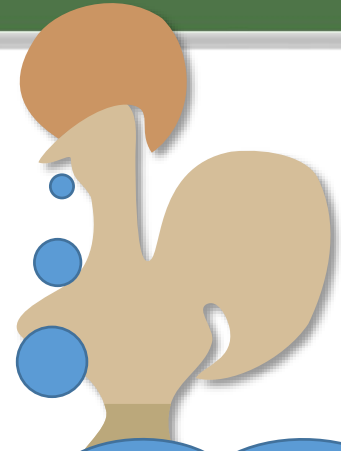
# How should theorem provers work?



# How theorem provers should work:



Coq, is this  
correct?



No; here's a  
proof of  
 $1 = 0 \rightarrow \text{False}$

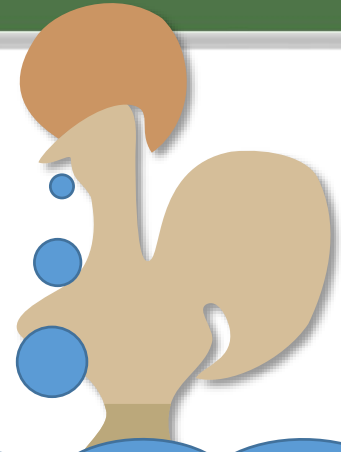
# How theorem provers should work:

Theorem (currying) :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$

Proof: homework ■



Coq, is *this* correct?



Yes; here's a proof ...

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Theorem currying :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$ .

Proof.

trivial.

Qed.

# How theorem provers should work:

Theorem (currying) :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$   
Proof:  $\rightarrow: F \mapsto \lambda (c_1, c_2). F(c_1)(c_2)$ ; morphisms similarly  
 $\leftarrow: F \mapsto \lambda c_1. \lambda c_2. F(c_1, c_2)$ ; morphisms similarly  
Functoriality, naturality, and congruence: straightforward.  $\blacksquare$

Theorem currying :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$ .

Proof.

esplit.

{ by refine  $(\lambda_F (F \mapsto (\lambda_F (c \mapsto F_0 c_1 c_2))))$ . }

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all: trivial.

Qed.

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{ by refine  $(\lambda_F (F \mapsto (\lambda_F (c_1 \mapsto (\lambda_F (c_2 \mapsto F_0 (c_1, c_2)) (s d m \mapsto F_m (1, m))))$   
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all: trivial.

Qed.

# How theorem provers do work:

Theorem (currying) :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$

Proof:  $\rightarrow: F \mapsto \lambda (c_1, c_2). F(c_1)(c_2)$ ; morphisms similarly  
 $\leftarrow: F \mapsto \lambda c_1. \lambda c_2. F(c_1, c_2)$ ; morphisms similarly }  $\approx 0$  s

Functoriality, naturality, and congruence: straightforward. ■

17 s

2m 46 s !!! (5 s, if we use UIP)

Theorem currying :  $(C_1 \rightarrow (C_2 \rightarrow D)) \cong (C_1 \times C_2 \rightarrow D)$ .

Proof.

esplit.

{ by refine  $(\lambda_F (F \mapsto (\lambda_F (c \mapsto F_0 c_1 c_2) (s d m \mapsto (F_0 d_1)_m m_2 \circ (F_m m_1)_o s_2))$   
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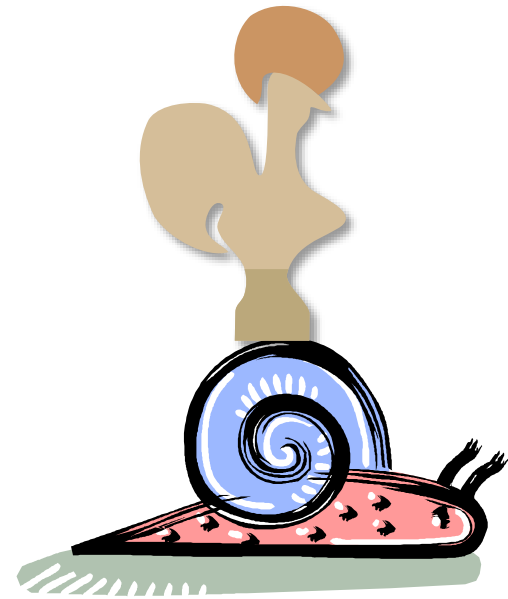
all: trivial.

Qed.



# Performance is important!

If we're not careful, obvious or trivial things can be very, very slow.



# Why you should listen to me

Theorem : You should listen to me.

Proof.

by experience.

Qed.

# Why you should listen to me

Category theory in Coq: <https://github.com/HoTT/HoTT>  
(subdirectory theories/categories):

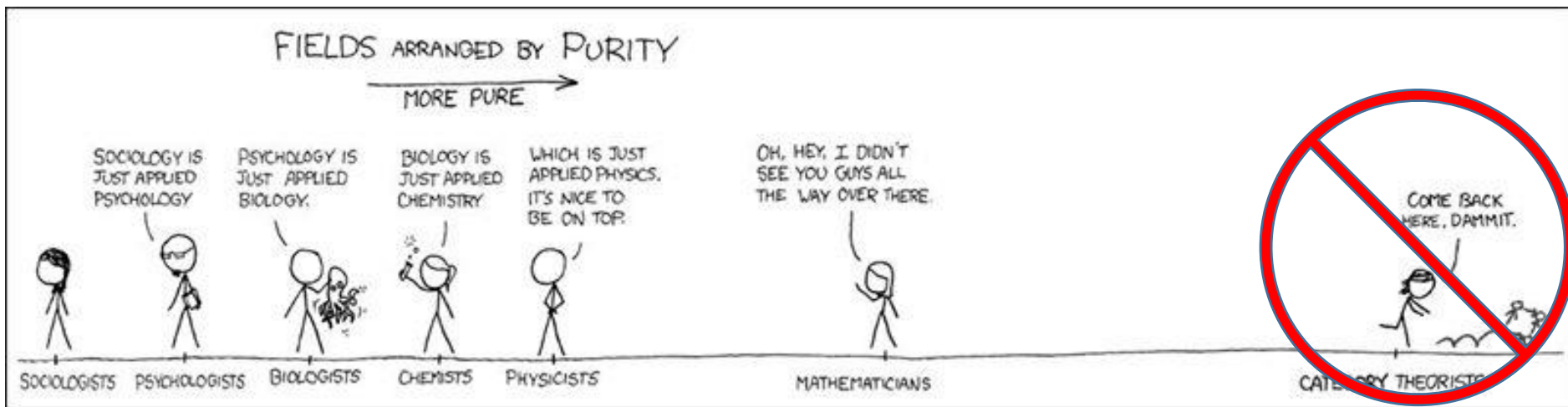
Concepts Formalized:

- 1-precategories (in the sense of the HoTT Book)
- univalent/saturated categories (or just categories, in the HoTT Book)
- functor precategories  $C \rightarrow D$
- dual functor isomorphisms  $\text{Cat} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ ; and  $(C \rightarrow D)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow D^{\text{op}})$
- the category  $\text{Prop}$  of (U-small)  $\text{hProps}$
- the category  $\text{Set}$  of (U-small)  $\text{hSets}$
- the category  $\text{Cat}$  of (U-small) strict (pre)categories (strict in the sense of the objects being  $\text{hSets}$ )
- pseudofunctors
- pseudonatural transformations
- (op)lax comma categories
- profunctors
  - identity profunctor (the hom functor  $C^{\text{op}} \times C \rightarrow \text{Set}$ )
- adjoints
  - equivalences between a number of definitions:
    - unit-counit + zig-zag definition
    - unit + UMP definition
    - counit + UMP definition
    - universal morphism definition
    - hom-set definition
  - composition, identity, dual
  - pointwise adjunctions in the library,  $G^E \dashv F^C$  and  $E^F \dashv C^G$  from an adjunction  $F \dashv G$  for functors  $F: C \rightleftarrows D: G$  and  $E$  a precategory
- Yoneda lemma
- Exponential laws
  - $C^0 \cong 1$ ;  $0^C \cong 0$  given an object in  $C$
  - $C^1 \cong C$ ;  $1^C \cong 1$
  - $C^{A+B} \cong C^A \times C^B$
  - $(A \times B)^C \cong A^C \times B^C$
  - $(A^B)^C \cong A^{B \times C}$
- Product laws
  - $C \times D \cong D \times C$
  - $C \times 0 \cong 0 \times C \cong 0$
  - $C \times 1 \cong 1 \times C \cong C$
- Grothendieck construction (oplax colimit) of a pseudofunctor to  $\text{Cat}$
- Category of sections (gives rise to oplax limit of a pseudofunctor to  $\text{Cat}$  when applied to Grothendieck construction)
- functor composition is functorial (there's a functor  $\Delta: (C \rightarrow D) \rightarrow (D \rightarrow$

