

The following type is called the Curry–Howard interpretation of Brouwer’s continuity principle

$$\text{(CH-Cont)} \quad \Pi(f:\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N})(\alpha:\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}). \Sigma(n:\mathbb{N}). \Pi(\beta:\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}). \alpha =_n \beta \rightarrow f(\alpha) = f(\beta).$$

**Theorem.** In intensional Martin-Löf type theory (with  $\Pi, \Sigma, \text{Id}$ ),

$$\text{CH-Cont} \rightarrow 0 = 1.$$

**Proof.**

1. Assuming CH-Cont, we get a *modulus-of-continuity functional*

$$M : (\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

assigning a modulus  $M(f)$  to  $f$  at the point  $0^\omega$ , where

- $0^\omega$  is the infinite sequence of zeros ( $0^{\mathbb{w}}$ ), and
  - $0^n k^\omega$  consists of  $n$  zeros followed by infinitely many  $k$ ’s (**n zeros-and-then k**).
  - Fact (i):  $(0^n k^\omega)(n) = k$  (**zeros-and-then-spec<sub>0</sub>**).
  - Fact (ii):  $0^\omega =_n 0^n k^\omega$  (**zeros-and-then-spec<sub>1</sub>**).
2. Let  $m = M(\lambda\alpha.0)$ . Define  $f : \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  by  $f(\beta) = M(\lambda\alpha.\beta(\alpha m))$ .
  3. By expanding the definitions (which involves the  $\xi$ -rule), we get

$$f(0^\omega) = M(\lambda\alpha.0^\omega(\alpha m)) = M(\lambda\alpha.0) = m \quad \text{(claim}_0\text{)}.$$

4. By the definition of  $M$ , we have

$$\Pi(\beta : \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}). 0^\omega =_{M(f)} \beta \rightarrow m = f\beta \quad \text{(claim}_1\text{)}.$$

5. Choosing  $\beta = 0^{M(f)+1} 1^\omega$ , we have

$$0^\omega =_{M(f)} \beta \quad \text{(claim}_2\text{)}$$

and hence

$$m = f(\beta) \quad \text{(claim}_3\text{)}.$$

6. By the continuity of  $\lambda\alpha.\beta(\alpha m)$ , we get

$$\Pi(\alpha : \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}). 0^\omega =_m \alpha \rightarrow \beta 0 = \beta(\alpha m) \quad \text{(claim}_4\text{)}.$$

7. Choosing  $\alpha = 0^m (M(f) + 1)^\omega$ , we have

$$0^\omega =_m \alpha \quad \text{(claim}_5\text{)}$$

and hence

$$0 = \beta 0 = \beta(\alpha m) = \beta(M(f) + 1) = 1 \quad \text{(goal)}.$$