

# From De Bruijn to co-De Bruijn using Category Theory

## Everybody's Got To Be Somewhere<sup>[2]</sup>

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# Outline

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# The Category of Scopes: $\Delta_+^X$

## Definition

Let  $\Delta_+^X$  be the category of scopes with

- Objects:  $\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{s} \in |\Delta_+^X| = X^*$  and
- Morphisms:  $f, g \in \Delta_+^X(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  for  $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in X^*$  are inductively defined by inference rules

$$\frac{}{\varepsilon \sqsubseteq \varepsilon} \cdot \qquad \frac{\bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y}}{\bar{x}x \sqsubseteq \bar{y}x} 1 \qquad \frac{\bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y}}{\bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y}y} 0$$

## Remark

Morphisms in  $\Delta_+^X$  can be represented by *bit vectors*  $\bar{b} \in \{0, 1\}^*$  with one bit per variable of the target scope telling whether it has been mapped to or skipped by the source scope.

# Objects & Morphisms in $\Delta_+^\top$

## Example

Let  $X = \top$ , where  $\top$  is the set with exactly one element  $\langle \rangle$ .

Then, objects in  $\Delta_+^\top$  represent numbers.

$$3 \xrightarrow{10101} 5$$

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

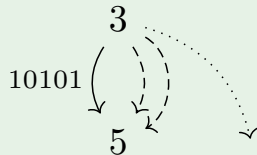
1

1

0

1

0



# Identity and Composition in $\Delta_+^\top$

## Example

$$5 \xrightarrow{id} 5$$

• ————— •

• ————— •

• ————— •

• ————— •

• ————— •

## Example

$$2 \xrightarrow{101} 3$$

• ————— •

◦ ;

• ————— •

$$3 \xrightarrow{10101} 5$$

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

=

$$2 \xrightarrow{10001} 5$$

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

◦

• ————— •

# $\Delta_+^X$ is in Fact a Category

## Lemma

In  $\Delta_+^X$  every object  $\bar{x} \in X^*$  has an identity morphism, i.e. we can construct an identity morphism for every object  $\bar{x}$  using the inference rules.

## Proof.

$$id \quad : \quad \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{x}$$

$$id \varepsilon = \cdot$$

$$id \bar{x}x = id1 \quad \square$$

## Corollary

$$id - l \quad : \quad id; f = f$$

$$id - r \quad : \quad f; id = f$$

## Definition

In  $\Delta_+^X$  two morphisms  $f : \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y}$  and  $g : \bar{y} \sqsubseteq \bar{z}$  compose to a morphism  $f; g : \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{z}$ , i.e. we can construct a morphism  $f; g$  from  $f$  and  $g$  using the inference rules:

$$\frac{}{-; -} \quad : \quad \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y} \rightarrow \bar{y} \sqsubseteq \bar{z} \rightarrow \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{z}$$

$$\cdot \quad ; \quad \cdot \quad = \quad \cdot$$

$$f1 \quad ; \quad g1 \quad = \quad (f; g)1$$

$$f0 \quad ; \quad g1 \quad = \quad (f; g)0$$

$$f \quad ; \quad g0 \quad = \quad (f; g)0$$

## Corollary

$$assoc \quad : \quad f; (g; h) = (f; g); h$$

$$antisym \quad : \quad (f : \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{y}) \rightarrow (g : \bar{y} \sqsubseteq \bar{x}) \rightarrow \bar{x} = \bar{y} \wedge f = g = id \bar{x}$$

# Intrinsically Scoped De Bruijn Syntax via $\Delta_+^\top$

## Definition

Let  $Tm : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Set$  be the set of lambda calculus terms inductively defined by

$$\frac{1 \sqsubseteq n}{Tm\ n} \#$$

$$\frac{Tm\ n \quad Tm\ n}{Tm\ n} \$$$

$$\frac{Tm\ (n + 1)}{Tm\ n} \lambda$$

## Example

$$\mathbb{K} = \lambda x. \lambda y. x \quad = \lambda \lambda \#1$$

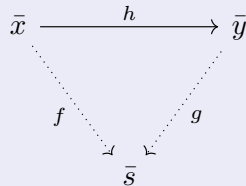
$$\mathbb{S} = \lambda x. \lambda y. \lambda z. x\ z\ (y\ z) = \lambda \lambda \lambda \#2 \#0 (\#1 \#0)$$