Presentation is **not** mainly about:

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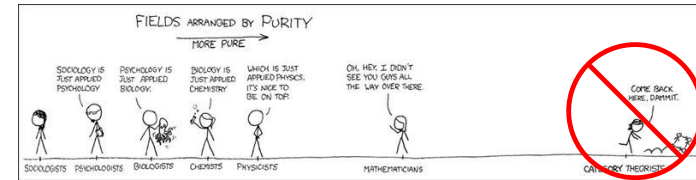
- category theory or diagram chasing



Cartoon from xkcd, adapted by Alan Huang

# Presentation is **not** mainly about:

- category theory or diagram chasing
- the mathematical content of the library

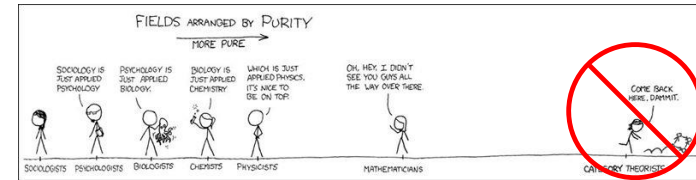


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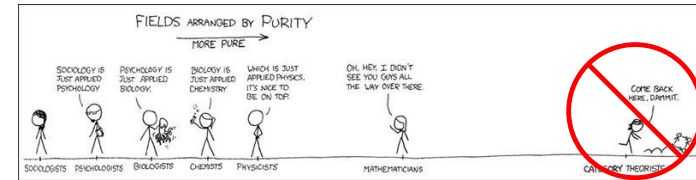


- Coq



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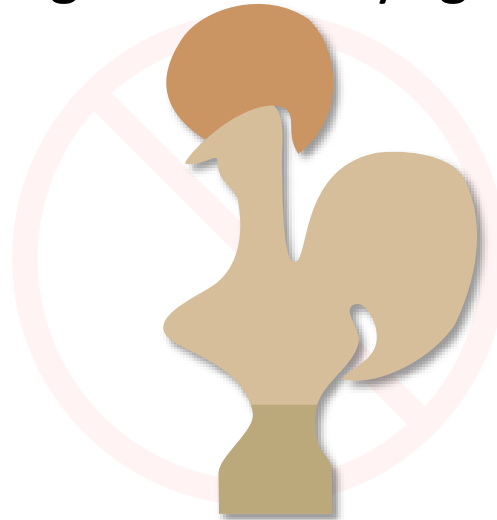


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- the mathematical content of the library



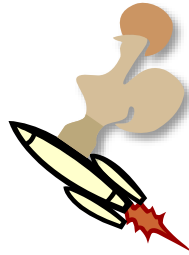
- Coq (though what I say might not always generalize nicely)





# Presentation is about:

- performance



- the design of proof assistants and type theories to assist with performance



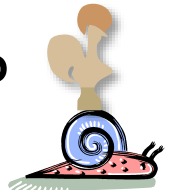
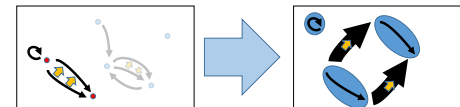
- the kind of performance issues I encountered
- an overview of the content of the HoTT/HoTT library

# Presentation is for:

- Homotopy type theorists
  - Who are interested in the HoTT/HoTT library
- Users of proof assistants (and Coq in particular)
  - Who want to make their code faster
- Designers of (type-theoretic) proof assistants
  - Who want to know where to focus their optimization efforts

# Outline

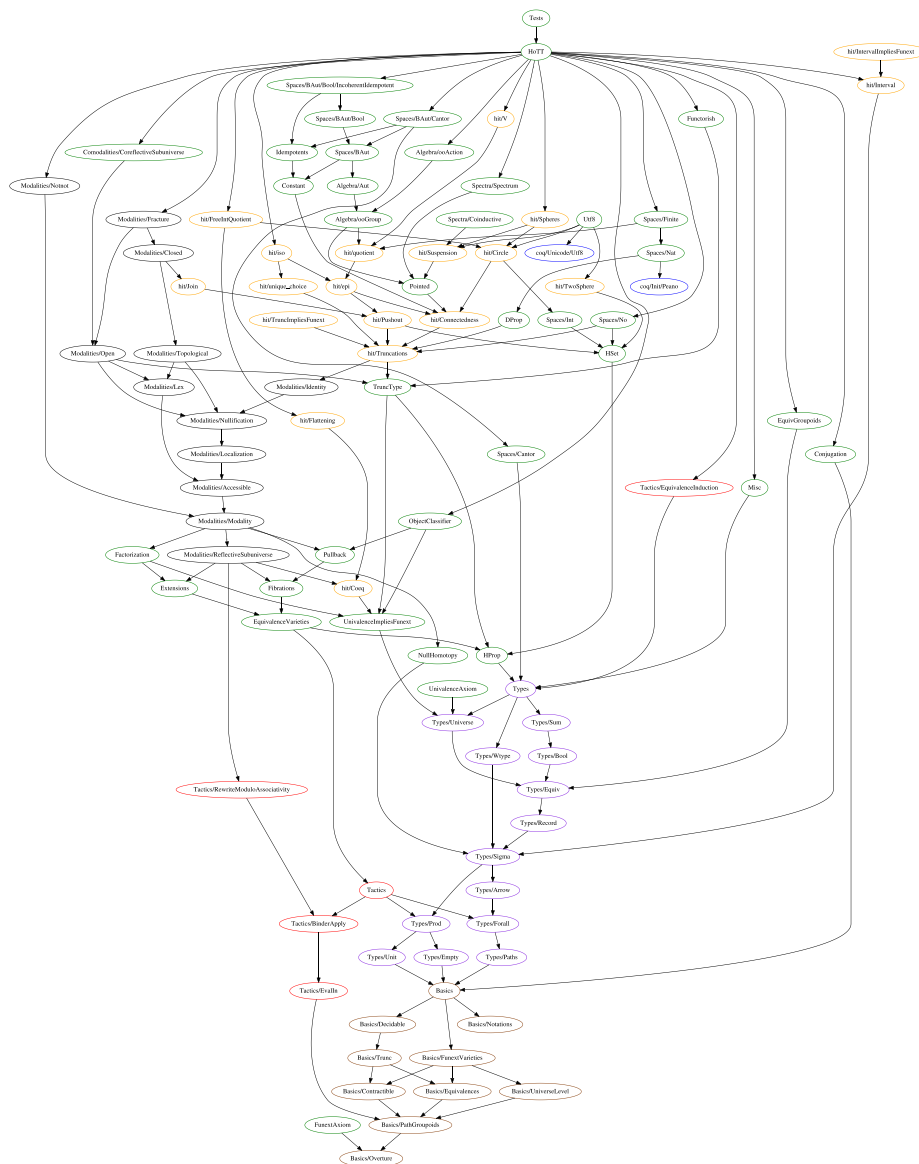
- Why should we care about performance?
- Overview of the HoTT/HoTT library
- What makes theorem provers (mainly Coq) slow?
  - Examples of particular slowness
- For users (workarounds)
  - Arguments vs. fields and packed records
  - Abstraction barriers
- For developers (features)
  - Primitive projections



