

# UNDERSTANDING (DELTA) LENSES USING CATEGORY THEORY

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## GOALS OF TALK:

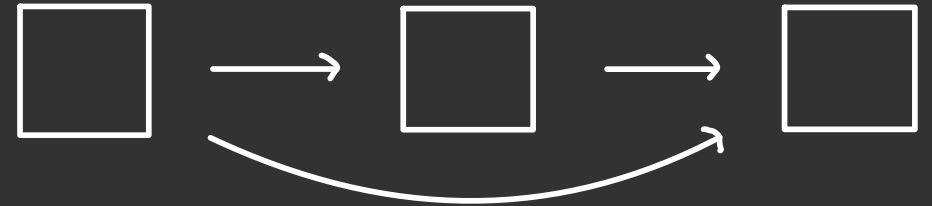
- (1) Explain how delta lens generalise classical lenses.
- (2) Give an overview of tools from category theory.
- (3) Ask questions on applicability to other kinds of bx.

# WHY CATEGORY THEORY?

- Category theory is a framework for studying **structures** and mappings between them.
  - sets and functions
  - directed graphs and homomorphisms
  - preorders and monotone maps
- Provides an abstract setting to **focus on essential features** of particular examples.

Category theory **toolbox**:

- (de)compositionality



- universal constructions with guaranteed properties
- diagrammatic reasoning

Are these useful tools?

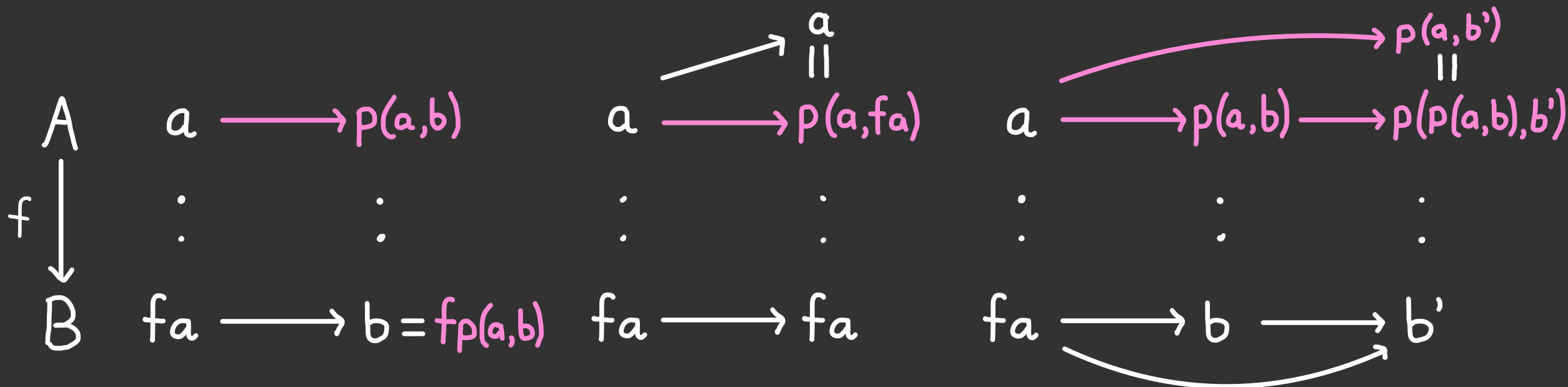
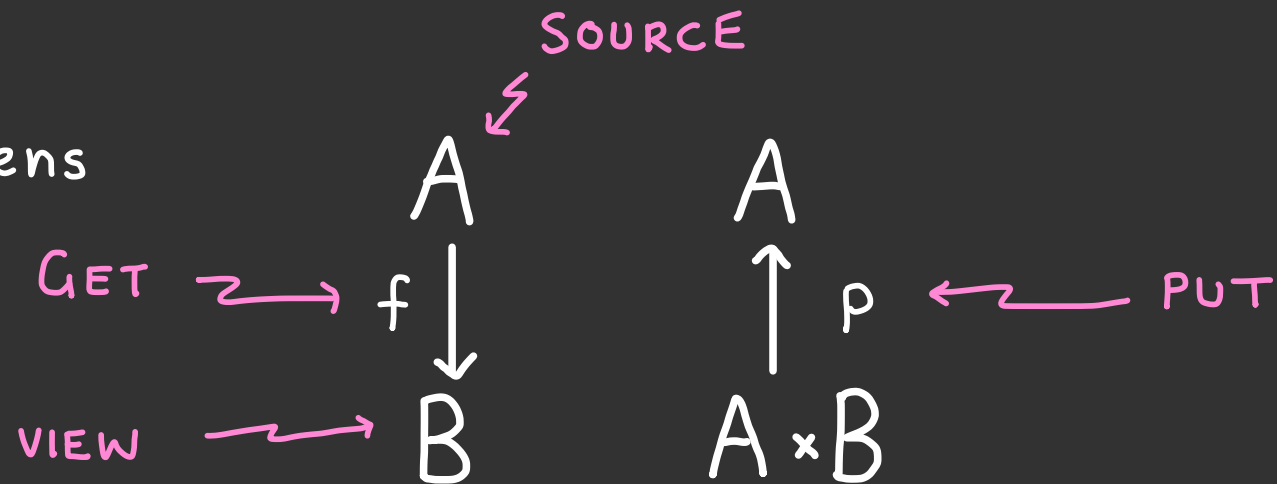
# CLASSICAL STATE-BASED LENSES

