

# Avatar Hypergraph Rewriting

by Sven Nilsen, 2021

*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:

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

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

$p'(0)$  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<sup>[3]</sup>.

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](https://github.com/advancedresearch/path_semantics/blob/master/papers-wip2/symbolic-distinction.pdf)