# HoTT/HoTT Library: Contents

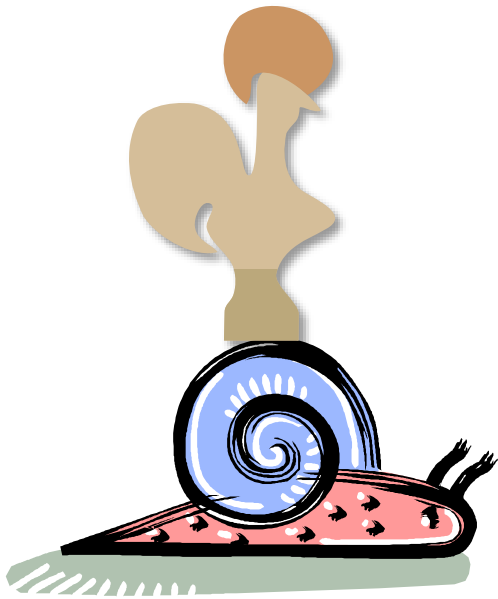
- Basic type formers and their identity types
- h-levels, object classifier, ...
- Many examples of HITs from the book:
  - Circle, interval, suspensions, flattening, truncations, quotients
  - $\pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$
- Modalities (reflective subtoposes)
- Spaces: Cantor, Finite, Surreals, ...
- Categories

# HoTT/HoTT Library: Diagram



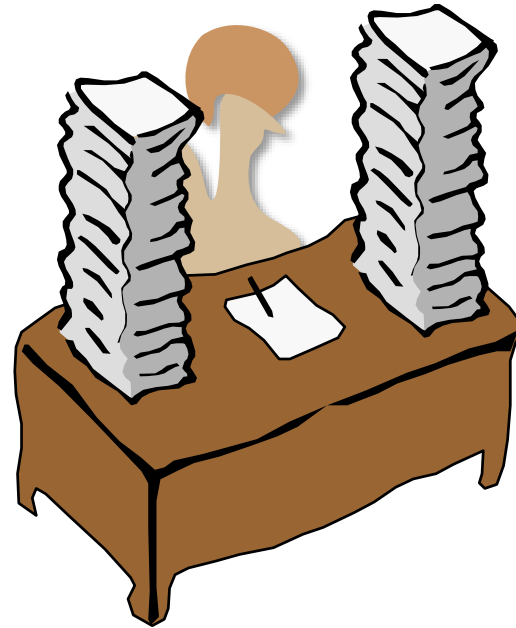
# Performance

- **Question:** What makes programs, particularly theorem provers or proof scripts, slow?



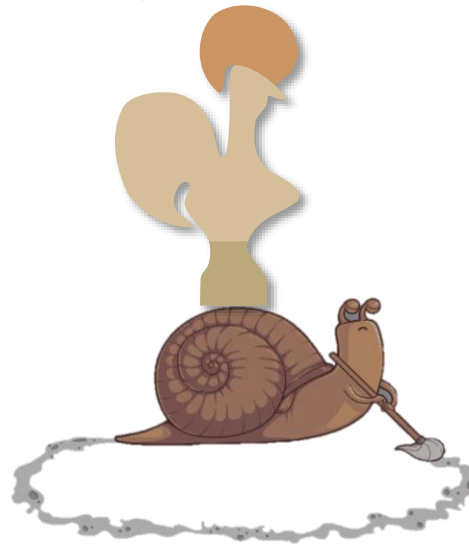
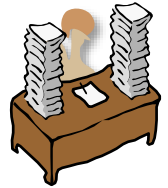
# Performance

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- **Answer:** Doing too much stuff!



# Performance

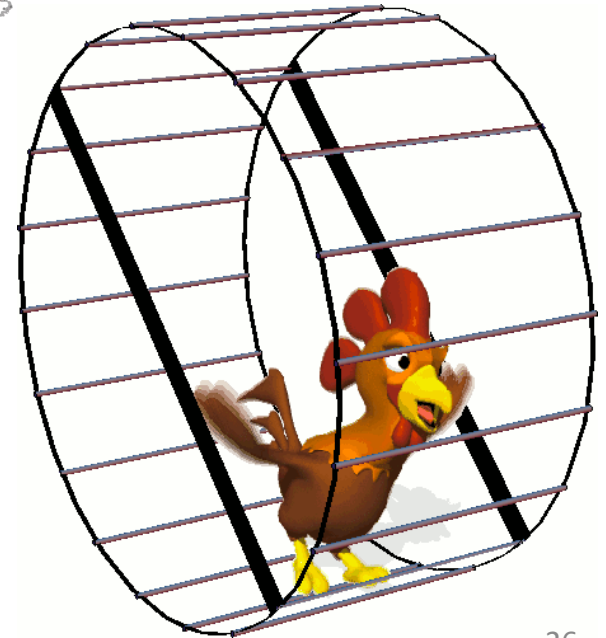
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  - doing the same things repeatedly





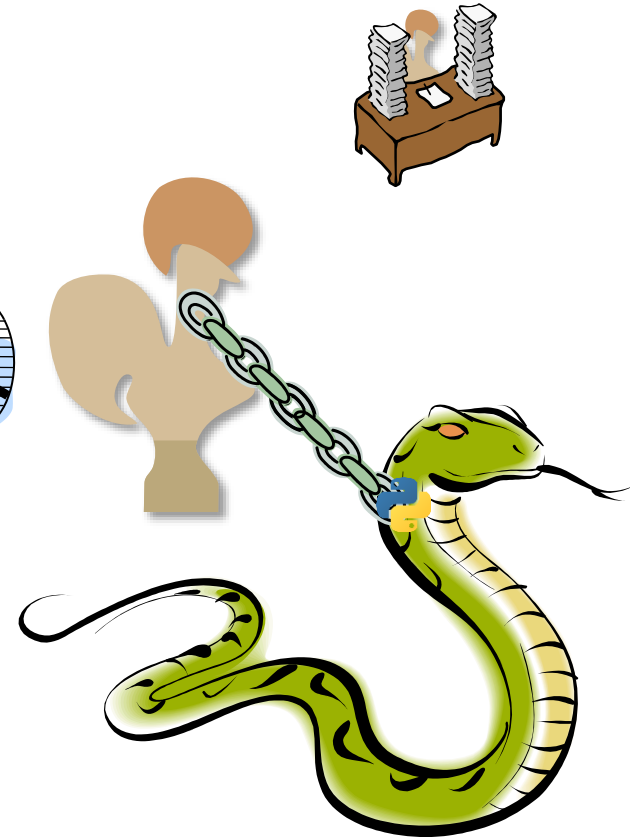
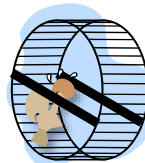
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  - doing lots of stuff for no good reason



# Performance

- **Question:** What makes programs, particularly theorem provers or proof scripts, slow?
- **Answer:** Doing too much stuff!
  - doing the same things repeatedly
  - doing lots of stuff for no good reason
  - using a slow language when you could be using a quicker one



# Proof assistant performance

- What kinds of things does Coq do?
  - Type checking
  - Term building
  - Unification
  - Normalization

# Proof assistant performance (pain)

- When are these slow?
  - when you duplicate work
  - when you do work on a part of a term you end up not caring about
  - when you do them too many times
  - when your term is large