# The Slice Category of Subscopes: $\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}$

## Definition

Let  $\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}$  be the category of subsopes for a given  $\bar{s} \in X^*$  with

- Objects:  $\bar{b}, (\bar{x}, f) \in |\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}| = (\bar{x} : X^* \times \Delta_+^X(\bar{x}, \bar{s}))$  and
- Morphisms:  $h \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}]((\bar{x}, f), (\bar{y}, g))$  such that  $f = h; g$



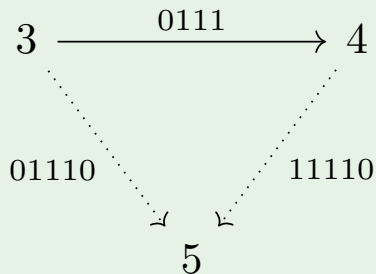
## Remark

Objects in  $\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}$  can be represented by *bit vectors*  $\bar{b} \in \{0, 1\}^*$  with one bit per variable of scope  $\bar{s}$ , telling whether it has been selected.



# Objects & Morphisms in $\Delta_+^T \setminus 5$

## Example



Alternatively:

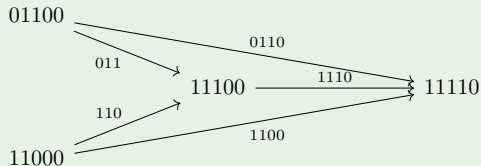
- $(3, 01110) \xrightarrow{0111} (4, 11110)$
- $01110 \xrightarrow{0111} 11110$

# The Curious Case of Coproducts in $\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}$

## Theorem

Objects in the slice category  $\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_2 \in |\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}|$  have a coproduct object  $\bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2$ , i.e. there exist morphisms  $l \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}](\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2)$  and  $r \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}](\bar{b}_2, \bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2)$  such that every pair  $f \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}](\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_3)$  and  $g \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}](\bar{b}_2, \bar{b}_3)$  factor through a unique  $h \in [\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{s}](\bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2, \bar{b}_3)$  such that  $f = l; h$  and  $g = r; h$ .

## Example



## Remark

The coproduct  $\bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2$  of two subsopes  $\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_2$  corresponds to the minimal subscope covering both  $\bar{b}_1$  and  $\bar{b}_2$ . The coproduct  $\bar{b}_1 + \bar{b}_2$  can be computed by pointwise disjunction of  $\bar{b}_1$  and  $\bar{b}_2$ .

# The Category $\overline{Set}$ of Sets Indexed by Scope

## Definition

Let  $\overline{Set}$  be the category of sets indexed by scopes with

- Objects:  $T, S \in |\overline{Set}| = \bar{X} = X^* \rightarrow Set$  and
- Morphisms:  $f. \in \overline{Set}(T, S) = (\bar{x} \in X^*) \rightarrow T(\bar{x}) \rightarrow S(\bar{x})$

## Definition

Let  $\_ \uparrow \_ : \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{X} = (T, \bar{x}) \mapsto (T(\bar{s}) \times \bar{s} \sqsubseteq \bar{x})$  be the set of a terms together with a selection of its variables. We write  $t \uparrow \bar{b}$  for elements of  $T \uparrow \bar{x}$ .

# The Notion of Relevant Pairs

## Remark

The set  $T \uparrow \bar{x}$  packs an set  $T \in \bar{X}$  indexed by  $\bar{x} \in X^*$  applied to a subscope  $\bar{s}$  of  $\bar{x}$ , together with a selection  $\bar{b} \in |\Delta_+^X \setminus \bar{x}|$  of the variables of  $T$ .

