

Univalence vs Rezk completeness

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Let \mathcal{S} be the category of spaces¹ and let X be a category object in \mathcal{S} . I picture that like this:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & X_{\text{eq}} & & \\
 & \nearrow & \downarrow & & \\
 X_0 & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ \xleftarrow{\quad} \end{array} & X_1 & \longleftarrow & X_1 \times_{X_0} X_1.
 \end{array}$$

Here $X_{\text{eq}} \subset X_1$ is the subspace of invertible morphisms, but I won't define that now. The only place where it comes into place is in Proposition 4 below. In fact, from now on every map and diagram is in \mathcal{S} . This is because we are going to work *within* X (even though we could phrase many maps below as functors into X).

Example 1. The terminal category is $*$. △

An *object* in X is a map $x : * \rightarrow X_0$ in \mathcal{S} .

Definition 2. The **identity type** between objects x and y is the space defined by the following pullback in \mathcal{S} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Id}(x, y) & \longrightarrow & * \\
 \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow y \\
 * & \xrightarrow{x} & X_0
 \end{array}$$

Definition 3. The **type of equivalences** between objects x and y is the space defined by the following pullback in \mathcal{S} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Eq}(x, y) & \longrightarrow & * \\
 \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow (x, y) \\
 X_{\text{eq}} & \xrightarrow{(s, t)} & X_0 \times X_0
 \end{array}$$

Proposition 4. *The type of equivalences is equivalent to the following pullback:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 * \times_{X_{\text{eq}}} * & \longrightarrow & * \\
 \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \text{id}_y \\
 * & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_x} & X_{\text{eq}}
 \end{array}$$

¹Category means $(\infty, 1)$ -category.

Proof. **sorry** (you need to use the definition of X_{eq} here) □

The identity map $\text{id} : X_0 \rightarrow X_{\text{eq}}$ induces a map $\text{id}_{x,y} : \text{Id}(x,y) \rightarrow \text{Eq}(x,y)$.

Definition 5 (HoTT univalence). A category is **HoTT univalent** if $\Phi_{x,y} : \text{Id}(x,y) \rightarrow \text{Eq}(x,y)$ is an equivalence for any $x, y \in X$.²

Definition 6 (Rezk completeness). A category is **Rezk complete** if $\text{id} : X_0 \rightarrow X_{\text{eq}}$ is an equivalence.

Notation 7. Let X be a space. We use the following notation for the space of paths $x \rightsquigarrow y$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(x,y) & \longrightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow y \cdot \\ * & \xrightarrow{x} & X \end{array}$$

A map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{S} induces a map $f_{x,y} : X(x,y) \rightarrow Y(fx, fy)$.

Lemma 8. *The following are equivalent for a map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ in \mathcal{S} .*

- f is an equivalence.
- $\pi_0(f)$ is surjective and $f_{x,y}$ is an equivalence for all $x, y \in X$.

Proof. (\implies) Equivalences in \mathcal{S} are stable under pullback. (\impliedby) We use the Whitehead theorem: $f_{x,x} : \Omega(X,x) =: X(x,x) \xrightarrow{\sim} Y(y,y) := \Omega(Y,y)$ shows that f is an isomorphism on $\pi_{\geq 1}$, and $\emptyset \neq Y(fx, fy) \implies \emptyset \neq X(x,y)$ shows that f is injective on π_0 . □

Corollary 9. *Rezk completeness implies HoTT univalence.*

Proof. HoTT univalence is the condition that $\text{id} : X_0 \rightarrow X_{\text{eq}}$ induces equivalences on path spaces. □

Remark 10. The additional request that $\pi_0(\text{id})$ is a surjective on π_0 is the assertion that X_{eq} does not have “extra equivalences”. Otherwise it could be the case that HoTT holds in that $\text{Id}(x,y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Eq}(x,y)$, but X_{eq} has random connected components which are not seen by id .

Definition 11. (tentative) A **non-univalent category** (aka valent category, aka flagged category) is a category which is not Rezk complete. Note that the *functor* $X_0 \rightarrow X$ is essentially surjective.

²See [Axiom 2.10.3](#) in the HoTT book.