Monoidal Indeterminates and Categories of Possible Worlds

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Abstract

Given any symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$, a small symmetric monoidal category Σ and a strong monoidal functor $j\colon \Sigma \to \mathbf{C}$, it is shown how to construct $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma]$, a *polynomial* such category, the result of freely adjoining to $\mathbf{C}$ a system $\boldsymbol{x}$ of monoidal indeterminates for every object $j(w)$ with $w \in \Sigma$ satisfying a naturality constraint with the arrows of Σ. As a special case, we show how to construct the free co-affine category (symmetric monoidal category with initial unit) on a given small symmetric monoidal category. It is then shown that all the known categories of "possible worlds" used to treat languages that allow for dynamic creation of "new" variables, locations, or names are in fact instances of this construction and hence have appropriate universality properties.

Keywords: indeterminates, symmetric monoidal categories, possible-world semantics, universality

1 Introduction

The concept of a *polynomial algebra $R[x]$*, constructed from an algebra R by freely adjoining an *indeterminate* element x, is familiar from algebra. Similarly, Lambek and Scott [12, Part I, Section 5] show how to construct a cartesian (or cartesian closed) polynomial category $\mathbf{C}[x\colon c]$ from a base cartesian (closed) category $\mathbf{C}$ by freely adjoining an indeterminate arrow $x\colon 1 \to c$.

The polynomial algebra $R[x]$ is the "most general" such extension of R. Similarly, the polynomial category $\mathbf{C}[x\colon c]$ is the most general cartesian (closed) extension of $\mathbf{C}$ containing indeterminate x. Such properties are proved as *universality* results. For example, consider the embedding $R_x\colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}[x]$ of $\mathbf{C}$ into $\mathbf{C}[x\colon c]$, any

cartesian (closed) functor $F: \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$, and any $d: 1 \to F(c)$ in $\mathbf{D}$; then there exists a *unique* cartesian (closed) functor $F|_x^d$ from $\mathbf{C}[x: c]$ to $\mathbf{D}$ such that $(F|_x^d)(x) = d$ and $F|_x^d \cdot R_x = F$:

In this work, we develop comparable technology for *symmetric monoidal* categories [14]. Given a symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$, a small symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{\Sigma}$, and a strong monoidal functor $j: \mathbf{\Sigma} \to \mathbf{C}$, we show how to construct $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}: j\mathbf{\Sigma}]$, the symmetric monoidal polynomial category that results from freely adjoining, for every object $j(w)$ for $w \in \mathbf{\Sigma}$, indeterminates $x_{j(w)}: I \to w$ satisfying a naturality constraint with respect to the arrows of $\mathbf{\Sigma}$. When $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ is the sub-symmetric monoidal category freely generated by some set of $\mathbf{C}$ objects [4] the indeterminates are completely "free," as in the examples described above.

We believe this construction has many applications. As our leading examples, we consider the categories of "possible worlds" that have been used in the semantics of imperative programming languages. John Reynolds and Frank Oles [31,23,24,25,19] show how block-structured storage management in ALGOL-like languages [22] may be explicated using a semantics based on functor categories $\mathbf{W} \Rightarrow \mathbf{S}$, where $\mathbf{W}$ is a suitable category of "worlds" characterizing local aspects of storage structure, and $\mathbf{S}$ is a conventional semantic category of sets or domains. Every programming-language type θ is interpreted as a functor $[\![\theta]\!]: \mathbf{W} \to \mathbf{S}$ and every programming-language term-in-context $\pi \vdash X: \theta$ is interpreted as a natural transformation $[\![\pi \vdash X: \theta]\!]: [\![\pi]\!] \to [\![\theta]\!]$.

Oles gives two presentations of his category of worlds and shows that they are equivalent. Reynolds presents what *seems* to be a different category of worlds; however, it has recently been shown [7] that, under reasonable closedness assumptions, it is in fact equivalent to Oles's category.

The functor-category framework has also been exploited to analyze noninterference in Reynolds's specification logic [30,32,36,16,20], block expressions in ALGOL-like languages [35], and passivity in a variant of Reynolds's Syntactic Control of Interference [29,17]. These applications used a related but significantly different category of worlds, due to Tennent.

Several authors [15,28,33,34,3] have used *finite sets* (of locally available "locations" or "names") as worlds, with injections as the morphisms.

What is noteworthy about all of this work is that the categories of worlds involved have been developed in *ad hoc* fashion and their properties have not been well understood. We show here that all of these categories of worlds are instances of our monoidal polynomial construction and have *universality* properties.

The construction of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}: j\mathbf{\Sigma}]$ and its key properties, such as universality, and

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an important special case ($\mathbf{\Sigma}$ generated by a single object) are presented in §2. Our applications are discussed in §4. Some additional properties of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\mathbf{\Sigma}]$ not directly relevant to our applications are treated in §3; this may be skipped by readers more interested in the applications.

2 Monoidal Polynomial Categories

2.1 The Categories $\mathbf{C}$ and Σ

Consider a symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$ with unit I and structural isomorphisms

$$\lambda_x \colon I \otimes x \;\cong\; x$$
$$\rho_x \colon x \otimes I \;\cong\; x$$
$$\alpha_{x,y,z} \colon (x \otimes y) \otimes z \;\cong\; x \otimes (y \otimes z)$$
$$\sigma_{x,y} \colon x \otimes y \cong y \otimes x$$

subject to the usual coherence axioms [14]. See [10] for explanations of additional monoidal-categorical concepts, such as *monoidal transformation* and *strong monoidal functor*, and [8] for detailed considerations of coherence issues.

We want to add *indeterminates* (generic global elements) to some objects of $\mathbf{C}$ subject to a naturality constraint. We therefore parameterize our construction with an auxiliary *small* symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ and a strong monoidal functor $j \colon \mathbf{\Sigma} \to \mathbf{C}$, with structural isomorphisms $\delta_{v,w} \colon j(v) \otimes j(w) \to j(v \otimes w)$ and $\gamma \colon I \to j(I)$.

Two boundary cases will be of particular interest:

(i) $\mathbf{\Sigma} = F(\star)$ the free symmetric monoidal category generated by one object and j the canonical mapping picking one object in $\mathbf{C}$; the only commutativity constraints are those imposed by structural isos.

(ii) $\mathbf{\Sigma} = \mathbf{C}$, $j = \mathsf{id}$, when $\mathbf{C}$ is itself small; commutativity with *all* $\mathbf{C}$ morphisms will be required.

In the following, we describe the construction of a category with the same objects as $\mathbf{C}$ and morphisms $(f, w) \colon x \to y$ for every $w \in |\mathbf{\Sigma}|$ and $f \colon x \otimes j(w) \to y$ in $\mathbf{C}$. We do this in two steps: firstly, we set up a *bicategory* [1] $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\mathbf{\Sigma})$, and, secondly, we obtain our desired category $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\mathbf{\Sigma}]$ by taking *connected components* of the hom-categories of this bicategory.