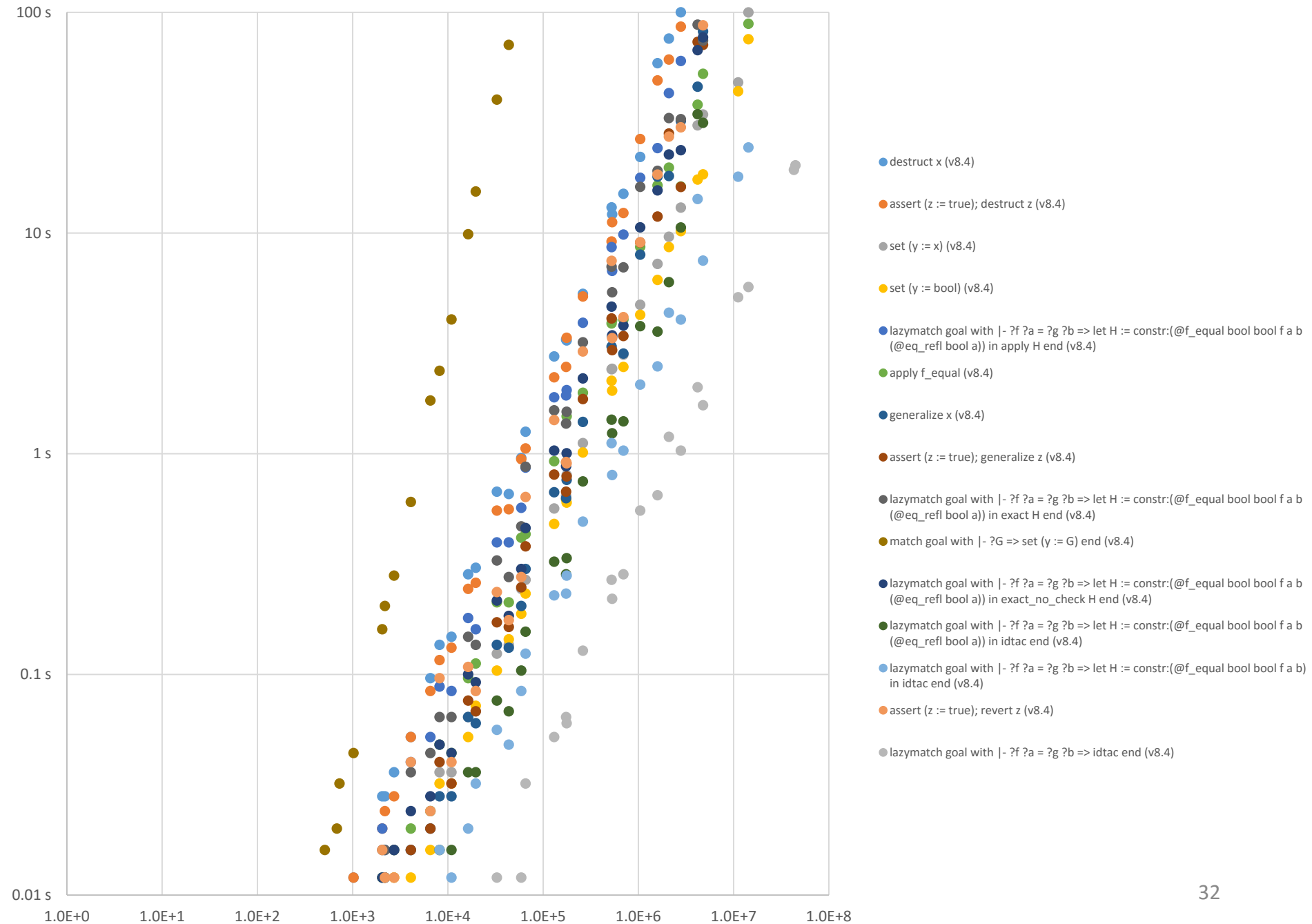
# Proof assistant performance (size)

- How large is slow?

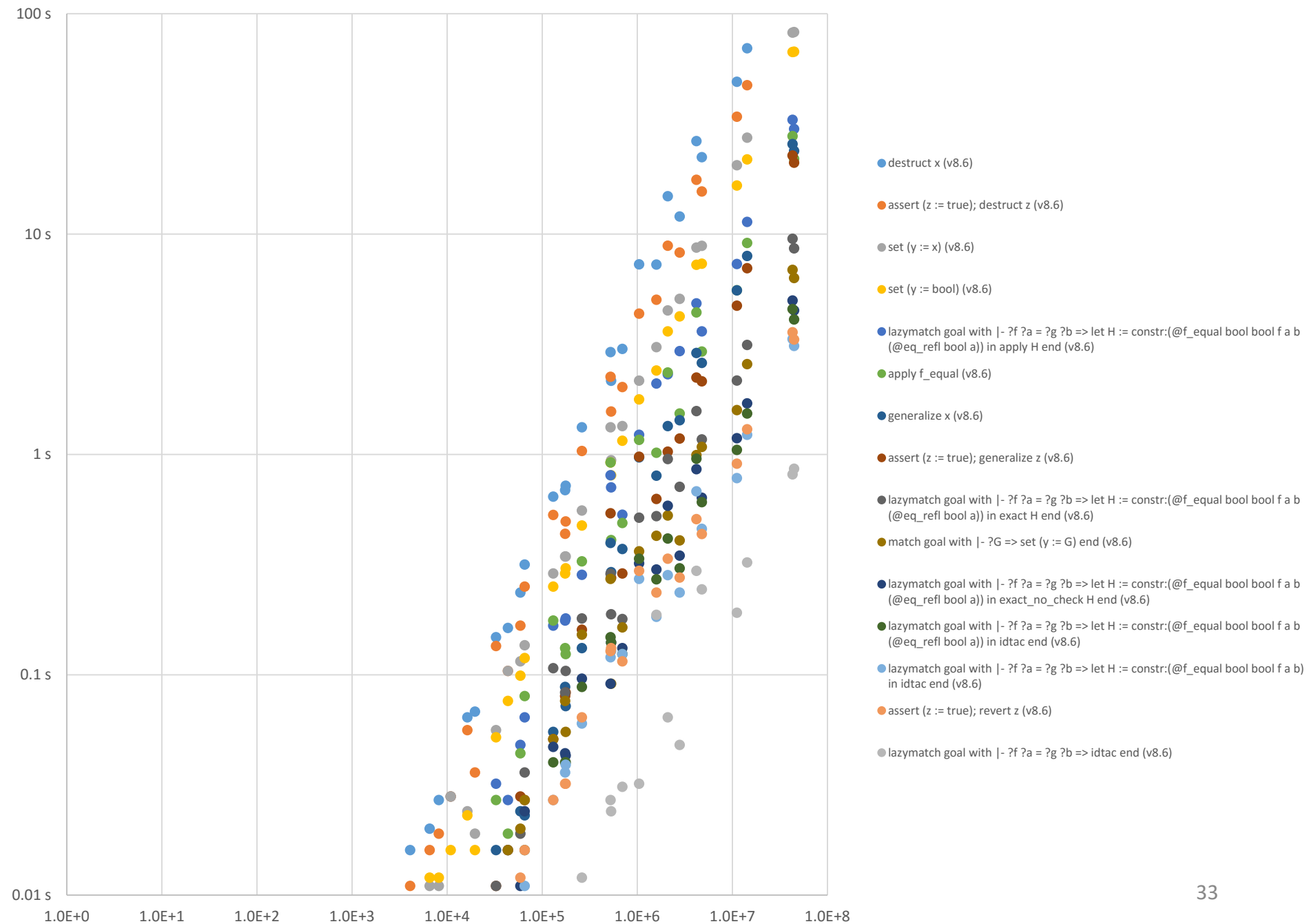
# Proof assistant performance (size)

- How large is slow?
  - Around 150,000—500,000 words

Durations of Various Tactics vs. Term Size (Coq v8.4, 2.4 GHz Intel Xeon CPU, 16 GB RAM)



Durations of Various Tactics vs. Term Size (Coq v8.6, 3.5 GHz Intel i7 CPU, 64 GB RAM)





# Proof assistant performance (size)

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Do terms actually get this large?

