

Avatar Hypergraph Rewriting

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In this paper I present an extension of hypergraph rewriting with symbolic distinction.

An Avatar Hypergraph Rewriting system (AHR), is given by the following grammar:

$\text{expr} ::= \langle \text{nat} \rangle \mid \{ \text{expr} \dots \} \mid \langle \text{avatar} \rangle'(\text{expr})$
 $\text{rule} ::= \{ \text{expr} \dots \} \rightarrow \{ \text{expr} \dots \}$

This is similar to models used in the Wolfram Physics Project^[1], but extended with avatars^[2]:

$p'(0)$ the 1-avatar $`p`$ of $`0`$

An avatar is only used on the left side of a rule, never on the right side or in a state.

When two nodes share the same avatar, they are allowed to be identical:

$\{p'(0), p'(1)\} \rightarrow \dots$ the nodes $`0`$ and $`1`$ are allowed to be identical

However, when two nodes have different avatars, they are not allowed to be identical:

$\{p'(0), q'(1)\} \rightarrow \dots$ the nodes $`0`$ and $`1`$ are not allowed to be identical

Avatars can be used on any hypersurface:

$\{p'(\{0, 1\}), q'(\{2, 3\})\}$ the directed edge $`\{0, 1\}`$ is not allowed to be same as $`\{2, 3\}`$

Avatars can also be nested:

$\{p'(\{r'(0), s'(1)\}), q'(\{r'(2), s'(3)\})\}$

Here, $`\{0, 1\}`$ is a different edge than $`\{2, 1\}`$, but $`0 == 2`$ and $`1 == 3`$ is allowed. So, $`\{0, 1\}`$ might share a node with $`\{2, 1\}`$, but not both at the same time.

Any node which is not wrapped into an avatar can match with any avatars.

$\{p'(0), 1\}$ $`0`$ and $`1`$ are allowed to be identical

$\{p'(0), 1, q'(2)\}$ $`1`$ can be identical to $`0`$ or $`2`$, but not both

Avatars in AHR are used to express symbolic distinction^[3].

Symbolic distinction might be expressed in other ways, e.g. using “where” clauses to rules.

I chose avatars because they fit better with the syntax and are very expressive.

There are some limitations of using avatars. It is impossible to control how symbolic distinction works beyond a binary relation between any two nodes. This binary relation is either $`0`$ or $`1`$ and has no dependency on the symbolic distinction of other nodes. If this is too limiting, then one can extend the grammar further.

References:

- [1] “The Wolfram Physics Project”
A project to find the fundamental theory of physics
<https://wolframphysics.org/>
- [2] “Avatar Extensions”
AdvancedResearch – Summary page on Avatar Extensions
<https://advancedresearch.github.io/avatar-extensions/summary.html>
- [3] “Symbolic Distinction”
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https://github.com/advancedresearch/path_semantics/blob/master/papers-wip2/symbolic-distinction.pdf