## Definition

Let  $Cov : \bar{x} \sqsubseteq \bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{y} \sqsubseteq \bar{s} \rightarrow Set$  be the set of *coverings* indexed by morphisms  $\bar{b}_1$  and  $\bar{b}_2$

$$\frac{}{Cov \cdot \cdot} \cdot \quad \frac{Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2}{Cov \bar{b}_1 1 \bar{b}_2} L \quad \frac{Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2}{Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2 1} R \quad \frac{Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2}{Cov \bar{b}_1 1 \bar{b}_2 1} B$$

Let the set of relevant pairs be defined as

- $\_ \times_R \_ : \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{X} = (T, S, \bar{x}) \mapsto ((\_ \uparrow \bar{b}_1 : T \uparrow \bar{x}) \times (\_ \uparrow \bar{b}_2 : S \uparrow \bar{x}) \times Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2)$
- $\_,R\_ : T \uparrow \bar{x} \rightarrow S \uparrow \bar{x} \rightarrow (T \times_R S) \uparrow \bar{x}$   
 $= ((t_1 \uparrow \bar{b}_1), (t_2 \uparrow \bar{b}_2)) \mapsto ((t_1 \uparrow \bar{b}'_1), (t_2 \uparrow \bar{b}'_2), \bar{b}_1 \oplus \bar{b}_2) \uparrow \bar{b}'$

# Exploring Relevant Pairs

## Remark

Coverings  $Cov \bar{b}_1 \bar{b}_2$  hold data about the coproduct of  $\bar{b}_1$  and  $\bar{b}_2$  as well as information about the original appearance of  $\bar{b}_1$  and  $\bar{b}_2$ .

## Example

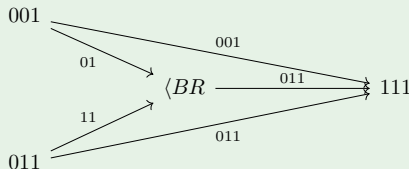
Look at  $\lambda x. \lambda y. \lambda z. z \ y = \lambda \lambda \lambda (\#0 \ \#1)$ .

The variable terms could also be represented as

- $z' : Tm \uparrow 3 = \#0 \uparrow 001$
- $y' : Tm \uparrow 3 = \#1 \uparrow 011$

And the application term could be a *relevant pair*

- $z',_R y' : (Tm \times_R Tm) \uparrow 3 = (\#0 \uparrow 01, \#1 \uparrow 11, BR) \uparrow 011$



# Intrinsically Scoped co-De Bruijn Syntax

## Definition

Let  $Tm : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Set$  be inductively defined:

$$\overline{Tm\ 1} \# \qquad \frac{(Tm \times_R Tm)\ n}{Tm\ n} \multimap [\_]\multimap \qquad \frac{Tm\ (n+1)}{Tm\ n} \lambda$$

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{K} &= \lambda x. \lambda y. x &= \not\downarrow \\ \mathbb{S} &= \lambda x. \lambda y. \lambda z. x\ z\ (y\ z) = \lambda\ \lambda\ \lambda\ ( \\ &\quad (((\# \uparrow 10),_{[LR]} (\# \uparrow 01)) \uparrow 101),_{[LRB]} \\ &\quad (((\# \uparrow 10),_{[LR]} (\# \uparrow 01)) \uparrow 011)) \uparrow id \\ &\quad ) \end{aligned}$$

