### **Functorial Aggregation**

David I. Spivak



Workshop on Polynomial Functors 2022 March 18

#### **Outline**

- 1 Introduction
  - Databases and aggregation
  - Purity of methods
  - Plan of the talk
- 2 Background on Poly
- 3 Cat<sup>‡</sup>, home of data migration
- **4** Aggregation
- 5 Conclusion

### Why think about databases?

I'm interested in sense-making. How do we make sense of the world?

- We're here together, each with our own purpose and abilities.
- We're engaged in the activity of collective sense-making.
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Imagine that sense is "contained" somewhere and that it can be transferred.

- If our ability to deal effectively with the world were contained...
- ...in our brain, then we could ask "what's the brain's data structure?"
- And if our data structures are different, then how is info transferred?
- Are you getting this? If so, what's the story of how that works?

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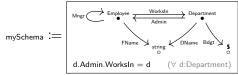
I think of mathematical fields as accounting systems.

- Arithmetic accounts for the flow of quantities, as in finance.
- Hilbert spaces account for the states of elementary particles, as in QM.
- Probability distributions account for likelihoods, as in game theory.
- What's a good accounting system for how we collectively make sense?

### Categorical databases

When I first started out on this question, I began with databases.

- Their mundane and humble but widely-used and easily conceptualized.
- The way I conceptualized them was as copresheaves  $F: \mathcal{C} \to \mathbf{Set}$ .
- The site C is called the *schema* and the copresheaf is the *instance*.

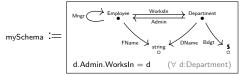


	Employee	FName	WorksIn	Mngr		String	l
-	1	Alan	101	2		Alan	Γ
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	3	Kris	102	3			l
	Department	DName	Admin	Bdgt		x:\$	
	101	Sales	1	<b>\$</b> 10	-	<b>\$</b> 5	
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		e Admin		x: \$

- The schema holds the *structure* of your knowledge...
- ...and the instance holds all your examples within that structure.

For those who don't care about databases, this talk is about copresheaves 21

### Querying and aggregating

The two most common thing to do with databases is *query and aggregate*.

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- Aggregating is "integrating along compact fibers".
  - Assign to each  $b \in B$  the number of people whose fave book is b.

$$P \xrightarrow{s} \mathbb{R}$$

$$f \downarrow \qquad (\text{sum } s)_f$$

- Or assign to b the total salary of everyone whose fave is b.
- Rather than searching, this is summarizing, reporting.

### Beauty and the beast

Both querying and aggregating are crucial, but one is cat'ly better behaved.

- Querying is part of a larger story called data migration.
- Given two categories (DB schemas)  $C, \mathcal{D}$ , a data migration functor...
- $\blacksquare$  ...  $\mathcal{C} \longleftarrow \emptyset$  is a parametric right adjoint  $\mathcal{D}\text{-}\mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{C}\text{-}\mathbf{Set}$ .
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- ... have been implemented in open-source categorically-minded code.

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In contrast, aggregation has seemingly not received a categ'al formulation.

- It's not even clear what sort of properties are desirable.
- For example, aggregation is not natural wrt. copresheaf morphisms.
- **Consider**: what is preserved by a commutative square  $f' \rightarrow f$ ?

$$P' \longrightarrow P \xrightarrow{s} \mathbb{R}$$

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- ...  $\mathcal{C} \triangleleft \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is a parametric right adjoint  $\mathcal{D}$ -**Set**  $\rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ -**Set**.
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Can you make a match between beauty and the beast? "Be my guest!"

### Poly-amory: could one category be enough?

I've lately been totally enamored with **Poly** and its comonoids  $\mathbb{C}at^{\sharp}$ .

- First, it is an excellent setting for thinking about things I care about.
  - It is a natural setting for interacting dynamical systems.
    - And thanks to the results of Ahman-Uustalu and Garner...
    - ...it is a natural setting for databases and data migration.
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  - ...it is a natural setting for databases and data migration.
- Both of these seem relevant when accounting for sense-making.
- Second, Poly has loads and loads of structure.
  - Coproducts and products that agree with usual polynomial arithmetic;
  - All limits and colimits:
  - At least three orthogonal factorization systems;
  - A symmetric monoidal structure  $\otimes$  distributing over +;
  - A cartesian closure  $a^p$  and monoidal closure [p, q] for  $\otimes$ :
  - Another nonsymmetric monoidal structure d that's duoidal with ∅:
  - A left  $\triangleleft$ -coclosure  $\begin{bmatrix} \\ \end{bmatrix}$ , meaning  $Poly(p, q \triangleleft r) \cong Poly(\begin{bmatrix} r \\ p \end{bmatrix}, q)$ ;
  - An indexed right d-coclosure (Myers?), i.e.  $\operatorname{Poly}(p, q \triangleleft r) \cong \sum_{f \colon o(1) \to o(1)} \operatorname{Poly}(p \not \cap q, r)$ ;
  - An indexed right  $\otimes$ -coclosure (Niu?), i.e.  $\operatorname{Poly}(p, q \otimes r) \cong \sum_{f : o(1) \to o(1)} \operatorname{Poly}(p \not \nearrow q, r);$
  - At least eight monoidal structures in total:
  - <-monoids generalize plain operads:</p>
- For the above and more, see "A reference for categorical structures on Poly", arXiv: 2202.00534