# Proof assistant performance (size)

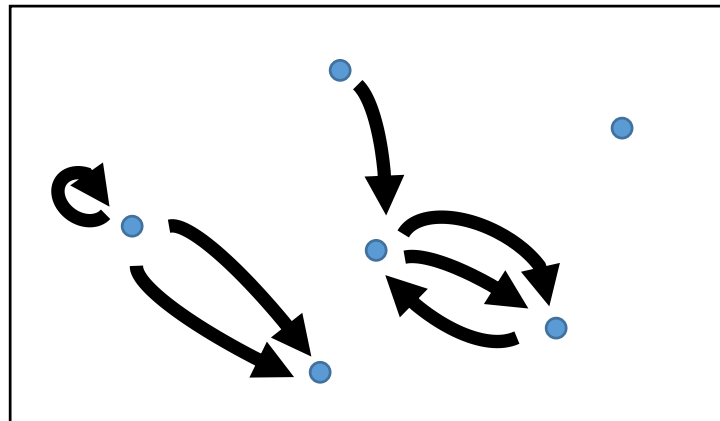
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Do terms actually get this large?

**YES!**

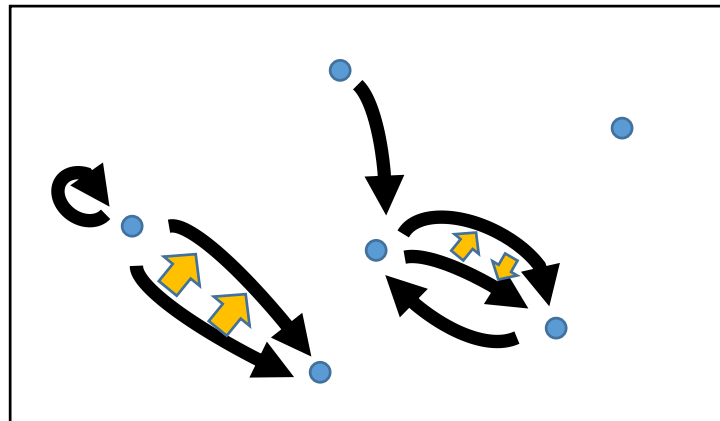
# Proof assistant performance (size)

- A **directed graph** has:
  - a type of vertices (points)
  - for every ordered pair of vertices, a type of arrows



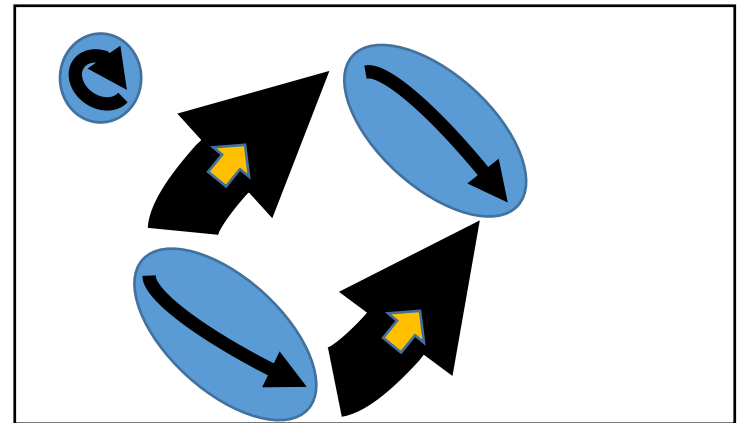
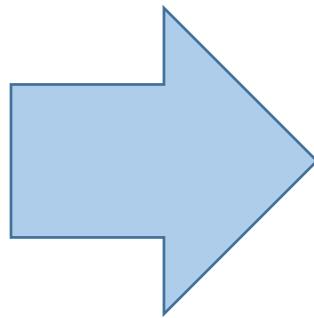
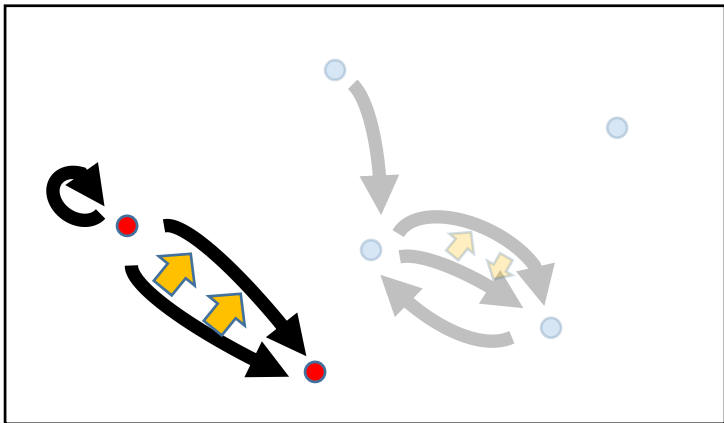
# Proof assistant performance (size)

- A **directed 2-graph** has:
  - a type of vertices (0-arrows)
  - for every ordered pair of vertices, a type of arrows (1-arrows)
  - for every ordered pair of 1-arrows between the same vertices, a type of 2-arrows



# Proof assistant performance (size)

- A **directed arrow-graph** comes from turning arrows into vertices:



# Proof assistant performance (pain)

- When are these slow?
  - When your term is large
- Smallish example (29 000 words): Without Proofs:

```
{| LCCMF := _\_inducedF (m22 ◦ m12);  
  LCCMT := λT (λ (c : d'2 / F) ⇒ m21 c.β ◦ m11 c.β) |} =  
{| LCCMF := _\_inducedF m12 ◦ _\_inducedF m22;  
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```

# Proof assistant performance (pain)

- When are these slow?
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   LCCM_T := λ_T (λ (c : d'_2 / F) ⇒ m_21 c.β ◦ m_11 c.β)
               (Π-pf s_2 (λ_T (λ (c : C) ⇒ m_21 c ◦ m_11 c)
                             (◦_1 -pf m_21 m_11)) (m_22 ◦ m_12)) |} =
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               (◦_1 -pf (λ_T (λ (c : d'_2 / F) ⇒ m_21 c.β) (Π-pf s_2
                                                             (λ_T (λ (c : d'_2 / F) ⇒ (d_1)_1 I ◦ m_11 c.β ◦ I)
                                                             (◦_1 -pf (λ_T (λ (c : d'_2 / F) ⇒ (d_1)_1 I ◦ m_11 c.β ◦ I)
                                                             (◦_0 -pf (λ_T (λ (c : d'_2 / F) ⇒ (d_1)_1 I ◦ m_11 c.β ◦ I)
                                                             (Π-pf s_2 m_11 m_12))))))))))
```