Assumption: A system is a set of states.

A very well-behaved (state-based) lens

$(f, p): A \rightarrow B$  is a pair of functions

satisfying three axioms:



# SYSTEMS AS DIRECTED GRAPHS WITH STRUCTURE

Assumption: A system is a directed graph.

- **states** are vertices (set  $A_0$ )
- **updates** are edges (set  $A_1$ )
- for each state, an **identity update** ( $i: A_0 \rightarrow A_1$ )



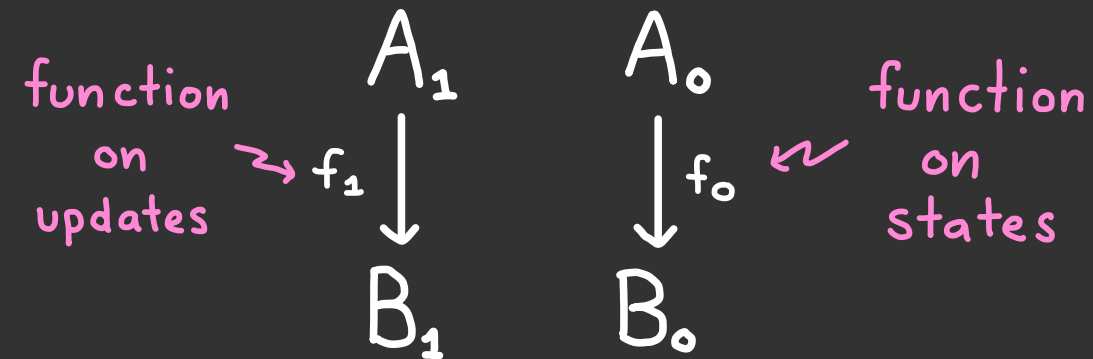
- for each sequential pair of updates, a **composite update** ( $c: A_1 \times A_1 \rightarrow A_1$ )