It was love at first sight. I'm committed to solving problems as a team.  $_{5/21}$ 

# Aggregation poses a "purity of methods" problem

"Solving aggregation" is not well-defined.

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According to Detlefsen & Arana, "purity of methods" has a long tradition.

- Aristotle, Newton, Lagrange, Gauss, Bolzano, Frege,... all sought it.
- Erdös wanted a non- $\mathbb{C}$  proof of Hadamard's prime number thm  $(\frac{n}{\log n})$ .
- Bolzano phrased it as searching for "a thorough way of thinking."

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So this suggests a ways forward.

- Since **Poly** is great for thinking about data migration (as I'll discuss)...
- ...it is a "purity of methods" issue to get aggregation into Poly as well.
- So the goal is to give an account of aggregation using...
- ...only monoidal/universal structures available in the Poly ecosystem.
- Pursuing it led to several new structures, which I'll tell you about.

#### Plan of the talk

Now that I've introduced the topic, here's the plan for my remaining time.

- Give background on **Poly**, its monoidal closure and mon'l coclosure.
- Discuss  $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp} = \mathbb{C}\mathbf{omon}(\mathbf{Poly})$ , natural home of data migration.
- Show how aggregation-useful structures on **Poly** generalize to  $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp}$ .
- Explain aggregation with the structures we've explored.
- Conclude with a summary.

#### **Outline**

- Introduction
- 2 Background on Poly
  - Poly: polynomials in one variable
  - Relevant categorical structures
- **3** Cat<sup>♯</sup>, home of data migration
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### Poly: coproducts of representables $Set \rightarrow Set$

A polynomial functor is a coproduct of representables  $\mathbf{Set} \to \mathbf{Set}$ :

- For any set E, denote the functor it represents by  $y^E := \mathbf{Set}(E, -)$ .
- E.g.  $y = y^1$  is identity,  $y^0 = 1$  is constant, and  $y^E(1) \cong 1$  for any E.

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- A polynomial is a disjoint union of representables  $p \cong \sum_{b \in B} y^{E_b}$ .
- Note that  $p(1) \cong B$  so, we can denote polynomials as follows:

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Morphisms  $p \xrightarrow{\varphi} q$  are just natural transformations **Set**  $\xrightarrow{r}_q$  **Set** 

- Combinatorially, a map  $\varphi$ :  $p \rightarrow q$  can be given in two parts:
- A function  $\varphi_1 \colon p(1) \to q(1)$  "forward on positions" and...
- ...for each  $I \in p(1)$ , a function  $q[\varphi_1 I] \to p[I]$  "backward on directions"

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A polynomial can be viewed as a functor or just as a combinatorial object.

- Polynomials can be viewed as functors; this is like "querying".
- The functor p "migrates data", sending  $X \in \mathbf{Set}$  to  $p(X) \in \mathbf{Set}$ .
- But it's often helpful just to think of p as a data structure.

## **Dirichlet product** $\otimes$ and its closure

**Poly** admits many monoidal structures, e.g. coproduct and product  $(+, \times)$ .

- lacksquare Among the most useful is Dirichlet product  $\otimes$ , its unit is y.
- lacksquare If you think of a polynomial p as a bundle,  $\left(\sum_{I\in p(1)}p[I]\right) o p(1)...$
- ...then  $p \otimes q$  is just product of base and total spaces for  $p, q \in \textbf{Poly}$ .

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Like so much in **Poly**, both  $\otimes$  and [-,-] generalize to  $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp}$ .

- The polynomial y is a dualizing object: for any  $A \in \mathbf{Set}$ ...
- ...we have isomorphisms  $[Ay, y] \cong y^A$  and  $[y^A, y] \cong Ay$ .
- We write  $\overline{Ay} \cong y^A$ . This generalizes to an important part of our story.