2.2 The Bicategory $\mathbf{C}(x \colon j\Sigma)$

– the *objects* are those of $\mathbf{C}$;

– for any w an object in $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ and $f \colon x \otimes j(w) \to y$ a morphism in $\mathbf{C}$, $(f, w) \colon x \to y$ is a *morphism* in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\mathbf{\Sigma})$;

– a *2-cell* $h \colon (f, w) \Rightarrow (f', w')$ is a morphism $h \colon w \to w'$ in $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ such that

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
 & y & \\
f \nearrow & & \nwarrow f' \\
x \otimes j(w) & \xrightarrow{\ x \otimes j(h)\ } & x \otimes j(w')
\end{array}
$$

- the *identity* for x is $\big(\rho_x \cdot (x \otimes \gamma^{-1}), I\big) \colon x \to x$.
- given morphisms $(f, w) \colon x \to y$ and $(g, w') \colon y \to z$ their *composite* is the morphism $(h, w \otimes w') \colon x \otimes j(w \otimes w') \longrightarrow z$ defined as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
x \otimes j(w \otimes w') \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle x \otimes \delta^{-1}} \\
x \otimes j(w) \otimes j(w') \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle \alpha^{-1}} \\
\big(x \otimes j(w)\big) \otimes j(w') \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle f \otimes j(w')} \\
y \otimes j(w') \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle g} \\
z
\end{array}
$$

- the *structural isomorphisms* are inherited from the monoidal structure of $\mathbf{C}$: given $(f, w) \colon x \to y$, $(g, v) \colon y \to z$ and $(h, u) \colon y \to z$, define $\alpha_{f,g,h}$ to be $\alpha_{w,v,u} \colon h(gf) \longrightarrow (hg)f$, and similarly for λ and ρ.

2.3　The Category $\mathbf{C}[x \colon j\Sigma]$

Recall that the *connected components* functor $\pi_0 \colon \mathbf{Cat} \to \mathbf{Set}$, left adjoint to the *discrete category* functor from $\mathbf{Set}$ to $\mathbf{Cat}$, preserves products. Therefore, by applying it to the hom-categories of $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ we obtain a *category*,[5] our intended $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$:

$$
(1) \qquad \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}](x, y) = \pi_0\big(\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})(x, y)\big) \cong \coprod_{w \in |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|} \big[\mathbf{C}\big(x \otimes j(w), y\big)\big]_{\simeq}
$$

so that $(f \colon x \otimes j(w) \to y, w) \simeq (g \colon x \otimes j(v) \to y, v)$ iff there is a zig-zag path of 2-cells between them in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})(x, y)$:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
 & & & & y & & & & \\
 & f \nearrow & & f_1 \nearrow & \cdots & \nwarrow f_n & & \nwarrow g & \\
x \otimes j(w) & \xleftarrow{x \otimes j(h_1)} & x \otimes j(w_1) & & \cdots & & x \otimes j(w_n) & \xrightarrow{x \otimes j(h_n)} & x \otimes j(v)
\end{array}
$$

Proposition 2.1 $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ *has a symmetric monoidal structure.*

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[5] Because we collapse the structural-isomorphism 2-cells, composition becomes strictly associative and unitary.

Proof. The tensor product of objects x and y is $x \otimes y$, as in **C**, and the same is true for the unit I. The tensor product of morphisms $[f, w] \colon x \to y$ and $[f', w'] \colon x' \to y'$ is the morphism $[g, w \otimes w'] \colon x \otimes x' \to y \otimes y'$ where g is defined as follows:

$$x \otimes x' \otimes j(w \otimes w')$$

$$\big\downarrow x \otimes x' \otimes \delta$$

$$x \otimes x' \otimes j(w) \otimes j(w')$$

$$\big\downarrow x \otimes \sigma_{x', j(w)} \otimes j(w')$$

$$x \otimes j(w) \otimes x' \otimes j(w')$$

$$\big\downarrow f \otimes f'$$

$$y \otimes y'$$

(omitting associativity isos). Verification that this action is functorial involves only functoriality of $\otimes$, naturality of σ, and the coherence conditions on σ. The structural isomorphisms are given by those in **C** suitably composed with λs to discard the unit parameter, e.g., associativity isomorphisms are of the form

$$\big[\alpha_{x,y,z} \cdot \lambda_{(x \otimes y) \otimes z \cdot \gamma^{-1}} \colon (x \otimes y) \otimes z \longrightarrow x \otimes (y \otimes z), I\big] \qquad \square$$

Note that a symmetry (or, more generally, a braiding) is needed to tensor morphisms as above.

2.4   Raw morphisms

There is a natural mapping of **C** into $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ that takes $f \colon x \to y$ into

$$[f \cdot \rho_x \cdot (x \otimes \gamma^{-1}), I] \colon x \to y$$

As a consequence of the coherence axioms, $\rho_I = \lambda_I \colon I \times I \cong I$ [8, Prop. 1.1], and this mapping yields a functor $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$.

   A morphism $[f, w] \colon x \to y$ with $w \cong I$ is termed *raw*. Raw morphisms yield a broad sub-category (i.e., with the same objects as the ambient category) of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$, the essential image of $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$.

Proposition 2.2 $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ *is (strongly) symmetric monoidal; i.e., it preserves the structure up to coherent isomorphism.*

Proof. The coherent structural isomorphisms are the "raw" images of those in **C** under $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ and functoriality ensures that the coherence axioms hold as well; this makes $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ strongly symmetric monoidal. $\qquad \square$

   To clarify the presentation, we will write the raw images of α, ρ, λ and σ *underlined*, so that, for example, $\underline{\alpha}$ will denote an associativity isomorphism in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$.

2.5   Monoidal Indeterminates

The most significant feature of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ is that it has, for every $w \in |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|$, a "global element" $\boldsymbol{x}_w = [\lambda_{j(w)}, w]\colon I \to j(w)$. These morphisms will be termed *(constrained) monoidal elements.*

Definition 2.3 Given a strong monoidal functor $F\colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$ and a small symmetric monoidal category $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ with a strong monoidal functor $j\colon \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \to \mathbf{C}$, a *system of constrained monoidal elements for F (with respect to $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$)* is a monoidal transformation $\boldsymbol{d}\colon I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{D}} \Longrightarrow F \cdot j$, where $I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{D}}\colon \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \to \mathbf{D}$ is the strong monoidal functor constantly I. When $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is free on a set of objects, we talk simply of monoidal elements; these are *free* or unconstrained, as in our original scenario of polynomial algebras and categories in §1.