A **mapping between systems**

$$(A_0, A_1) \xrightarrow{f} (B_0, B_1)$$

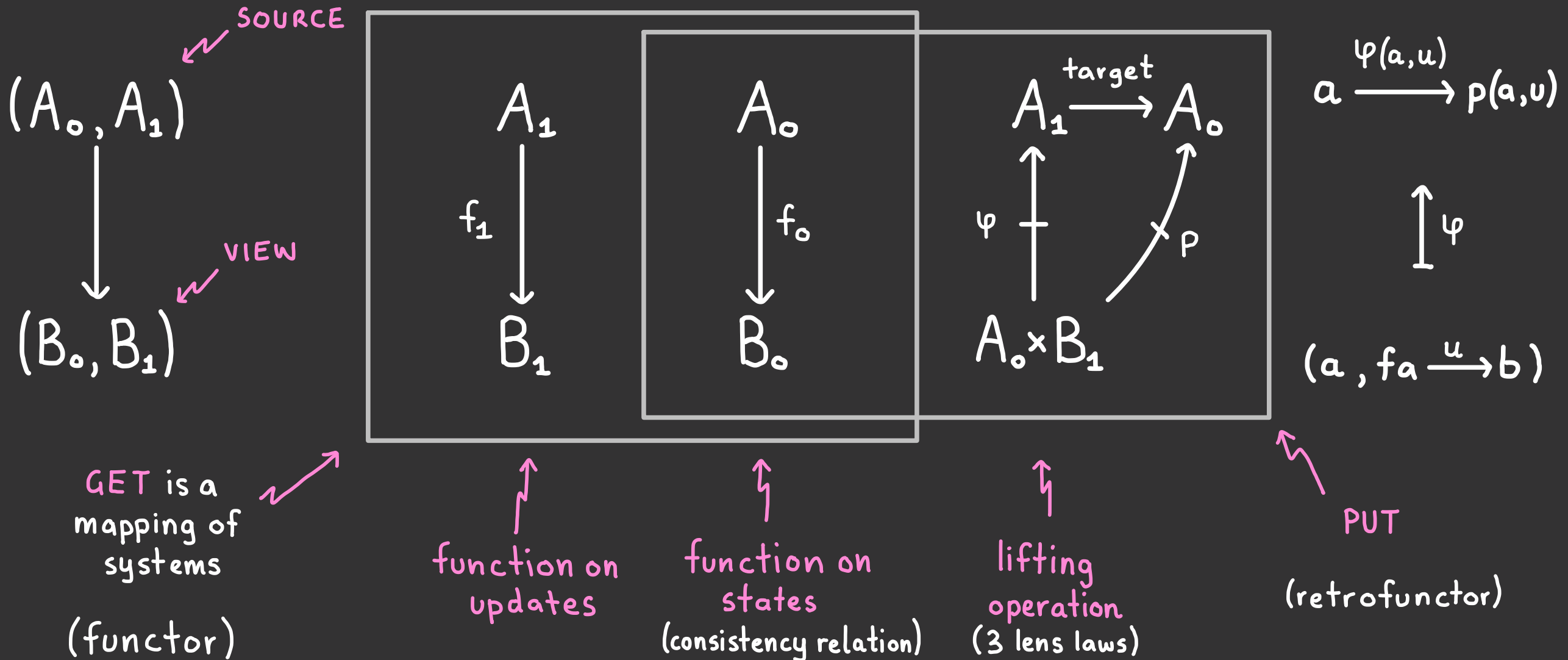
is a graph homomorphism which preserves identities & composites.



Are these good assumptions for your application of bx?

# DELTA LENSES

- A delta lens between directed graphs is a compatible GET and PUT.



# COMPOSITION & COMPATIBILITY

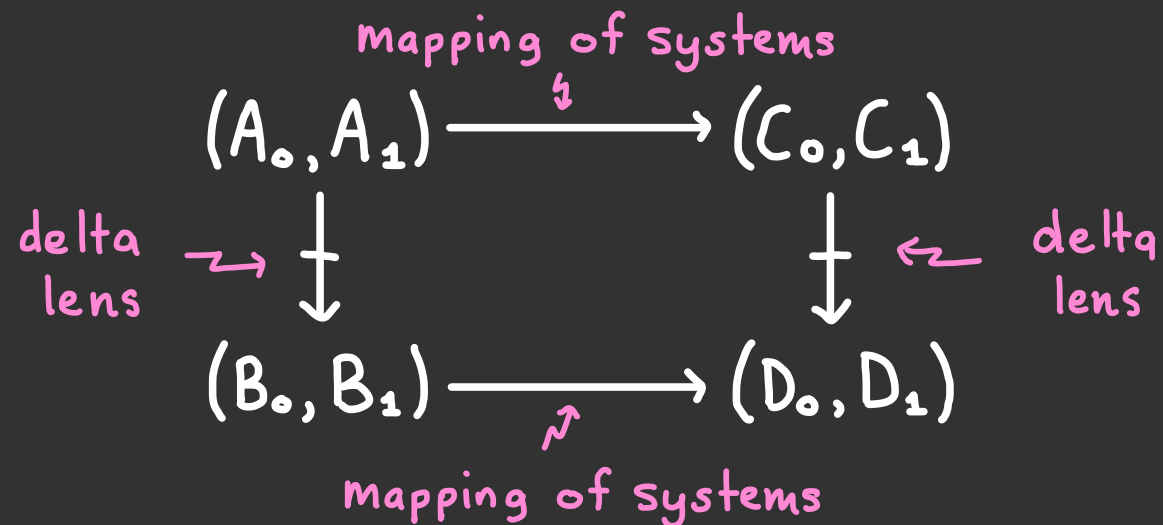
Delta lenses compose **sequentially**.

$$(A_0, A_1) \xrightarrow{(f_0, f_1, \varphi)} (B_0, B_1) \xrightarrow{(g_0, g_1, \psi)} (C_0, C_1)$$


Delta lenses compose in **parallel**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (A_0, A_1) & & (C_0, C_1) \\ \downarrow & \otimes & \downarrow \\ (B_0, B_1) & & (D_0, D_1) \end{array} \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{ccc} (A_0, A_1) \otimes (C_0, C_1) & & \\ \downarrow & & \\ (B_0, B_1) \otimes (D_0, D_1) & & \end{array}$$

Is modularity a desirable feature for your notion of bx?