# Proof assistant performance (pain)

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    (λT (λ (c : d'2 / F) ⇒ (d1)1 I ◦ m11 c.β ◦ I)
      (◦1 -pf (λT (λ (c : d'2 / F) ⇒ (d1)1 I ◦ m11 c.β)
        (◦0 -pf (λT (λ (c : d2 / F) ⇒ m11 c.β)
          (Π-pf s2 m11 m12)) I)) I))) |}
```



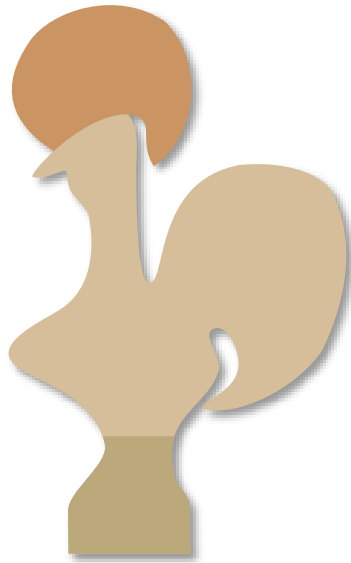


# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How do we work around this?

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- By hiding from the proof checker!

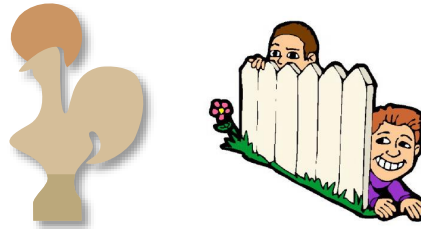


# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

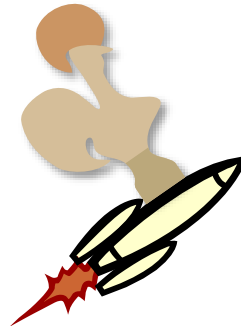
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- How do we hide?

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How do we work around this?
- By hiding from the proof checker!
- How do we hide?
  - Good engineering



- Better proof assistants



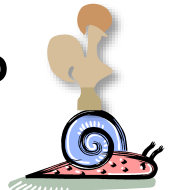
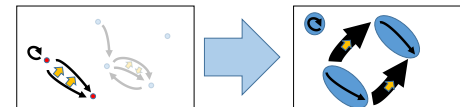
Proof assistant performance (fixes)

# Careful Engineering

# Outline

- Why should we care about performance?
- Overview of the HoTT/HoTT library
- What makes theorem provers (mainly Coq) slow?

- Examples of particular slowness



- **For users (workarounds)**

- Arguments vs. fields and packed records
  - Abstraction barriers



- For developers (features)

- Primitive projections

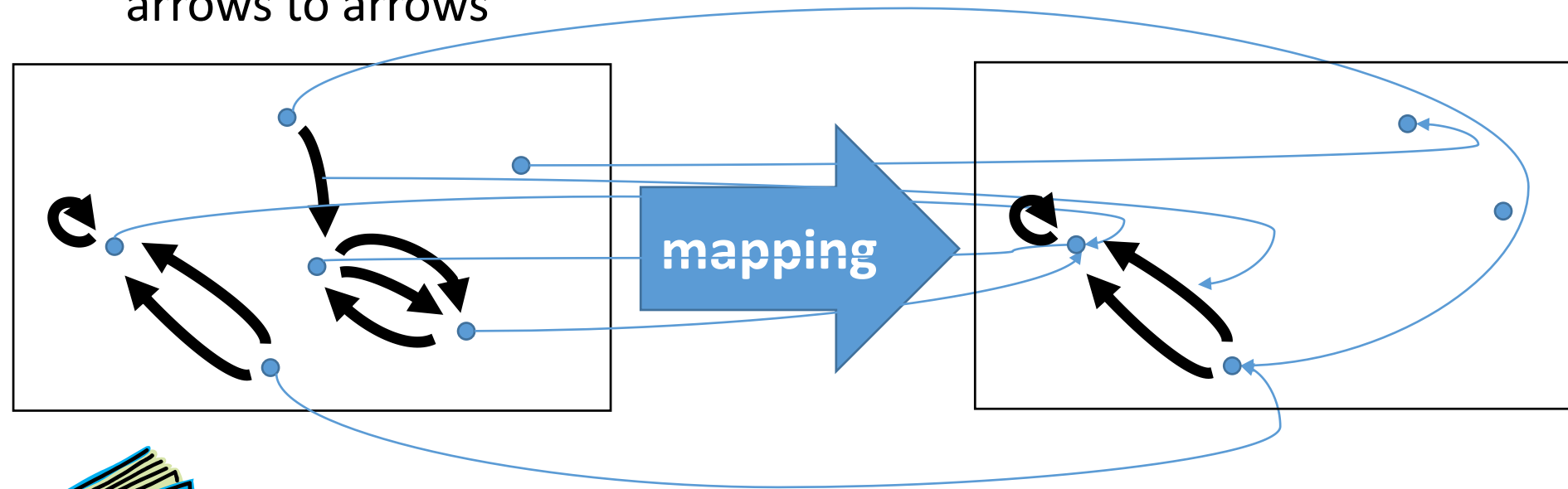
# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Avoid exponential blowup: Pack your records!

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A **mapping of graphs** is a mapping of vertices to vertices and arrows to arrows





# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Avoid exponential blowup: Pack your records!

At least two options to define graph:

**Record** Graph := { **V** : **Type** ; **E** : **V** → **V** → **Type** }.

**Record** IsGraph (**V** : **Type**) (**E** : **V** → **V** → **Type**) := { }.



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

**Record** Graph := { **V** : **Type** ; **E** : **V** → **V** → **Type** }.

**Record** IsGraph (**V** : **Type**) (**E** : **V** → **V** → **Type**) := { }.

Big difference for size of functor:

**Mapping** : Graph → Graph → **Type**.

vs.

**IsMapping** :  $\forall$  (**V<sub>G</sub>** : **Type**) (**V<sub>H</sub>** : **Type**)

(**E<sub>G</sub>** : **V<sub>G</sub>** → **V<sub>G</sub>** → **Type**) (**E<sub>H</sub>** : **V<sub>H</sub>** → **V<sub>H</sub>** → **Type**),

**IsGraph** **V<sub>G</sub>** **E<sub>G</sub>** → **IsGraph** **V<sub>H</sub>** **E<sub>H</sub>** → **Type**.

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Either don't nest constructions, or don't unfold nested constructions
  - Coq only cares about unnormalized term size – “What I don't know can't hurt me”

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - More systematically, have good abstraction barriers

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers 💧

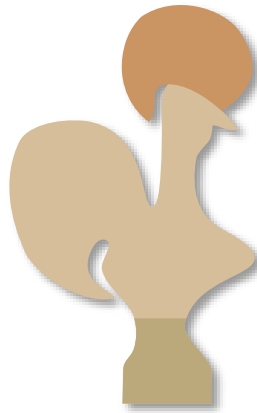
Leaky abstraction barriers  
generally only torture  
programmers



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers 💧

Leaky abstraction barriers  
torture Coq, too!



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers

Example: Pairing (without judgmental  $\eta$ )

Two ways to make use of elements of a pair:

**let** ( $x, y$ ) :=  $p$  **in**  $f\ x\ y$ . (pattern matching)

$f$  (**fst**  $p$ ) (**snd**  $p$ ). (projections)

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers

Example: Pairing (without judgmental  $\eta$ )

Two ways to make use of elements of a pair:

**let** ( $x, y$ ) :=  $p$  **in**  $f\ x\ y$ . (pattern matching)

$f$  (**let** ( $x, y$ ) :=  $p$  **in**  $x$ ) (**let** ( $x, y$ ) :=  $p$  **in**  $y$ ). (projections)

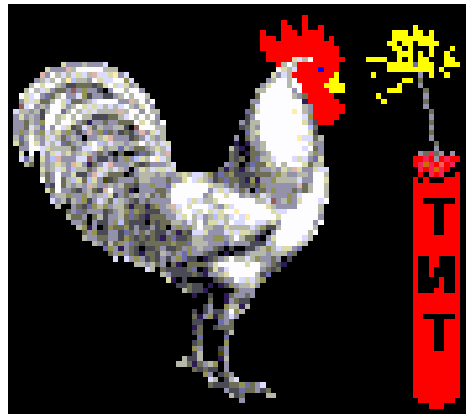
**These ways do not unify!**



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers

Leaky abstraction barriers  
torture Coq, too!

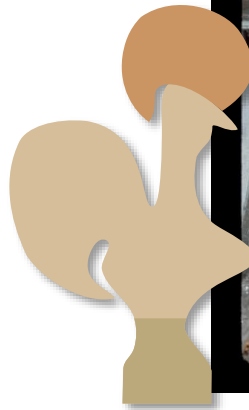


Rooster Image from  
[http://www.animationlibrary.com/animation/18342/Chicken\\_blow\\_up/](http://www.animationlibrary.com/animation/18342/Chicken_blow_up/)

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Have good abstraction barriers 💧

Leaky abstraction barriers  
torture Coq, too!



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

## Concrete Example (Old Version)

Local Notation `mor_of Y0 Y1 f :=`