The $\boldsymbol{x}_w$ defined above form a system of constrained monoidal elements for $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ with respect to $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, $\boldsymbol{x}\colon I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]} \Longrightarrow R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \cdot j$. Because $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ includes the relevant structural isomorphisms, naturality of $\boldsymbol{x}$ entails the following three commutativities:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
I \\
\boldsymbol{x}_{(u\otimes v)\otimes w} \swarrow \qquad \searrow \boldsymbol{x}_{u\otimes(v\otimes w)} \\
j\big((u \otimes v) \otimes w\big) \xrightarrow{\ R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}j\alpha_{u,v,w}\ } j\big(u \otimes (v \otimes w)\big)
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
\begin{array}{c}
I \\
\boldsymbol{x}_{I\otimes w}\swarrow\ \downarrow\boldsymbol{x}_w\ \searrow\boldsymbol{x}_{w\otimes I} \\
j(I \otimes w) \xrightarrow[R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}j\lambda_w]{} j(w) \xleftarrow[R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}j\rho_w]{} j(w \otimes I)
\end{array}
&
\begin{array}{c}
I \\
\boldsymbol{x}_{u\otimes v}\swarrow\qquad\searrow\boldsymbol{x}_{u\otimes v} \\
j(u \otimes v) \xrightarrow[R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}j\sigma_{u,v}]{} j(v \otimes u)
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

while the monoidal condition entails $\boldsymbol{x}_I = R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}\gamma\colon I \to j(I)$ and

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
I \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\ \lambda_I\ } & I \\
\boldsymbol{x}_u \otimes \boldsymbol{x}_v \downarrow & & \downarrow \boldsymbol{x}_{u\otimes v} \\
j(u) \otimes j(v) & \xrightarrow[\ \delta_{u,v}\ ]{} & j(u \otimes v)
\end{array}
$$

Proposition 2.4 $\boldsymbol{x} = [\lambda_{j_-}, (\_)]\colon I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]} \Longrightarrow R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \cdot j$ *is natural in $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ and monoidal.*

Proof. For naturality, consider $h\colon w \to w'$ in $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ and the following diagram:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
I \otimes j(w \otimes I) & \xrightarrow{str} & I \otimes (j(w) \otimes I) & \xrightarrow{\alpha^{-1}} & (I \otimes j(w)) \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\lambda_{j(w)\otimes I}} & j(w) \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\rho_{j(w)}} & j(w) \\
\downarrow{\scriptstyle I \otimes j(h\otimes I)} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle I \otimes (j(h)\otimes I)} & & & & & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle j(h)} \\
I \otimes j(w' \otimes I) & \xrightarrow{str} & I \otimes (j(w') \otimes I) & \xrightarrow{\alpha^{-1}} & (I \otimes j(w')) \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\lambda_{j(w')\otimes I}} & j(w') \otimes I & \xrightarrow{\rho_{j(w')}} & j(w')
\end{array}
$$

$$
I \otimes j(\rho_{w'}) \searrow \quad \xrightarrow{I \otimes \rho_{j(w')}} \quad \downarrow \rho_{I\otimes j(w')} \quad \xrightarrow{\lambda_{j(w')}} \quad I \otimes j(w')
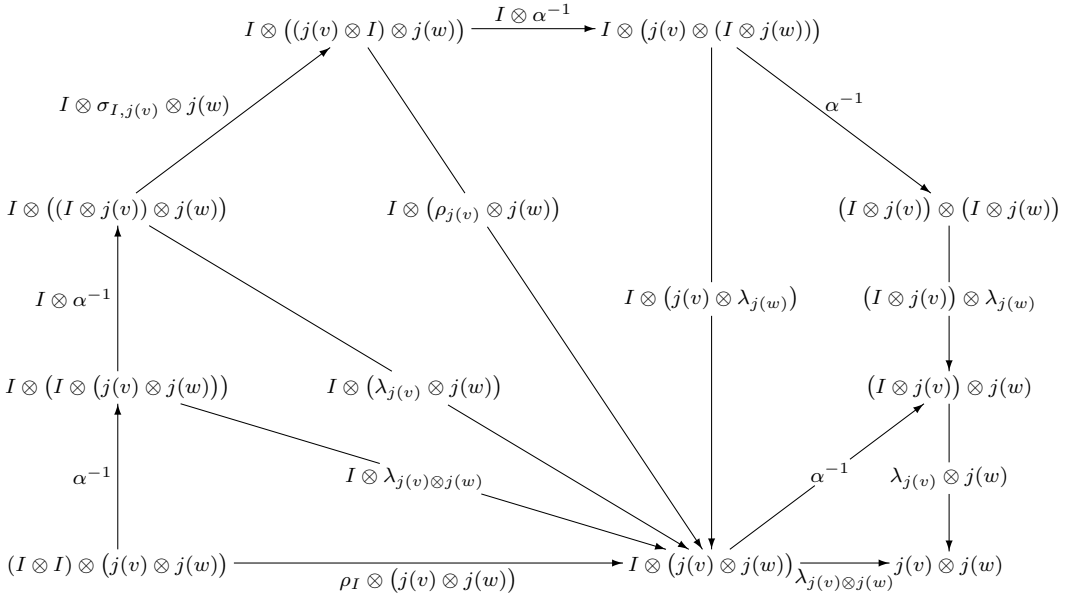$$

Fig. 1. Monoidality Diagram

where *str* denotes the coherent structural isomorphism $I \otimes j(\_) \otimes \gamma^{-1} \cdot I \otimes \delta^{-1}$ associated to j. The leftmost bottom triangle commutes by [8, Prop. 1.1] and the rest by naturality of the λ, ρ and α. We conclude that $\rho_{w'} \cdot (h \otimes I) : w \otimes I \longrightarrow w'$ is a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ from $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(h) \cdot \lambda_w$ to $\lambda_{w'}$, and therefore $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(h) \cdot \boldsymbol{x}_w = \boldsymbol{x}_{w'}$ in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$.

For monoidality, $\boldsymbol{x}_I = [\lambda_{jI}, I] = \underline{\gamma} = \gamma \cdot \rho_I \cdot I \otimes \gamma^{-1}$, because $\lambda_I = \rho_I$ by [8, Prop. 1.1], and in the diagram in Figure 1, the leftmost-top triangle and the rightmost-bottom one commute by [8, Prop. 1.1]; the top triangle involving σ commutes by [8, Prop. 2.1]; and the remaining ones commute by the coherence axiom relating α, λ and ρ, and naturality of α. Using once again the coherence axiom relating α, λ and ρ and naturality of λ it may be concluded that $\lambda_{v,w} : I \otimes (v \otimes w) \longrightarrow v \otimes w$ realizes a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$, which identifies $\delta_{v,w} \cdot (\boldsymbol{x}_v \otimes \boldsymbol{x}_w) \cdot R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}(\lambda_I^{-1})$ and $\boldsymbol{x}_{v \otimes w}$ in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$.   □

We will show below (Theorem 2.7) that $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ is freely generated by this system of constrained monoidal elements. In other words, the $\boldsymbol{x}_{(\_)}$ form a *generic* such system; we call them ***monoidal indeterminates***.

Definition 2.5 For any object $y \in \mathbf{C}$, $e_y^w : [\mathsf{id}_{y \otimes j(w)}, w] : y \longrightarrow y \otimes j(w)$ is termed the *expansion morphism at y (with respect to w)*.

The terminology will be justified in §4.1.