We can **tile** compatibility squares horizontally & vertically + **stack** them.

Do you want to compare bx between different systems?

# CONSTRUCTING FREE & COFREE DELTA LENSES

Delta lenses are algebras for a monad.

freely add updates to source



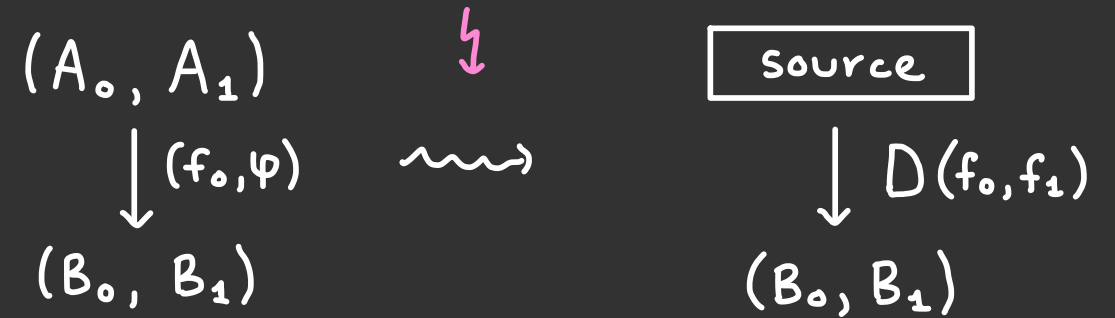
GET  
(mapping of systems)

free delta lens

Do you want to build  $\text{bx}$  from a GET?  
Is your  $\text{bx}$  specified algebraically?

Delta lenses are coalgebras for a comonad.

delete/duplicate updates in source



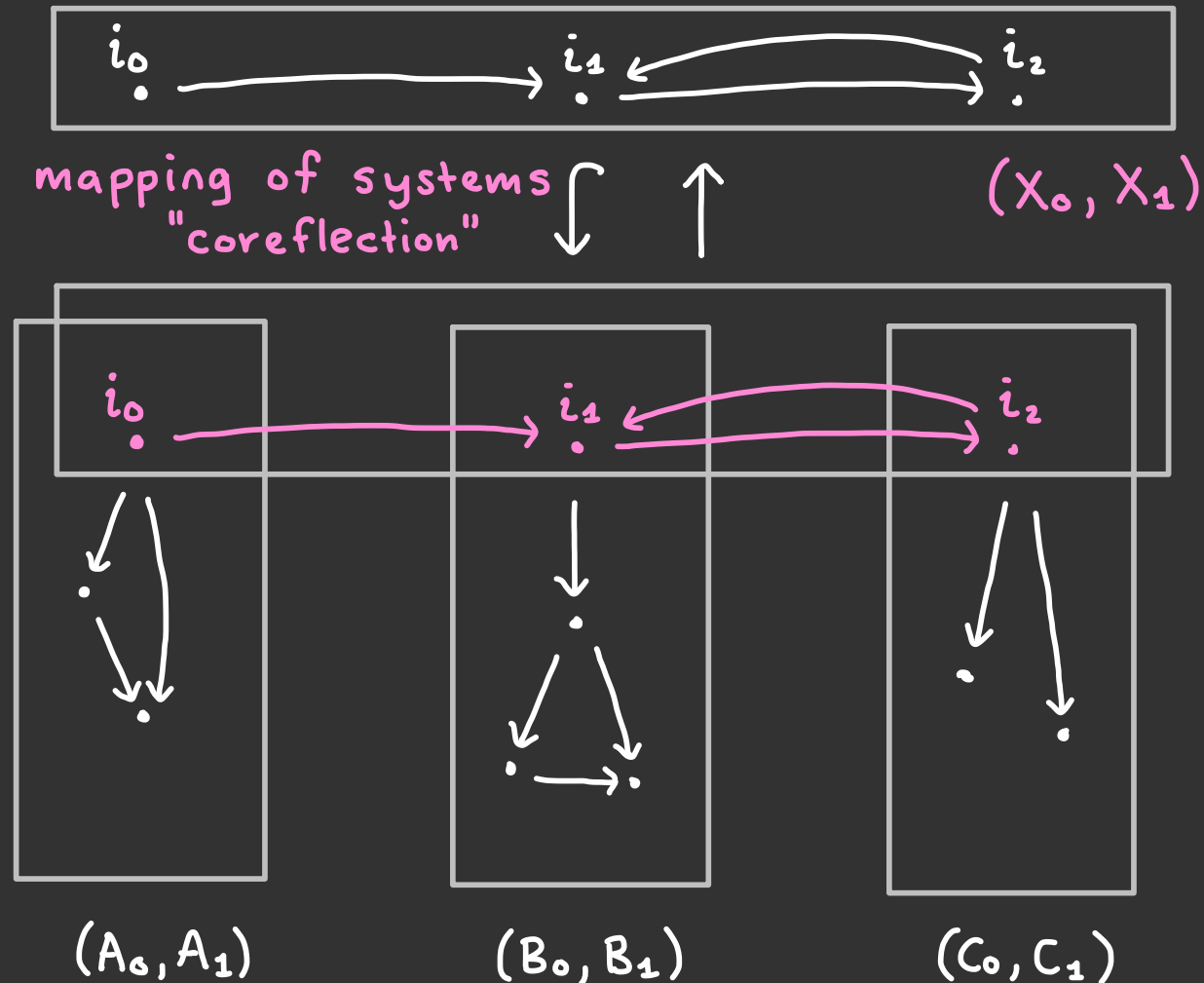
PUT  
(consistency relation  
& lifting operation)