### **Substitution product** < and its coclosure

The other important monoidal product is called *substitution* or *composition*.

- The composite  $p \triangleleft q := p \circ q$  of polynomial functors is a polynomial.
- E.g. if  $p = y^2$  and q = y + 1, then  $p \triangleleft q \cong y^2 + 2y + 1$ .
- $\blacksquare \ \, \big( \text{There are many reasons for} \, \triangleleft \, \text{instead of} \, \circ. \, \, \text{One is that we want to reserve} \, \circ \, \text{for morphisms;} \, \triangleleft \, \text{is "composing" objects!} \big)$
- This monoidal product <> preserves equalizers in both variables.
- It and  $\otimes$  are duoidal:  $(p_1 \triangleleft p_2) \otimes (q_1 \triangleleft q_2) \rightarrow (p_1 \otimes q_1) \triangleleft (p_2 \otimes q_2)$ .

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In fact, < has a right coclosure (Myers?) and an indexed left coclosure.

- We'll only need the former,  $\operatorname{\textbf{Poly}}(p,q \triangleleft p') \cong \operatorname{\textbf{Poly}}\left(\left[\begin{smallmatrix}p'\\p\end{smallmatrix}\right],q\right)$ .
- For any  $p \in \textbf{Poly}$  the polynomial  $\begin{bmatrix} p \\ p \end{bmatrix}$  is a  $\triangleleft$ -comonoid (Meyers).
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- It's the *full internal subcat'y of* **Set**<sup>op</sup> (Jacobs) spanned by *p*-fibers.

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We'll rely heavily on this in a special case:  $u = \text{List} = \sum_{N \in \mathbb{N}} y^N$ .

- Then  $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ u \end{bmatrix}$  is a skeleton of **Fin**<sup>op</sup>.
- Later we'll get its opposite as the dual,  $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ u \end{bmatrix} \simeq \mathbf{Fin}$ .

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- 3 Cat<sup>‡</sup>, home of data migration
  - Shulman, Ahman-Uustalu, Garner
  - Databases for intuition
  - Categorical structures
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# $\mathbb{C}\mathsf{at}^\sharp \coloneqq \mathbb{C}\mathsf{omon}(\mathsf{Poly})$

Shulman: if equipment  $\mathbb{P}$  has good equalizers,  $\mathbb{C}$ **omon**( $\mathbb{P}$ ) is an equipment.

- An equipment is a kind of double cat'y, where 2-cells can be "cartesian."
- Any bicat'y—and hence any monoidal category—is one, called *globular*.
- So  $(\mathbf{Poly}, y, \triangleleft)$  is a equipment! It happens to be vertically-trivial.
- $\blacksquare$  We said **Poly** has "good equalizers": i.e. they are preserved by  $\triangleleft.$
- Shulman tells us that  $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp} := \mathbb{C}\mathbf{omon}(\mathbf{Poly})$  is also an equipment.

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Ahman-Uustalu: the objects of  $\mathbb{C}$ omon(Poly) are categories.

- A comonoid in (**Poly**, y,  $\triangleleft$ ) consists of  $(c, \epsilon, \delta)$  where  $c \in$  **Poly** and...
- ... $\epsilon$ :  $c \to y$  and  $\delta$ :  $c \to c \triangleleft c$  are (counital & coassoc'tive) maps.
- This turns out to force  $c \cong \sum_{a \in \mathsf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})} y^{\mathcal{C}[a]}$  for some category  $\mathcal{C},...$
- ...where  $C[a] := \sum_{a' \in Ob(C)} Hom_C(a, a')$ . Say c is C's outfacing poly'l.
- Then  $\epsilon$  gives identities and  $\delta$  gives codomains and composition.

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Garner: horizontal morphisms of  $\mathbb{C}$ omon(Poly) are data migrations.

- He didn't say it that way. He said that a bicomodule  $C \stackrel{p}{\longleftarrow} \emptyset$ ...
- ...is a parametric right adjoint  $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{D}} \to \mathbf{Set}^{\mathcal{C}}$ . I'll explain soon.
- I denote the cat'y of (c, d)-bicomodules by c-**Set**[d].

# PolyFun and Span as subequipments of Cat#

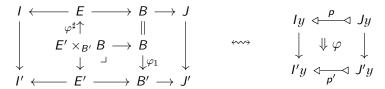
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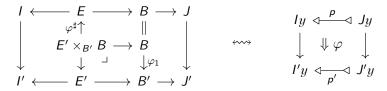


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All the "activity" is subsumed under the def'n of comonoid, comodule. The usual double cat'y of spans sits inside:  $\mathbb{S}pan \subseteq \mathbb{P}olyFun \subseteq \mathbb{C}at^{\sharp}$ .