Lemma 2.6 (Expansion–Raw Morphism Factorization)

(1) Interdefinability of expansions and indeterminates*:*
$$e_y^w = (y \otimes \boldsymbol{x}_w) \cdot \underline{\rho}_y^{-1} : y \longrightarrow y \otimes j(w) \ \text{and} \ \boldsymbol{x}_w = \underline{\lambda}_{j(w)} \cdot e_I^w.$$

(2) *The expansion morphisms e_y^w are natural in y, and natural in w with respect to Σ-morphisms.*

(3) *Expansions compose: $e_{v\otimes w}^y = \underline{\alpha}_{y,j(v),j(w)}^{-1} \cdot e_w^{y\otimes j(v)} \cdot e_v^y$.*

(4) *Every $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma]$ morphism $[f,w]\colon y \to z$ factors uniquely (up to isomorphism) as an expansion $e_y^w\colon y \to y\otimes j(w)$ followed by a raw morphism*

$$[f \cdot \rho_{y\otimes j(w)} \cdot (y\otimes j(w)\otimes \gamma^{-1}), I]\colon y\otimes j(w) \to z$$

This factorization is unique in the following sense: if $[f,w] = R_\Sigma(g) \cdot e_{w'}^y$ for some $g\colon y\otimes w' \to z$, then $[f,w] = [g,w']$.

Proof.

(1) By [8, Prop.2.1], $\rho_I \cdot \sigma_{I,I} = \lambda_I$; hence, because $\lambda_I = \rho_I$, we have that $\sigma_{I,I} = \mathsf{id}_{I\otimes I}$. Since j is strongly symmetric monoidal, $\sigma_{jI,jI} = \mathsf{id}_{jI\otimes jI}$. Therefore, the composite $(y\otimes \boldsymbol{x}_w) \cdot \rho_{-y}^{-1}$ reduces to the morphism

$$(\rho_y\otimes\lambda_w)\cdot\alpha_{y,I,I\otimes j(w)}^{-1} \cdot \Big(y\otimes\big(\gamma^{-1}\otimes\big(\gamma^{-1}\otimes j(w)\big)\big)\Big)\cdot\big(y\otimes j(I)\otimes\delta^{-1}\big)\cdot\big(y\otimes\delta^{-1}, I\otimes(I\otimes w)\big)$$

in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma)$. Consider the following diagram:

The left triangle commutes by the coherence axioms for α, λ and ρ, and the right triangle by functoriality of $\otimes$. We conclude that $\lambda_w\cdot\lambda_{I\otimes w}\colon I\otimes(I\otimes w) \to w$ is a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma)$, which yields the identity $e_y^w = (y\otimes\boldsymbol{x}_w)\cdot\rho_{-y}^{-1}\colon y \to y\otimes w$. The diagram

in which the bottom left triangle commutes by [8, Prop.1.1], and the top left one for coherence for j, shows that $\rho_w\colon w\otimes I \to w$ realizes a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma)$, which identifies $\underline{\lambda}_w e_I^w$ with $\boldsymbol{x}_w$ in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma]$.

(2) Follows from (1), because $\boldsymbol{x}_w$ is natural with respect to morphisms in Σ.

(3) The morphism $v\otimes\rho_w\colon v\otimes(w\otimes I) \to v\otimes w$ realizes a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma)$ which identifies $(\underline{\alpha}_{y,v,w}^{-1} \cdot e_w^{y\otimes v}) \cdot e_v^y$ with $e_{v\otimes w}^y$ in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma]$.

(4) The morphism $\rho_w\colon w\otimes I \to w$ realizes a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\Sigma)$ from

$$\Big(f \cdot \rho_{y\otimes j(w)} \cdot \big((y\otimes j(w))\otimes\gamma^{-1}\big) \cdot \alpha_{y,j(w),I}^{-1} \cdot (y\otimes\delta^{-1}),\ w\otimes I\Big)$$

to (f,w) which yields the required identification. Given another expansion-

raw factorization, e.g., $[f, w] = R_{\Sigma}(g) \cdot e^y_{w'}$, we have to argue by induction by the length of the zig-zag path of 2-cells in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})(y, z)$ realizing the identification. Clearly, it suffices to consider the case of a basic path of length one (the inductive step): assume a morphism $h\colon w' \otimes I \to w$ such that $f(y \otimes jh) = g \cdot \rho_{y \otimes jw'} \cdot str$. Then, setting $\bar{h} = h \cdot \rho_{w'}^{-1}$, we have $f \cdot (y \otimes j\bar{h}) = g$, hence $[f, w] = [g, w']$. □

2.6 Universality of $\mathbf{C}[x\colon j\Sigma]$

Theorem 2.7 (Universality) *Given a symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{D}$, a strong symmetric monoidal functor $F\colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$, and a system $\boldsymbol{d}\colon I_{\Sigma}^{\mathbf{D}} \Longrightarrow F \cdot j$ of monoidal elements for F with respect to Σ, there exists an essentially unique strong symmetric monoidal functor $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}\colon \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}] \to \mathbf{D}$ and a monoidal iso 2-cell $\theta\colon (F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}} \cdot R_{\Sigma}) \Longrightarrow F$ such that $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} \cong \boldsymbol{d}$:*

The isomorphism $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} \cong \boldsymbol{d}$ here is a convenient abbreviation for the following commutativity of monoidal transformations on functors from $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ to $\mathbf{D}$:

where γ is the structural isomorphism associated with $F|_x^d$.

Proof. It is clear that the action of $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}$ on objects should be $(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}})(y) = F(y)$. For a morphism $[f, w]\colon y \to z$ factored as $[f \cdot \rho_{y \otimes jw} \cdot ((y \otimes jw) \otimes \gamma_{-1}), I] \cdot e^w_y$, with $e^w_y = (y \otimes x_w)\rho_y^{-1}$ by Lemma 2.6.(1), we get $(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}})[f, w] =$

$$Fy \xrightarrow{\rho_{Fy}^{-1}} Fy \otimes I \xrightarrow{Fy \otimes d_w} Fy \otimes F(j(w)) \cong F(y \otimes j(w)) \xrightarrow{Ff} Fz$$

In order to show the value of $(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}})[f, w]$ is independent of the choice of representative, consider $(f, w) \simeq (g, v)$ with $g\colon y \otimes v \to z$ via $h\colon w \to v$ in $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ and the diagram

$$\begin{array}{c}
Fy \otimes F\big(j(w)\big) \xrightarrow{\ \delta_{y,w}\ } F\big(y \otimes j(w)\big)
\end{array}$$

where the leftmost triangle commutes by naturality of d, while the rightmost one commutes because F is a functor.

Functoriality of $(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}})$ follows from the coherence axioms for the structural isomorphisms associated with F and the monoidality of the transformation $\boldsymbol{d}$. $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}$ is strong monoidal, with the same structural isomorphisms as F. We can take $\theta = \mathrm{id}$, but the general statement requires a general θ as we want $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}$ characterized only up to strong monoidal isomorphism.