cofree delta lens

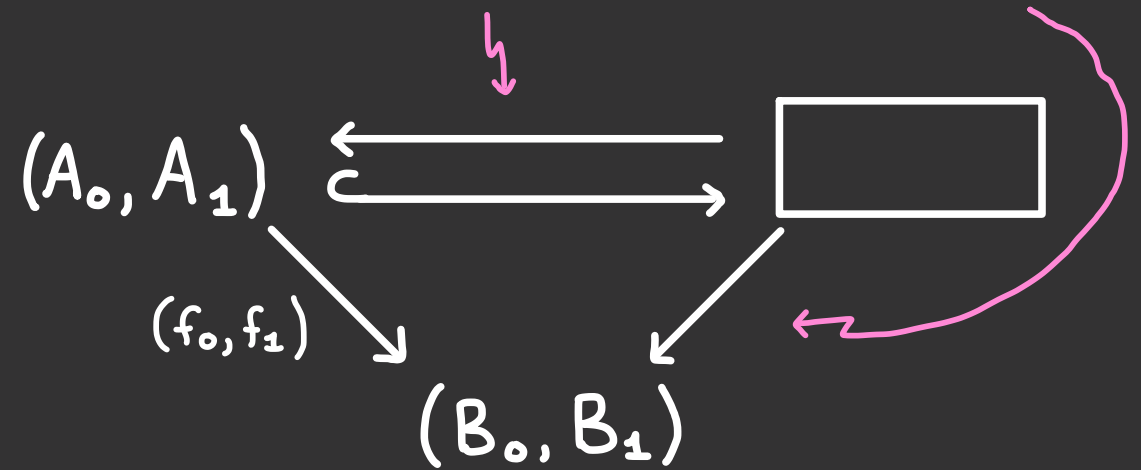
Do you want to build  $\text{bx}$  from a PUT?  
Is your  $\text{bx}$  specified coalgebraically?

# FACTORISATION

Take a collection of systems with an **initial state** and glue these with updates



Each mapping of systems factors into a **coreflection** & a **delta lens**.