```
(let  $\eta_{Y_1} := \text{IsInitialMorphism\_morphism } (@\text{HM } Y_1) \text{ in}$   

  (@center _ (IsInitialMorphism\_property (@HM Y0) _ ( $\eta_{Y_1} \circ f$ ))) _ ) (only parsing).
```

Lemma `composition_of x y z g f: mor_of _ (f ∘ g) = mor_of y z f ∘ mor_of x y g.`

Proof.

simpl.

`match goal with | [ ⊢ ((@center ?A ?H) _ ) _ ] => erewrite (@contr A H (center _; (_; _))) end.`

8 s

`simpl; reflexivity.`

2 s

Grab Existential Variables.

`simpl in *.`

`repeat match goal with | [ ⊢ appcontext[(?x2) _ ] ] => generalize (x2); intro end.`

2.5 s

`rewrite ?composition_of.`

0.5 s

`repeat try_associativity_quick (idtac; match goal with | [ ⊢ appcontext[?x1] ] => simpl rewrite x2 end).`

3.5 s

`rewrite ?left_identity, ?right_identity, ?associativity.`

0.3 s

`reflexivity.`

Qed

Size of goal (after first simpl): 7312 words

20 s

Size of proof term: 66 264 words

Total time in file: 39 s

universal  
adjoints

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

## Concrete Example (New Version)

Local Notation `mor_of Y0 Y1 f :=`

`(let  $\eta_{Y_1}$  := IsInitialMorphism_morphism (@HM Y1) in`

`IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism (@HM Y0) _ ( $\eta_{Y_1} \circ f$ )) (only parsing).`

Lemma `composition_of x y z g f: mor_of _ (f ∘ g) = mor_of y z f ∘ mor_of x y g.`

Proof.

`simpl.`

`rewrite IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_unique; [ reflexivity | ].`

`rewrite ?composition_of.`

`repeat try_associativity_quick rewrite IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_property.`

`reflexivity.`

Qed.

0.08 s  
(was 10 s)

0.08 s  
(was 0.5 s)

0.5 s  
(was 3.5 s)

0.5 s  
(was 3.5 s)

universal  
adjoints

Size of goal (after first simpl): 191 words (was 7312)

Size of proof term: 3 632 words (was 66 264)

Total time in file: 3 s (was 39 s)

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

## Concrete Example (Old Interface)

**Definition** `IsInitialMorphism_object` ( $M : \text{IsInitialMorphism } A\varphi$ ) :  $D := \text{CommaCategory.b } A\varphi$ .

**Definition** `IsInitialMorphism_morphism` ( $M : \text{IsInitialMorphism } A\varphi$ ) : `morphism`  $C\ X\ (U_0\ (\text{IsInitialMorphism\_object } M)) := \text{CommaCategory.f } A\varphi$ .

**Definition** `IsInitialMorphism_property` ( $M : \text{IsInitialMorphism } A\varphi$ ) ( $Y : D$ ) ( $f : \text{morphism } C\ X\ (U_0\ Y)$ )

: `Contr` {  $m : \text{morphism } D\ (\text{IsInitialMorphism\_object } M)\ Y \mid U_1\ m \circ (\text{IsInitialMorphism\_morphism } M) = f$  }.

**Proof.**

(\*\* We could just [rewrite right\_identity], but we want to preserve judgemental computation rules. \*)

`pose proof (@trunc_equiv' _ (symmetry _ (@CommaCategory.issig_morphism _ _ !X U _)) -2 (M (CommaCategory.Build_object !X U tt Y f))) as H'.`

`simpl in H'.`

`apply contr_inhabited_hprop.`

`- abstract (`

`apply @trunc_succ in H';`

`eapply @trunc_equiv'; [ | exact H' ];`

`match goal with`

`| [ | ⊢ appcontext[?m ∘ I] ] ⇒ simpl rewrite (right_identity _ _ m)`

`| [ | ⊢ appcontext[I ∘ ?m] ] ⇒ simpl rewrite (left_identity _ _ m)`

`end;`

`simpl; unfold IsInitialMorphism_object, IsInitialMorphism_morphism;`

`let A := match goal with ⊢ Equiv ?A ?B ⇒ constr:(A) end in`

`let B := match goal with ⊢ Equiv ?A ?B ⇒ constr:(B) end in`

`apply (equiv_adjointify (λ x : A ⇒ x2) (λ x : B ⇒ (tt; x)));`

`[ intro; reflexivity | intros []; reflexivity ]`

`).`

`- (exists ((@center _ H')2)1).`

`abstract (etransitivity; [ apply ((@center _ H')2)2 | auto with morphism ]).`

**Defined.**

3 s

1 s

Total file time: 7 s

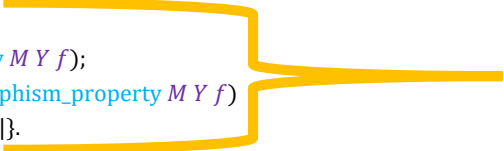
# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

## Concrete Example (New Interface)

```

Definition IsInitialMorphism_object (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) : D := CommaCategory.b Aφ.
Definition IsInitialMorphism_morphism (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) : morphism C X (U0 (IsInitialMorphism_object M)) := CommaCategory.f Aφ.
Definition IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) (Y : D) (f : morphism C X (U0 Y)) : morphism D (IsInitialMorphism_object M) Y
:= CommaCategory.h (@center _ (M (CommaCategory.Build_object !X U tt Y f))).
Definition IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_property (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) (Y : D) (f : morphism C X (U0 Y))
: U1 (IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism M Y f) ∘ (IsInitialMorphism_morphism M) = f
:= CommaCategory.p (@center _ (M (CommaCategory.Build_object !X U tt Y f))) @ right_identity _____.
Definition IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_unique (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) (Y : D) (f : morphism C X (U0 Y)) m' (H : U1 m' ∘ IsInitialMorphism_morphism M = f)
: IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism M Y f = m'
:= ap (@CommaCategory.h _____)
    (@contr _ (M (CommaCategory.Build_object !X U tt Y f)) (CommaCategory.Build_morphism Aφ (CommaCategory.Build_object !X U tt Y f) tt m' (H @ (right_identity _____)-1))).
Definition IsInitialMorphism_property (M : IsInitialMorphism Aφ) (Y : D) (f : morphism C X (U0 Y))
: Contr { m : morphism D (IsInitialMorphism_object M) Y | U1 m ∘ (IsInitialMorphism_morphism M) = f }.
:= { | center := (IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism M Y f; IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_property M Y f);
    contr m' := path_sigma _ (IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism M Y f; IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_property M Y f)
        m' (@ IsInitialMorphism_property_morphism_unique M Y f m' _ m' _ 2) (center _ ) |}.

```



0.4 s

Total file time: 7 s

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

## Concrete Example 2 (Generalization)