The coherence conditions on F imply that $\big(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}\big)(\boldsymbol{x}_w) = \big(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}\big)[\lambda_{j(w)}, w] = d_w \cdot \gamma_w$ (with $\theta = \mathrm{id}$), and $\big(F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}\big)[f \cdot \rho_y \cdot (y \otimes \gamma^{-1}), I] = F(f)$ for any morphism $f : y \to z$ in $\mathbf{C}$. $\qquad\Box$

Remark 2.8 There is a 2-dimensional aspect to the universality of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$. Given strong symmetric monoidal functors $F, G : \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$ with systems of monoidal elements $d : I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{D}} \implies F \cdot j$ and $e : I_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{D}} \implies G \cdot j$, there is one-to-one correspondence between monoidal transformations $\overline{\beta} : (F|_x^d) \implies (G|_x^e)$ and monoidal transformations $\beta : F \implies G$ such that $\beta j \cdot d = e$. This aspect is illustrated in Example 4.7.

The following special case will prove useful in §4.6 in characterizing the "states" functor in the semantics of imperative languages:

Corollary 2.9 *If the unit 0 of the symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{D}$ is an initial object, there is an essentially unique strong monoidal functor $\overline{F} : \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}] \to D$ extending a strong monoidal functor $F : \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$:*

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]\\
\\
R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \nearrow \quad \Downarrow \quad \overline{F}\\
\\
\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \xrightarrow[\ J_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{C}}\ ]{} \mathbf{C} \xrightarrow[\ F\ ]{} \mathbf{D}
\end{array}
$$

Proof. The unit 0 is initial, so there is a *unique* way to choose a global element $!_w : 0 \to F(w)$ for any $w \in \boldsymbol{\Sigma}$, and $\overline{F} = F|_x^{!_w}$, natural in w with respect to $\mathbf{C}$. $\qquad\Box$

2.7   The Co-Affine Envelope of $\mathbf{C}$

When $\mathbf{C}$ is small, we can consider the important special case that $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{C}$ and $j = \mathrm{id}$. The examples in §4 will be instances of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : \mathbf{C}]$ for suitable small categories $\mathbf{C}$; to simplify the notation, we will use $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$ as an abbreviation for $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} : \mathbf{C}]$.

Proposition 2.10 *For any small symmetric monoidal* **C***, the unit is initial in* $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$.

Proof. For any object w of $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$, we have a morphism $\boldsymbol{x}_w = [\lambda_w, w]: I \to w$. Given another morphism $[f: I \otimes v \to w, v]$ in $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$, consider the following diagram:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
I \otimes v & & \\
\big\downarrow{\scriptstyle I \otimes \lambda_v^{-1}} & \searrow{\scriptstyle \mathrm{id}} & \\
I \otimes (I \otimes v) & \xrightarrow{\;\lambda_{I \otimes v}\;} & I \otimes v \\
\big\downarrow{\scriptstyle I \otimes f} & & \big\downarrow{\scriptstyle f} \\
I \otimes w & \xrightarrow{\;\lambda_w\;} & w
\end{array}
$$

The bottom part of the diagram commutes by naturality and the triangle commutes by the following:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \mathrm{id} & & \\
I \otimes (I \otimes v) & \xrightarrow{\alpha^{-1}} & (I \otimes I) \otimes v & \xrightarrow{\alpha^{-1}} & I \otimes (I \otimes v) \\
 & \searrow{\scriptstyle I \otimes \lambda_v} & \big\downarrow{\scriptstyle \rho_I \otimes v = \lambda_I \otimes v} & \swarrow{\scriptstyle \lambda_I \otimes v} & \\
 & & I \otimes v & &
\end{array}
$$

where the left triangle commutes by the coherence axiom for α, ρ and λ, and the remaining two equalities are given in [8, Prop. 2.1]. We conclude that $f \cdot \lambda_v^{-1}: v \to w$ is a 2-cell in $\mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{x}\colon \mathbf{C})$, which identifies $\boldsymbol{x}_w$ and $[f, v]$ in $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$. □

Alternatively, we can prove it as follows:

Proof. Recall that for a small category **D**, an initial object amounts to a limit of the identity functor $\mathrm{id}: \mathbf{D} \to \mathbf{D}$, that is: a cone $\{\iota_d : I \to d\}_{d \in \mathbf{D}}$ such that $\iota_I = \mathrm{id}_I$. Using Lemma 2.6.(1) and monoidality of x, we conclude that our system of indeterminates is natural with respect to expansions: $e_v^w \cdot \boldsymbol{x}_v = \boldsymbol{x}_{v \otimes w}: I \to v \otimes w$. Because they are natural with respect to all raw morphisms (by construction of $\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$), the $\{\boldsymbol{x}_v: I \to v\}_{v \in |\lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil|}$ form a cone, and by monoidality of $\boldsymbol{x}$, $\boldsymbol{x}_I = \mathrm{id}_I$. □

Combining Corollary 2.9 and Proposition 2.10, we conclude that the construction $\mathbf{C} \mapsto \lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$ provides the universal way of forcing the unit I to be initial:

Corollary 2.11 *For* **C** *a small symmetric monoidal category, functor* $R: \mathbf{C} \to \lceil \mathbf{C} \rceil$ *is universal among strong symmetric monoidal functors into symmetric monoidal categories whose unit is an initial object.*

Symmetric monoidal categories with an initial unit are called *co-affine* in [27]. Therefore the above corollary provides an explicit construction of the free co-affine category on a symmetric monoidal category, which we call the ***co-affine envelope*** of **C**.

2.8 *Indeterminate on a Single Object*

A special case of interest is the construction of the symmetric monoidal category generated by a category $\mathbf{C}$ and an indeterminate $x_w: I \to w$ for a *single* object w. By tensoring such an indeterminate with itself and using the isomorphism $\lambda_I = \rho_I: I \otimes I \cong I$, one obtains indeterminates for all tensor powers w^i of w, and more generally, all i-ary bracketings of w. We are led to consider $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\star$, the *free symmetric monoidal category on one generator*, and the strong symmetric monoidal functor $j_w: \mathbf{\Sigma}_\star \to \mathbf{C}$, which takes $\star$ to w.

Remark 2.12 We recall that $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\star$ can be explicitly described as the category $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}}$ of finite sets and bijections, see §4.7.

Given a symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{D}$ and a strong symmetric monoidal functor $F: \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{D}$, a monoidal transformation $d: I_{\mathbf{\Sigma}}^{\mathbf{D}} \implies F \cdot j_w$ amounts precisely to an element $d_\star: I \to Fw$. Therefore, $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}: j_w \mathbf{\Sigma}_\star]$ is the *free symmetric monoidal category with an indeterminate $x: I \to w$*.