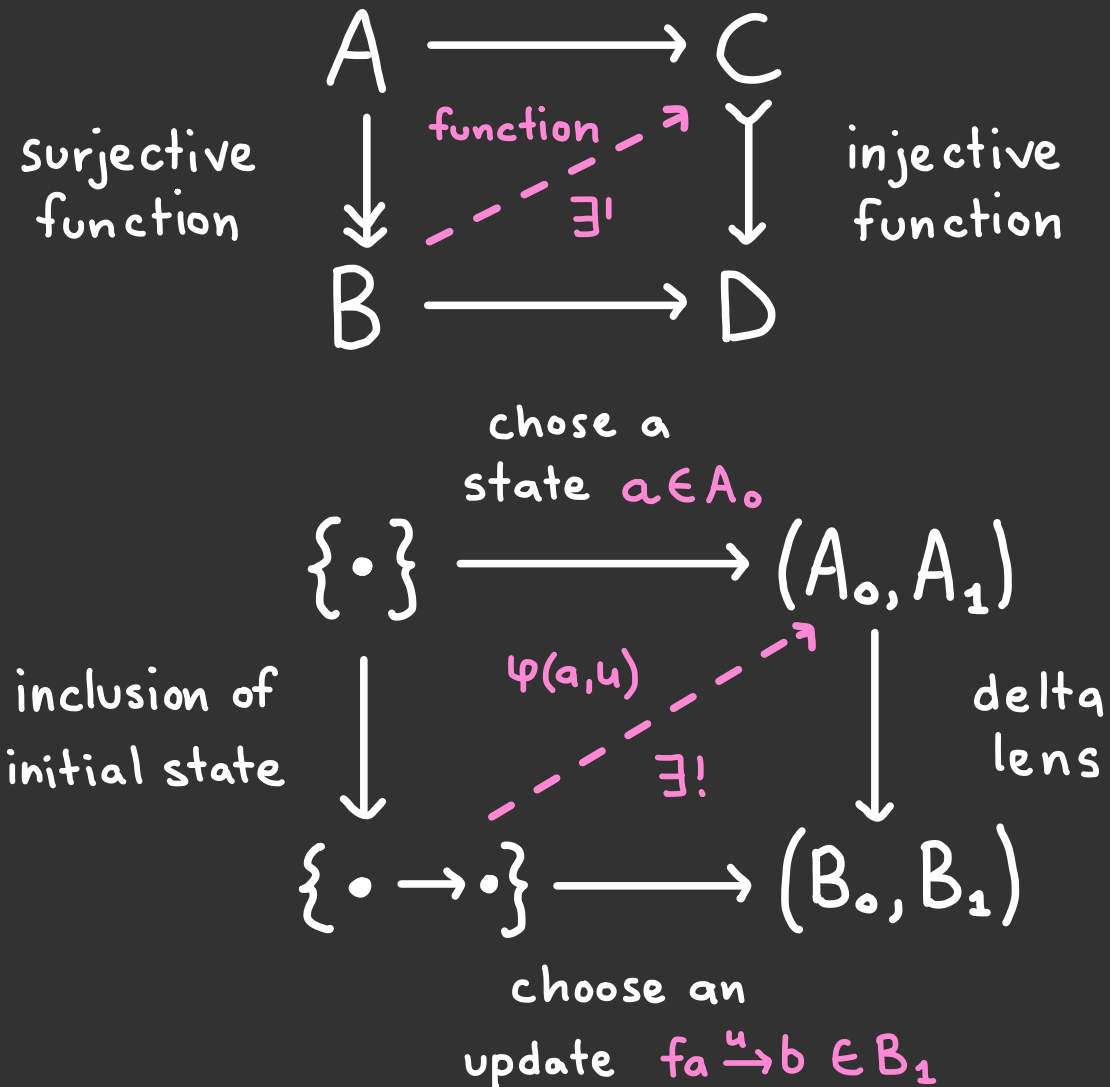
Delta lenses also factorise further.

In what situations would you like to factorise through a  $\text{bx}$ ?