- $\mathbb{S}$ pan  $\subseteq \mathbb{C}$ at $^{\sharp}$  is the subequipment where every poly is linear!
- Discrete carrier makes: a cat'y be discrete, a bicomodule be a span.

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- So a graph is just a bicomodule  $g \triangleleft \stackrel{X}{\longrightarrow} 0$ . Call X a g-set or G-set.
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A data migration (bicomod)  $C \stackrel{p}{\longleftarrow} \emptyset$  is a C-indexed duc-query on  $\emptyset$ .

- It functorially assigns a duc-query on  $\mathcal{D}$  to each  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Given a  $\mathcal{D}$ -instance  $\mathcal{D}$   $\triangleleft$ — $\triangleleft$  0, composition returns a  $\mathcal{C}$ -instance.

## **Adjoint prafunctors**

Data migrations = Bicomodules = parametric right adjoint functors.

- A bicomodule  $c \triangleleft \stackrel{p}{\longleftarrow} d$  is a prafunctor d-**Set**  $\rightarrow c$ -**Set**.
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- For example for any functor  $F: c \to d$ , we have  $\Delta_F \dashv \Pi_F$ .
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In the subcategory  $\mathbb{P}$ **olyFun** =  $\mathbb{C}$ **at** $_{disc}^{\sharp}$ , adjoints are easy to characterize:

- Left adjoints are those *p* with linear carrier (spans), and...
- ...right adjoints are the profunctors, i.e. *c*-indexed conjunctive queries.

#### **External and internal** $\otimes$

The equipment  $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp}$  has lots of structure, e.g. it is monoidal.

- There is a double functor  $\otimes$ :  $\mathbb{C}at^{\sharp} \times \mathbb{C}at^{\sharp} \to \mathbb{C}at^{\sharp}$ .
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It also has local ⊗-monoidal structures.

- For any  $c, d \in \mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}^{\sharp}$  the cat'y  $c\text{-}\mathbf{Set}[d]$  has an induced  $\otimes$ -structure.
- That is, for any two bicomodules  $c \triangleleft \stackrel{p,q}{\smile} d$ , there is...
- ...a bicomodule  $c \triangleleft p_c \boxtimes_d q \triangleleft d$ . The local unit is  $c(1)y^{d(1)}$ .
- These fit together "duoidally":

$$c_0 \begin{tabular}{ll} $\stackrel{p_1}{\Rightarrow}$ & $c_1$ & $\stackrel{p_2}{\Rightarrow}$ & $c_2$ & $\leadsto$ & $c_0$ & $\stackrel{(p_1 \triangleleft_{c_1} p_2)}{\Rightarrow}$ & $c_0 \otimes_{c_2} (q_1 \triangleleft_{c_1} q_2)$ & $c_2$ & $\stackrel{(p_1 \triangleleft_{c_1} p_2)}{\Rightarrow}$ &$$

#### Local closures and dualizing object

The local ⊗-structures have closures.

■ That is, for  $p, q, r \in c$ -**Set**[d], there is a natural isomorphism

$$c\text{-Set}[d](p_c \otimes_d q, r) \cong c\text{-Set}[d](p_c \otimes_d q, r)_d)$$

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■ Wanted: other equip's with local (duoidal) monoidal-closed structure. For any sets C, D, there's a dualizing object in C-**Set**[D]=**Poly**<sub>GK</sub>(C, D).

- It's the terminal span,  $C \leftarrow (C \times D) \rightarrow D$ , i.e.  $Cy \stackrel{CDy}{\Longleftrightarrow} Dy$ .
  - Calling it  $\bot := CDy$ , the functor  $\overline{\cdot} := C[-, \bot]_D$  provides a duality...
  - If  $p \in C$ -**Set**[D] is linear then  $[p, \bot]$  is conjunctive, and vice versa.
  - In particular  $\overline{\overline{p}} \cong p$  for any linear or conjunctive p.
  - It generalizes  $[Ay, y] \cong y^A$  from earlier.

# Transposing a span, "oppositing" a category

The idea of  $\overline{p}$  is that it transforms  $\Sigma_F \circ \Delta_G$  into  $\Pi_F \circ \Delta_G$ .