2.9 *Monoidal Indeterminates in a Cartesian Setting*

When the monoidal structure on $\mathbf{C}$ is given by finite products so that $v \otimes w = v \times w$ and $I = 1$, each object w carries a comonoid structure given by $!_w: w \to 1$ and $\delta_w: w \to w \times w$. Furthermore, each morphism in $\mathbf{C}$ is a comonoid morphism, by naturality of $!$ and δ. In particular, a global element $x: 1 \to w$ satisfies

Therefore, if we want a monoidal indeterminate $x_w: 1 \to w$ to be a cartesian one, we must enforce naturality with respect to $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\star^\times$, the *free symmetric monoidal category on one generator with a comonoid structure* $(\star, \delta_\star, !_\star)$. Equivalently, $\mathbf{\Sigma}_w^\times$ is the *free cartesian category on one generator*, since all tensor powers of $\star$ come equipped with natural comonoid structures, using repeatedly $\delta_\star$ and $!_\star$. Once again, we consider the strong symmetric monoidal functor $j_w: \mathbf{\Sigma}_\star^\times \to \mathbf{C}$ which takes $(\star, \delta_\star, !_\star)$ to $(w, \delta_w, !_w)$. It is easy to see that j_w is actually cartesian.

Remark 2.13 We recall that $\mathbf{\Sigma}_\star^\times$ can be explicitly described as $\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{op}}$, the dual of the category of finite sets.

As we mentioned in our introduction, Lambek and Scott [12, Part I, Section 5] show that $\mathbf{C}[x: 1 \to w]$, the free cartesian category obtained from $\mathbf{C}$ by adjoining an indeterminate $x: 1 \to w$, can be explicitly described by the Kleisli category of the comonad $(\_) \times w: \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}$, which we write $\mathbf{C}_{\times w}$, with associated functor $J_w: \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}_{\times w}$. Given a morphism $f: y \times w \to z$ in $\mathbf{C}_{\times w}$, we write $J(f) = [f, \star]$ and interpret it as a morphism in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}: j_w \mathbf{\Sigma}_w^\times]$.

Proposition 2.14 *The assignment* $f \mapsto J(f)$ *is an identity-on-objects isomorphism of categories* $J \colon \mathbf{C}_{\times w} \to \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j_w \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_\star^\times]$ *and the following diagram commutes:*

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j_w \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_\star^\times] & \\
R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_\star^\times} \nearrow & & \nwarrow J \\
\mathbf{C} & \xrightarrow{\ j_w\ } & \mathbf{C}_{\times w}
\end{array}
$$

Proof. The isomorphism

$$
\mathbf{C}(y \times w, z) \;\cong\; \left(\coprod_{i \geq 0} \mathbf{C}(y \times w^i, z) \right)_{\simeq}
$$

induced by J on homs is verified by setting up morphisms $\phi_\star^i \colon \star \to \star^i$ which yield a 2-cell inducing the required identification in $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j_w \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_\star^\times]$; the $\phi_\star^i$ are defined by induction on i:

$$
\phi_\star^0 = !_\star \qquad \phi_\star^{i+1} = (\delta^\star \times \star^{i-1}) \cdot \phi_\star^i
$$

Functoriality of J requires preservation of identities and composition, which is also achieved via $!_\star$ and $\delta_\star$ respectively. The identity $J \cdot j_w = R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^\times}$ requires identifying $\pi'_{y,w} \colon y \times w \to w$ with $\pi'_{y,1} \colon y \times 1 \to y$, via $!_\star \colon \star \to 1$ (the same way in which J preserves identities). □

3 Further Properties of $\mathbf{C}[x \colon j\Sigma]$

In this section, we describe additional properties of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$, with a view to the role this structure plays in categorical logic and semantics. Some readers might prefer to skip ahead to the applications in §4.

3.1 Closed Structure and Duals

Proposition 3.1 *If* $\mathbf{C}$ *is a* closed *symmetric monoidal category, so is* $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$*; furthermore,* $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \colon \mathbf{C} \to \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ *preserves the closed structure.*

Proof. Given the formulation of the hom-sets of $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ in equation (1), $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ inherits closed structure from $\mathbf{C}$ via the isomorphism

$$
\coprod_{w \in \boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \mathbf{C}\big((x \otimes y) \otimes jw, z\big) \cong \coprod_{w \in \boldsymbol{\Sigma}} \mathbf{C}(x \otimes jw, y \Rightarrow z)
$$

which is compatible with the equivalence relation $\simeq$. It is then clear that $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ preserves the closed structure. □

Corollary 3.2 *If* $\mathbf{C}$ *is* compact closed *(i.e., every object c admits a dual c^* such that* $\mathbf{C}(x \otimes c, y) \cong \mathbf{C}(x, c^* \otimes y)$*), so is* $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$*; furthermore,* $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ *preserves duals.*

3.2   Traces

The notion of *trace* [9,5] in a monoidal category is also compatible with the addition of monoidal indeterminates.

Proposition 3.3 *If* $\mathbf{C}$ *admits a trace, so does* $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$; *furthermore,* $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ *preserves traces.*

Proof. A trace function

$$Tr_{x,y}^{u}\colon \mathbf{C}(x \otimes u, y \otimes u) \to \mathbf{C}(x,y)$$

for $\mathbf{C}$ is compatible with the equivalence $\simeq$ by dinaturality

$$\left[\coprod_{w \in W} Tr_{x \otimes jw, y}^{u}\right]_{\simeq} \colon \left[\coprod_{w \in W} \mathbf{C}\big((x \otimes jw) \otimes u, y \otimes u\big)\right]_{\simeq} \to \left[\coprod_{w \in W} \mathbf{C}(x \otimes jw, y)\right]_{\simeq}$$

and therefore induces a trace function on $\mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$, evidently preserved by $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$. □

4   Applications

4.1   The Oles Category of Possible Worlds

The following category is described in [23,25]. Let **set** be a small sub-category of the usual category of all sets and functions, interpreted as (products [6] of) "data types." The objects of Oles's category are those of **set**, interpreted as the sets of states *allowed* in each possible world, and a morphism from X to Y is a pair f, Q such that

(i) f is a function from Y to X;

(ii) Q is an equivalence relation on Y with Y/Q an object of **set**; and

(iii) $X \xleftarrow{\quad f \quad} Y \xrightarrow{\ y \mapsto [y]_Q\ } Y/Q$ is a product diagram in **set**.

Intuitively, f extracts the small state embedded in a larger one, and Q relates large states with identical "extensions." Note that the restriction of f to any Q-equivalence class is bijective.

   The identity morphism id_X on an object X has as its two components: the identity function on X and $\top_X$, the universally-true binary relation on X. The composition of morphisms $f, Q\colon X \to Y$ and $g, R\colon Y \to Z$ has as its two components: the functional composition of f and g, and the equivalence relation on Z that relates $z_0, z_1 \in Z$ just if they are R-related and Q relates $g(z_0)$ and $g(z_1)$; in short, $R \cap g^{-1}(Q)$.

   We will refer to this category as $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{set})$. Oles gives another description which may be interpreted in any category $\mathbf{C}$ with finite products; see [21, Section 10]. So we have a *construction* $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C})$ that agrees with Oles's category when the ambient category $\mathbf{C}$ is **set**.

---

[6]   Note that procedure types are not "data" types in ALGOL-like languages.