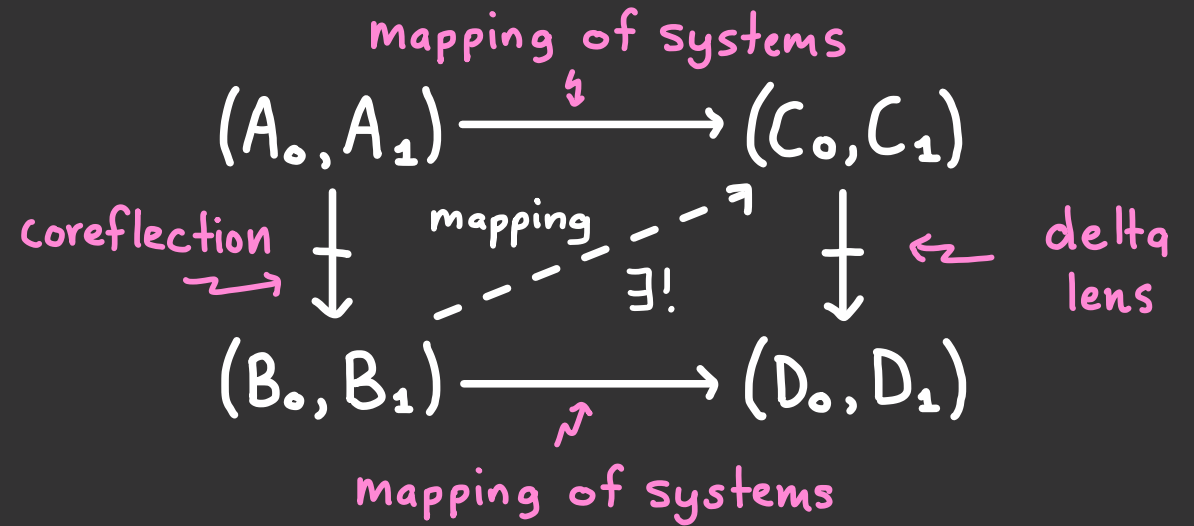


# LIFTING & UNIVERSAL PROPERTIES

## Examples of lifting problems



## Universal property of delta lenses

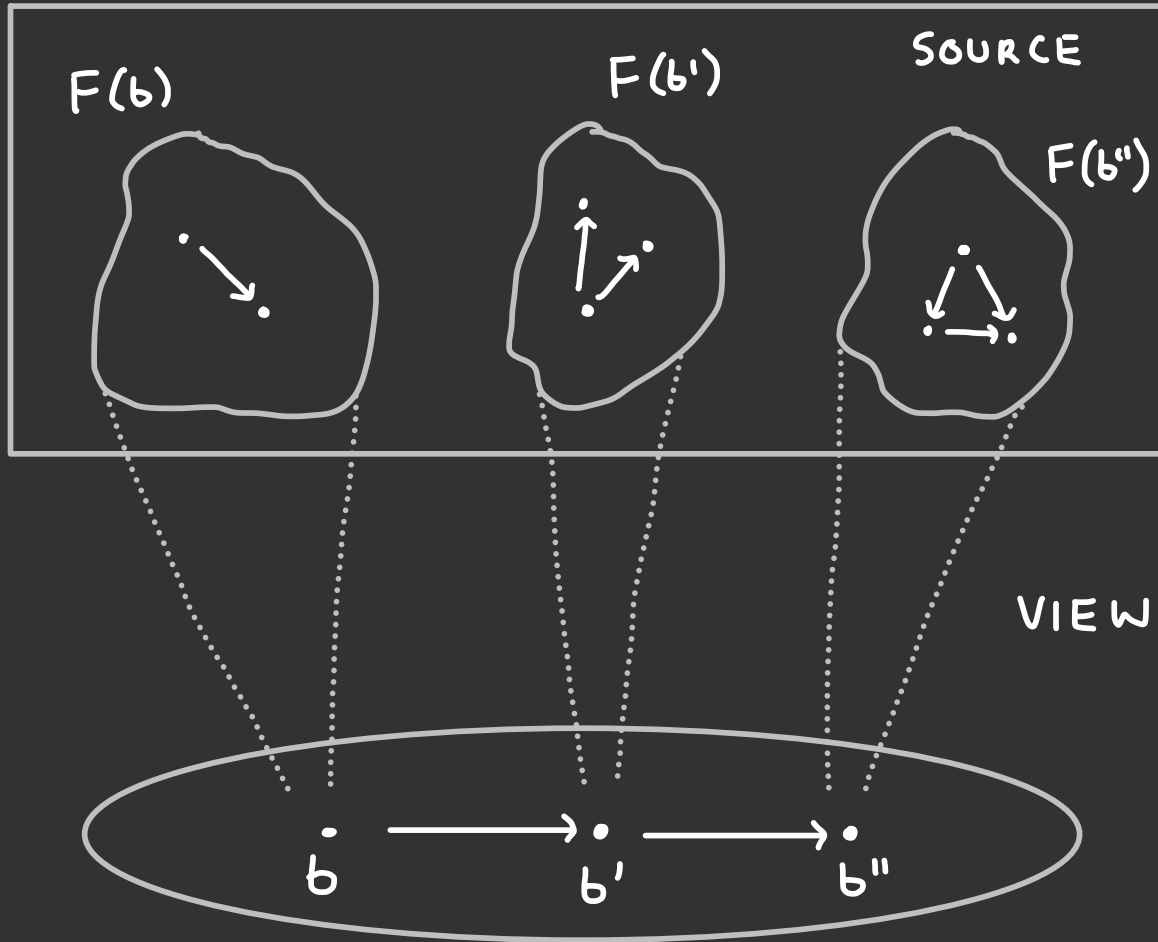


Most general lifting problem  
delta lenses solve.