```

Lemma pseudofunctor_to_cat_assoc_helper {x x0 : C} {x2 : morphism C x x0} {x1 : C}
  {x5 : morphism C x0 x1} {x4 : C} {x7 : morphism C x1 x4}
  {p p0 : PreCategory} {f : morphism C x x4 → Functor p0 p}
  {p1 p2 : PreCategory} {f0 : Functor p2 p} {f1 : Functor p1 p2} {f2 : Functor p0 p2} {f3 : Functor p0 p1} {f4 : Functor p1 p}
  {x16 : morphism ( _ → _ ) (f (x7 ∘ x5 ∘ x2)) (f4 ∘ f3)%functor}
  {x15 : morphism ( _ → _ ) f2 (f1 ∘ f3)%functor} {H2 : IsIsomorphism x15}
  {x11 : morphism ( _ → _ ) (f (x7 ∘ (x5 ∘ x2))) (f0 ∘ f2)%functor}
  {H1 : IsIsomorphism x11} {x9 : morphism ( _ → _ ) f4 (f0 ∘ f1)%functor} {fst_hyp : x7 ∘ x5 ∘ x2 = x7 ∘ (x5 ∘ x2)}
  (rew_hyp : ∀ x3 : p0,
    (idtoiso (p0 → p) (ap f fst_hyp) : morphism _ _ ) x3 = x11-1 x3 ∘ (f0-1 (x15-1 x3) ∘ (ℓ ∘ (x9 (f3 x3) ∘ x16 x3))))
  {H'0 : IsIsomorphism x16} {H'1 : IsIsomorphism x9} {x13 : p} {x3 : p0} {x6 : p1} {x10 : p2}
  {x14 : morphism p (f0 x10) x13} {x12 : morphism p2 (f1 x6) x10} {x8 : morphism p1 (f3 x3) x6}
: existT (λ f5 : morphism C x x4 ⇒ morphism p ((f f5) x3) x13)
  (x7 ∘ x5 ∘ x2)
  (x14 ∘ (f0-1 x12 ∘ x9 x6) ∘ (f4-1 x8 ∘ x16 x3)) = (x7 ∘ (x5 ∘ x2); x14 ∘ (f0-1 (x12 ∘ (f1-1 x8 ∘ x15 x3)) ∘ x11 x3)).

```

**Proof.**

helper\_t assoc\_before\_commutates\_tac.

assoc\_fin\_tac.

**Qed.**

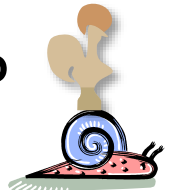
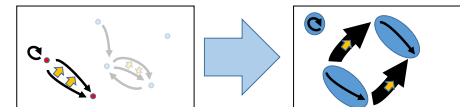
Speedup: 10x for the file, from 4m 53s to 28 s

Time spent: a few hours

# Outline

- Why should we care about performance?
- Overview of the HoTT/HoTT library
- What makes theorem provers (mainly Coq) slow?

- Examples of particular slowness



- **For users (workarounds)**

- Arguments vs. fields and packed records
  - Abstraction barriers



- For developers (features)

- Primitive projections

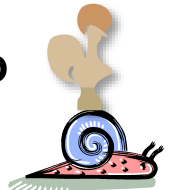
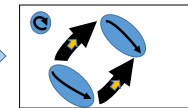
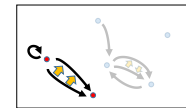


Proof assistant performance (fixes)

# Better Proof Assistants

# Outline

- Why should we care about performance?
- Overview of the HoTT/HoTT library
- What makes theorem provers (mainly Coq) slow?
  - Examples of particular slowness
- For users (workarounds)
  - Arguments vs. fields and packed records
  - Abstraction barriers
- **For developers (features)**
  - **Primitive projections**



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Primitive projections

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

- How?
  - Primitive projections

**Definition** 2-Graph :=

$\{ V : \text{Type} \ \&$

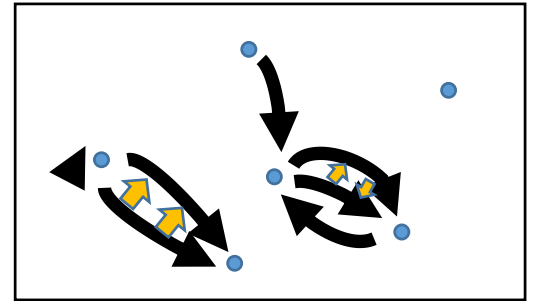
$\{ 1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type} \ \&$

$\forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow \text{Type} \}$ .

**Definition**  $V (G : 2\text{-Graph}) := \text{pr}_1 G$ .

**Definition**  $1E (G : 2\text{-Graph}) := \text{pr}_1 (\text{pr}_2 G)$ .

**Definition**  $2E (G : 2\text{-Graph}) := \text{pr}_2 (\text{pr}_2 G)$ .



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

Definition 2-Graph :=

{  $V$  : Type &

{  $1E$  :  $V \rightarrow V \rightarrow$  Type &

$\forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow$  Type }.

Definition  $V$  ( $G : 2\text{-Graph}$ ) :=  $\text{pr}_1 G$  .

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

Definition 2-Graph :=

$$\{ V : \text{Type} \ \& \\ \{ 1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type} \ \& \\ \forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow \text{Type} \}.$$

Definition V (G : 2-Graph) :=

$$\text{@pr}_1 \text{Type} (\lambda V : \text{Type} \Rightarrow \\ \{ 1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type} \ \& \\ \forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow \text{Type} \})$$

G.

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

Definition 2-Graph :=

{  $V$  : Type &

{  $1E$  :  $V \rightarrow V \rightarrow$  Type &

$\forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow$  Type }.

Definition  $V$  ( $G$  : 2-Graph) :=  $pr_1 G$  .

Definition  $1E$  ( $G$  : 2-Graph) :=  $pr_1 (pr_2 G)$ .

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

**Definition**  $1E$  ( $G : 2\text{-Graph}$ ) :=  
@pr<sub>1</sub>  
 ( $@pr_1$  Type ( $\lambda V : \text{Type} \Rightarrow$   
 {  $1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type}$  &  
  $\forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow \text{Type}$  } )  
  $G \rightarrow$   
 @pr<sub>1</sub> Type ( $\lambda V : \text{Type} \Rightarrow$   
 {  $1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type}$  &  
  $\forall v_1 v_2, 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow 1E v_1 v_2 \rightarrow \text{Type}$  } )  
  $G \rightarrow$   
 Type)  
 ( $\lambda 1E : @pr_1$  Type ( $\lambda V : \text{Type} \Rightarrow$   
 {  
  $1E : V \rightarrow V \rightarrow \text{Type}$  &



# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

```
Definition 1E (G : 2-Graph) :=
  @pr1
  (@pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒
    { 1E : V → V → Type &
      ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type })
    G →
    @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒
      { 1E : V → V → Type &
        ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type })
        G →
        Type)
  (λ 1E : @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒
    { 1E : V → V → Type &
      ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type })
    G →
    @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒
      { 1E : V → V → Type &
        ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type })
        G →
        Type ⇒
    ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type)
  (@pr2 Type (λ V : Type ⇒
    { 1E : V → V → Type &
      ∀ v1 v2, 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }
    G)
    G)
```

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

Definition 1E (G : 2-Graph) :=

```
@pr1
  (@pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
    @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
      Type)
  (λ 1E : @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
    @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
      Type ⇒
      ∀ (v1 : @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G)
        (v2 : @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G),
        1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type)
  (@pr2 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G)
: @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
  @pr1 Type (λ V : Type ⇒ { 1E : V → V → Type & ∀ (v1 : V) (v2 : V), 1E v1 v2 → 1E v1 v2 → Type }) G →
  Type
```

Recall: Original was:

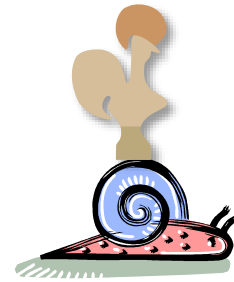
Definition 1E (G : 2-Graph) := pr<sub>1</sub> (pr<sub>2</sub> G).

# Proof assistant performance (fixes)

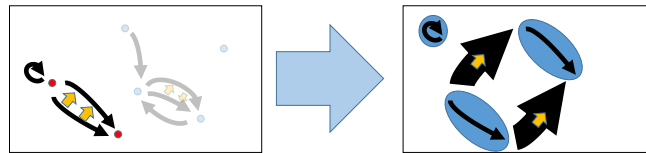
- How?
  - Primitive projections
  - They eliminate the unnecessary arguments to projections, cutting down the work Coq has to do.

# Take-away messages

- Performance matters (even in proof assistants)



- Term size matters for performance



- Performance can be improved by
  - careful engineering of developments
  - improving the proof assistant or the metatheory



# Thank You!

The presentation will be available at

<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jgross/#hott-hott-and-category-coq-experience>

An extended version is available at

<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jgross/#category-coq-experience>

The library is available at

<https://github.com/HoTT/HoTT>

# Questions?