4.2   The Tennent Category of Possible Worlds

To model noninterference in Reynolds's specification logic [30,32,36,20], the product condition on the f component of morphisms f, Q in Oles's category was weakened in [36] to the requirement that it be *injective* on Q-equivalence classes (with the same definitions of identities and composites); we will refer to the resulting category as $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set})$.

4.3   Universality of Tennent Categories

We now apply our theory of monoidal indeterminates; we begin by characterizing $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set})$ as a polynomial category. The description may be re-formulated as follows. Recall that, for any function $f: X \to Y$, $\mathsf{ker}(f)$, the *kernel* of f, is the binary relation $\{(x, x') \in X \times X \mid fx = fx'\}$.

Proposition 4.1 *Given sets X and Y, there is a one-to-one correspondence between the following sets of data:*

(1) equivalence classes of pairs $[m, W]_\simeq$ where W is an object of $\mathbf{set}$, $m: Y \hookrightarrow X \times W$ is a monomorphism and $(m, W) \simeq (n, V)$ if $\pi \cdot m = \pi \cdot n$ and $\mathsf{ker}(\pi' \cdot m) = \mathsf{ker}(\pi' \cdot n)$, where π and π' denote the first and second projections of a product;

(2) $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set})(X, Y)$.

Proof. From (1) to (2): Let $f: Y \to X$ be the composite $Y \overset{m}{\hookrightarrow} X \times W \overset{\pi}{\to} X$ and Q be the kernel of $Y \overset{m}{\hookrightarrow} X \times W \overset{\pi'}{\to} W$; i.e., yQy' iff $\pi'(my) = \pi'(my')$. To show that f is injective on each equivalence class, assume yQy' and $f(y) = f(y')$; then $\pi(my) = \pi(my')$ and $\pi'(my) = \pi'(my')$ and so $my = my'$. But then $y = y'$ because m is monic. Notice that, by construction, f and Q are independent of the choice of representative (m, W).

From (2) to (1): Take $[m, W]_\simeq$, where W is Y/Q and $m: Y \to X \times W$ maps y to the pair $(fy, [y]_Q)$. To show m is monic, assume $my = my'$; then $fy = fy'$ and yQy', and so $y = y'$.   □

Corollary 4.2 *The above correspondence restricts to one between $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{set})(X, Y)$ and equivalence classes of pairs $[i, W]_\simeq$ where W is an object of $\mathbf{set}$ and $i: Y \cong X \times W$ is an isomorphism.*

These correspondences are applicable to any category in which we can reason about "quotients of equivalence relations"; for instance, the argument can be carried out in any exact category. We now give an equational characterisation of the relation $\simeq$ in Proposition 4.1.

Lemma 4.3 *In any regular category,*

(i) given morphisms $f: x \to y$, $g: x \to z$ and a monomorphism $m: z \hookrightarrow y$ such that $f = m \cdot g$, we have that $\mathsf{ker}(f) = \mathsf{ker}(g)$;

(ii) *given morphisms* $f \colon x \to y$ *and* $g \colon x \to z$, $\mathsf{ker}(f) = \mathsf{ker}(g)$ *iff there exists* $q \colon x \to w$ *and monomorphisms* $m \colon w \hookrightarrow y$ *and* $n \colon w \hookrightarrow z$ *such that* $f = m \cdot q$ *and* $g = n \cdot q$.

Proof.

(i) Reasoning by elements, $\mathsf{ker}(g) \subseteq \mathsf{ker}(f)$. For the converse,

$$f \cdot x = f \cdot y \Longrightarrow m \cdot g \cdot x = m \cdot g \cdot y \Longrightarrow g \cdot x = g \cdot y$$

the last step justified by m being a monomorphism.

(ii) Given $\mathsf{ker}(f) = \mathsf{ker}(g)$ take the (common) quotient of these kernels $q \colon x \to w$. Both f and g factor through q via monos $m \colon w \hookrightarrow y$ and $n \colon w \hookrightarrow z$. The converse follows from (i). $\square$

Let $\mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}$ be the broad sub-category of $\mathbf{set}$ consisting of monomorphisms. Finite products in $\mathbf{set}$ endow $\mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}$ with a symmetric monoidal structure, so we can apply our construction of constrained monoidal indeterminates to it.

Theorem 4.4 $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set}) \equiv \lceil \mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil$,

where, as mentioned at the end of §2.7, $\lceil \mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil = \mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ for $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}}$ and $j = \mathsf{id}$.

Proof. By Lemma 4.3, we see that the equivalence relation $(m, w) \simeq (n, v)$ involved in forming the hom-sets of $\mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}}[\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$ is exactly the equivalence of Proposition 4.1, part (2), because $\pi \cdot m = \pi \cdot n$ by the definition of 2-cells in $\mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. Therefore, the underlying graphs of both categories are the same. All we need to verify is that the compositions in the two categories agree: given $[m, w] \colon x \to y$ and $[n, v] \colon y \to z$, i.e., $m \colon y \hookrightarrow x \times w$ and $n \colon z \hookrightarrow y \times v$, their composite is $[\alpha \cdot (m \times v) \cdot n, (w \times v)]$ and we verify that

$$\mathsf{ker}\big(\pi' \cdot \alpha \cdot (m \times v) \cdot n\big) \;=\; \mathsf{ker}(\pi' \cdot n) \cap \big(\pi \cdot n\big)^{-1}\big(\mathsf{ker}(\pi' \cdot m)\big) \qquad \square$$

Having identified $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set})$ as a free addition of constrained monoidal indeterminates, it seems worthwhile to point out the ingredients of $\lceil \mathbf{set}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil$ in the former:

  – An indeterminate x_W in $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{set})$ is $(! \colon W \to 1, \Delta_W)$, where Δ_W is the equality relation on W.

  – Raw morphisms are of the form $(m \colon W \to V, \top_W)$. By the injectivity requirement, m must be a monomorphism.

  – The naturality constraint for the indeterminates is satisfied: $(m, \top_W) \cdot x_V = x_W$ because $m^{-1}(\Delta_V) = \Delta_W$ by injectivity of m. Notice that this is a *necessary*, as well as a sufficient, condition on m for commutativity with indeterminates.

  – Any morphism $(f \colon Y \to X, Q)$ factors as $(\pi \colon X \times Y/Q \to X, \top_X \times \Delta_{Y/Q})$ (expansion) followed by $(\langle f, q \rangle \colon Y \to X \times Y/Q, \top_Y)$ (raw monomorphism).

4.4   Universality of Oles Categories

In a category with finite products, we say an object X is *internally non-empty* if the unique arrow into a terminal object, $X \rightarrow 1$, is a regular epi (necessarily a coequalizer of the two projections $\pi, \pi' \colon X \times X \rightarrow X$).