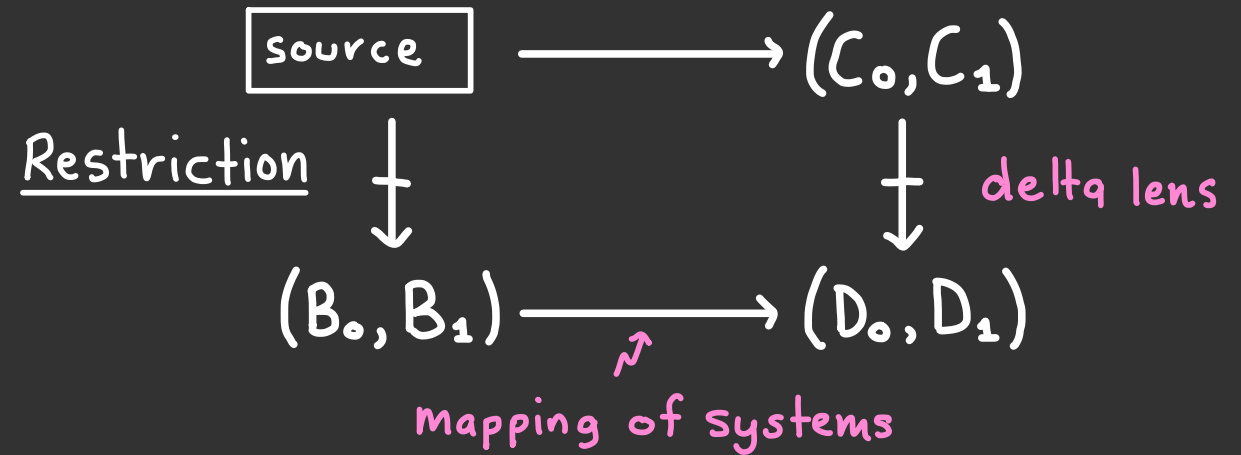
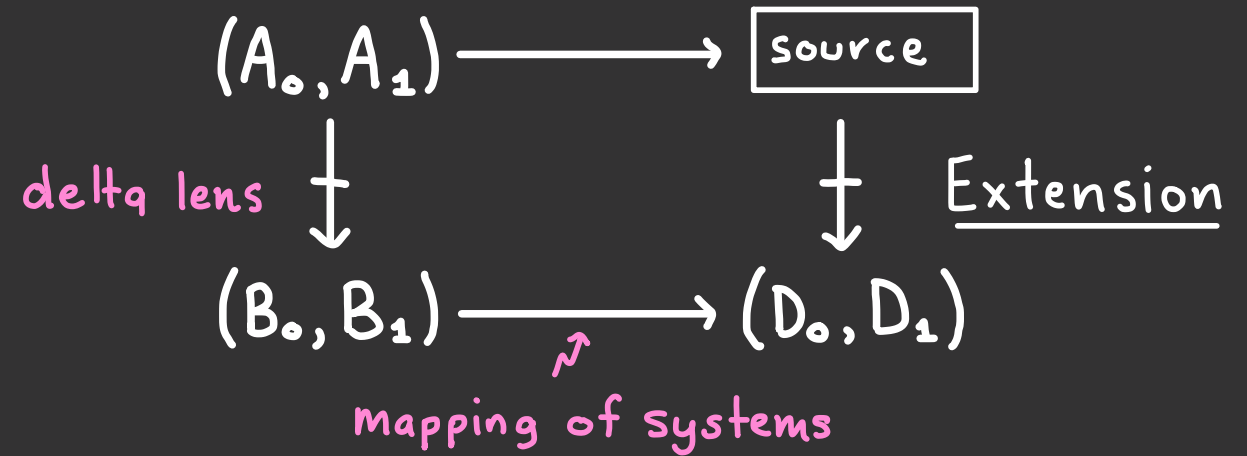
Is the PUT of your bx a kind of  
lifting? What problems does it solve?

# INDEXING AND CHANGE-OF-BASE

VIEW states **index** the SOURCE states.



A delta lens specifies **multivalued functions** between these indexed sets.



Does VIEW of your  $b_x$  index the SOURCE?

# SUMMARY, QUESTIONS, & FUTURE WORK

- Many tools from category theory to construct and study delta lenses with guaranteed properties
- Many more tools I did not cover:
  - double categories
  - lenses between posets, metric spaces, etc.
  - least-change  $\text{bx}$
- How widely applicable are these tools to other kinds of  $\text{bx}$ ?
- How can we implement these tools in specific delta lenses?
- Can category theory help us discover other useful approaches to study  $\text{bx}$ ? And guide us in the questions we ask?