# This is actually an Agda Paper

- All categorical concepts formalized in Agda
- Categorical concepts applied to formally reason over programming languages using theorem provers
- Suitable representations of objects and morphisms that *do not block* are required
- Comes with a *universe of metasyntaxes with binding*
- Defines *hereditary* substitution on metasyntaxes

```

cop (θ o') (φ o') = let !!!!!tl, c, tr = cop θ φ in !!!!!tl to', co', tr to'
cop (θ o') (φ os) = let !!!!!tl, c, tr = cop θ φ in !!!!!tl t's', c c's, tr t'ss
cop (θ os) (φ o') = let !!!!!tl, c, tr = cop θ φ in !!!!!tl t'ss, c c's', tr t's'
cop (θ os) (φ os) = let !!!!!tl, c, tr = cop θ φ in !!!!!tl t'ss, c c'ss, tr t'sss
cop oz oz = !!!!! tzzz, czz, tzzz

```

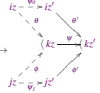
The `copU` proof goes by induction on the triangles which share  $\psi'$  and inversion of the coproduct.

A further useful property of coproduct diagrams is that we can selectively refine them by a thinning into the covered scope.

```

subCop : (ψ : kz ⊆ kz') → Cover ov θ' φ' →
  Σ λ iz → Σ λ jz → Σ (iz ⊆ kz) λ θ → Σ (jz ⊆ kz) λ φ →
  Σ (iz ⊆ iz') λ ψ0 → Σ (jz ⊆ jz') λ ψ1 → Cover ov θ φ

```



The implementation is a straightforward induction on the diagram.

The payoff from coproducts is the type of *relevant pairs* — the co-de-Brujin touchstone:

```

record _×R_ (S T : K) (ijz : Bwd K) : Set where
  constructor pair
  field outl : S ⇕ ijz;   outr : T ⇕ ijz
  cover : Cover tt (thinning outl) (thinning outr)
  in pair (s ⇕ θ) (t ⇕ φ) c ↑ ψ

```

The corresponding projections are readily definable.

```

outlR : (S ×R T) ⇕ kz → S ⇕ kz
outlR (pair s _ ⇕ ψ) = thin ⇕ ψ s

outrR : (S ×R T) ⇕ kz → T ⇕ kz
outrR (pair _ t ⇕ ψ) = thin ⇕ ψ t

```

## 7 Monoidal Structure of Order-Preserving Embeddings

Variable bindings extend scopes. The  $\lambda$  construct does just one 'snoc', but binding can be simultaneous, so the monoidal structure on  $\Delta_k$  induced by concatenation is what we need.

```

_++_ : Bwd K → Bwd K → Bwd K
kz ++ [] = kz
kz ++ (iz ∙ j) = (kz ++ iz) ∙ j

```

Concatenation further extends to `Coverings`, allowing us to build them in chunks.

```

_++C_ : Cover ov θ φ → Cover ov θ' φ' → Cover ov (θ ++C θ') (φ ++C φ')
c ++C (d c's) = (c ++C d) c's
c ++C (d c's') = (c ++C d) c's'
c ++C (c'ss {both = b} d) = c'ss {both = b} (c ++C d)
c ++C czz = c

```

One way to build such a chunk is to observe that two scopes cover their concatenation.

## Using co-De Bruijn is not hard, category theory is!

```
data Cov : (k l m : ℕ) → Set where
  · : Cov 0 0 0
  L : Cov k l m → Cov (suc k) l (suc m)
  R : Cov k l m → Cov k (suc l) (suc m)
  B : Cov k l m → Cov (suc k) (suc l) (suc m)
```

```
data Tm : ℕ → Set where
  # : Tm 1
  λ : Tm (suc n) → Tm n
  _$[_]_ : Tm k → Cov k l m → Tm l → Tm m
```

```
_ = λ (λ (λ ((# $[ L (R ·) ] #) $[ L (R (B ·)) ] (# $[ L (R ·) ] #))))
```



# References

- [1] Conor McBride. *Cats and types: Best friends?* Aug. 2021. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05IJ3YL8p0s>.
- [2] Conor McBride. “Everybody’s Got To Be Somewhere”. In: *Electronic Proceedings in Theoretical Computer Science* 275 (July 2018), pp. 53–69. ISSN: 2075-2180. DOI: 10.4204/eptcs.275.6. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4204/EPTCS.275.6>.