- That's not its adjoint!
- The adjoint of  $\Sigma_F \circ \Delta_G$  is  $\Pi_G \circ \Delta_F$ .
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- Answer:  $\Sigma_F \circ \Delta_G \mapsto \Pi_F \circ \Delta_G \mapsto \Sigma_G \circ \Delta_F$ . (The other works too.)

On the level of spans, this is the transpose!

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Similarly, the opposite of a category is a composite of two operations.

- lacktriangle A category  $\mathcal C$  can be viewed as a monad in  $\mathbb S$ pan, and its adjoint is...
- ...a comonoid  $c(1)y \triangleleft \stackrel{c}{\smile} \triangleleft c(1)y$ , which is a cat'y in a different way!
- And the dual of that comonoid is again a monad in  $\mathbb{S}$ **pan**, namely  $\mathcal{C}^{\mathsf{op}}$ .
- In particular, with  $u = \sum_{N \in \mathbb{N}} y^N$ , we will use (twice) that  $\overline{\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} u \\ u \end{smallmatrix} \right]} \simeq \mathbf{Fin}$ .

#### **Outline**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Background on Poly
- **3** Cat<sup>♯</sup>, home of data migration
- **4** Aggregation
  - Finitary instances
  - Commutative monoids
  - Putting it together
- 5 Conclusion

# **Finitary instances**

For  $X: c \to \mathbf{Set}$ , i.e.  $c \Leftrightarrow \overset{X}{\longrightarrow} 0$ , the following are equivalent

- the copresheaf X is *finitary*, i.e. it factors through **Fin**  $\subseteq$  **Set**.
- there exists a function  $\lceil X \rceil$ :  $c(1) \rightarrow u(1)$  with

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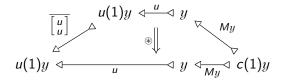
for which the  $c^{\frac{1}{2}}$ -algebra induced by  $\overline{u}$  is X.

I know that's impossible to follow; sorry! The gist: "everything works!" 18/21

# Commutative monoids as Fin-algebras

A database schema assigns a comm've monoid  $(M_a, \circledast_a)$  to each  $a \in c(1)$ .

- Assigning the set  $M_a$  to each  $a \in c(1)$  is a bicomodule  $y \triangleleft \stackrel{My}{\longrightarrow} Ay$ .
- Consider the following diagram that coerces ® into the picture:

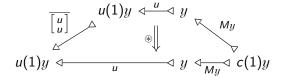


- The composite  $u(1) \triangleleft \stackrel{u}{\longrightarrow} y \triangleleft \stackrel{My}{\longrightarrow} c(1)y$  assigns...
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So what does the 2-cell say, and what does being a  $\frac{u}{u}$ -module mean?

- Given a function  $f: N \to N'$ , an object  $a \in c(1)$ , and  $m \in (M_a)^N$ ...
- ...there is an induced  $(\circledast m)_f \in (M_a)^{N'}$ . Integration along fibers.
- $u \triangleleft My$  being a  $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ u \end{bmatrix}$ -algebra means it works with ids and composites.

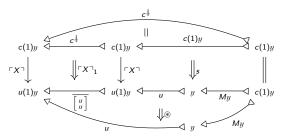
The thing we've worked so hard for is as follows.

- Suppose we have a category c and a copresheaf  $X: c \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$  and...
- ...a commutative monoid  $M_a$  and a map  $s_a$ :  $X_a o M_a$  for each  $a \in c(1)$ .
- Then given  $f: a \rightarrow b$  in c, and given  $y \in X(b)$ , we want:
- ... to take the fiber  $\{x \in X(a) \mid x.f = y\}$  and "add 'em up".
- That is, take  $\circledast_{\{x|x.f=y\}} s_a(x)$ .

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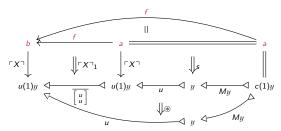
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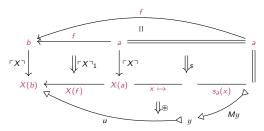
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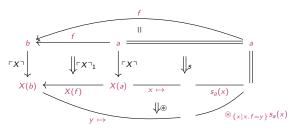
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Aggregation is of central importance in database practice.

- Add up salaries, count things, collect each fiber into a set, etc.
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But **Poly** is so highly-structured, we asked if it might include aggregation.

- Using adjoint prafunctors, local monoidal closures, and coclosures...
- ...we found a way to say what we needed to say.
- It's not as plain and simple as I'd like, but there's likely a better way.
- We tested the mettle of **Poly** and it was indeed up to the task!

Thank you for your time; questions and comments welcome!