For a small regular category $\mathbf{C}$, let $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}$ be the broad sub-category of $\mathbf{C}$ whose arrows are all of the isomorphisms. Then,

Theorem 4.5 $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C}) \equiv \lceil \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil$, *provided every object of* $\mathbf{C}$ *is internally non-empty.*

Proof. Oles's category is essentially the broad sub-category of the Tennent category where we restrict the raw morphisms to be (equivalence classes of) *isos*, rather than monos. Given isomorphisms $m \colon y \cong x \times w$ and $n \colon y \cong x \times v$, and a mono $h \colon w \hookrightarrow v$ such that $n = m \cdot x \times h$, it follows by cancellation that $x \times h$ is an isomorphism, and x non-empty implies then that h is itself an isomorphism. Thus, we conclude that, whether $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}}$ or $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}^{\mathrm{op}}$, the hom-categories $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}^{\mathrm{op}}(\boldsymbol{x} \colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma})(x, y)$ agree, provided x is non-empty. The result now follows from Theorem 4.4 and Corollary 4.2. $\square$

The reason that we restrict to non-empty objects above is that the identification in $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C})(x, y)$ should be achieved as in Proposition 4.1. This would require taking monos as the identifying arrows, but the base category of raw morphisms only provides isos. As argued in the above proof, *if* x is non-empty, $(x \times m)$ iso implies m is an iso, and hence isos suffice to provide the required identifications in this context.

The empty set could be added to $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C})$ above as a terminal object, should it be needed in any application. The universality property should then be suitably extended by demanding that the target categories have terminal objects, and the mediating 'substitution' functors between them preserve such.

4.5   Symmetric Monoidal Generalizations of Oles and Tennent Categories

Consider now any small symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$ where $x \otimes \_ \colon \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ preserves monomorphisms, e.g., when $\mathbf{C}$ has cartesian monoidal structure. We may now describe $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{C})$, a category of worlds with data types in $\mathbf{C}$, which agrees with Tennent's category when $\mathbf{C}$ is **set** with its cartesian monoidal structure, and can therefore be seen as a *symmetric monoidal* generalization of Tennent's construction. Let $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{mn}}$ be the broad sub-category of $\mathbf{C}$ spanned by the monomorphisms. It inherits the symmetric monoidal structure of $\mathbf{C}$ by our assumption on $x \otimes \_$; then define $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{C}) = \lceil \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{mn}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil$.

We may also describe an analogous *symmetric monoidal* generalization of Oles's construction. For any small symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$, let $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}$ be the broad sub-category of isomorphisms, which retains the symmetric monoidal structure of $\mathbf{C}$. Then, $\lceil \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{iso}}^{\mathrm{op}} \rceil$ agrees with $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C})$ when $\mathbf{C}$ is any small category of *non-empty* sets. Thus, we obtain a version of Oles's construction that applies to any symmetric monoidal category, in line with the later developments of O'Hearn and Reynolds [18].

4.6   The States Functor

In [19], a functor mapping worlds to the sets of states available in that world is discussed. This functor can be seen to be a direct consequence of the universality of Oles's category of worlds. It is induced as follows: to give a strong monoidal functor $S^{\mathrm{op}}\colon \mathbf{O(C)} \to \mathbf{set}^{\mathrm{op}}$ with respect to the cartesian monoidal structure in $\mathbf{set}$, we have to pick objects $S(c)$ for every $c \in \mathbf{C}$ together with "global elements" $\mathbf{set}^{\mathrm{op}}\big(1, S(c)\big)$. But, as noted in the proof of Corollary 2.9, there is only one such global element, namely the unique map ! from $S(c)$ into the terminal 1.

Therefore, the resulting contravariant functor $S\colon \mathbf{O(C)} \to \mathbf{set}$ sends "expansions" (tensors of identities and indeterminates) to projections (cartesian tensor of identities and !s), which is the action of S via Oles's description of $\mathbf{O(set)}$ [24].

It is worth pointing out that the remaining basic semantic functors for ALGOL, namely those corresponding to expressions, commands, and variables, are definable from S and constant functors via the *contra-exponentiation* of [19]. The only other noteworthy ingredient in the semantics of ALGOL (besides the cartesian closed structure of the functor category) is the use of "initial values" for local variables in the definition of the binder **new**, which come from the presence of monoidal indeterminates in $\mathbf{O(C)}$ as indicated above.

4.7   The Category of Finite Sets and Injections

Several authors [15,28,33,34,3] have used the category $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{inj}}$ of *finite sets* (of locally available "locations" or "names") with *injections* as the morphisms. Fiore [4] has observed that $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{inj}}$ is equivalent to the free symmetric (strict) monoidal category with an initial unit on one generator. We will exhibit this category as an instance of (our generalization of) the Oles construction described in §4.4.

Consider the category $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}}$ of finite sets and bijections (or permutations). This is known to be the free symmetric monoidal category on one generator [11], the generator being any one-point set 1, and the monoidal structure being disjoint union (finite co-product). Applying the Oles construction to $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}}$ freely adds a monoidal indeterminate $x_1\colon \emptyset \to 1$.

Proposition 4.6 *There is an identity-on-objects isomorphism* $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{inj}} \cong \lceil \mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}} \rceil$ *and so* $(\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{inj}}, +, \emptyset)$ *is the free symmetric monoidal category on one generator* 1 *with a monoidal indeterminate* $x_1\colon \emptyset \to 1$.

Proof. An injection $f\colon X \hookrightarrow Y$ corresponds to a identity-on-objects isomorphism $X + W \cong Y$ with $W = Y \setminus f(X)$ and this correspondence is compatible with permutations of W. The universal characterization of $(\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{inj}}, +, \emptyset)$ now follows from those of $(\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}}, +, \emptyset)$ and the Oles construction.   □

Although we are using the $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ construction, these indeterminates are in fact *free*, as $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{bij}}$ is a free sub-symmetric monoidal category. In contrast to the characterization mentioned by Fiore, we do not assume initiality of the unit, only the presence of a global element on the generator (to map the "monoidal indeterminate" given by the inclusion $\emptyset \to 1$). In fact, initiality of the unit is a *consequence*, as explained in

Proposition 2.10. The following example illustrates the different strengths of these two characterisations:

Example 4.7 Let $\mathcal{SMCAT}$ denote the large 2-category of symmetric monoidal categories, strong symmetric monoidal functors and monoidal transformations.

$$\mathcal{SMCAT}\big((\mathbf{F}_{\text{inj}}, +, \emptyset), (\mathbf{Set}, \times, \mathbf{1})\big) \cong \mathbf{1}/\mathbf{Set}$$

To give a strong symmetric monoidal functor $H: \mathbf{F}_{\text{inj}} \to \mathbf{Set}$ is to give a set and an element $x \in H(\{\star\})$, while a monoidal transformation $\beta: H \Longrightarrow H': \mathbf{F}_{\text{inj}} \to \mathbf{Set}$ amounts to a function $h = \beta_{\{\star\}}: H(\{\star\}) \to H'(\{\star\})$ such that $hx = x'$. Notice that the freeness of $\mathbf{F}_{\text{inj}}$ as a co-affine category tells us nothing in this situation, since $(\mathbf{Set}, \times, \mathbf{1})$ is not co-affine.

A straightforward consequence of our identification is that the formula

$$B^A(s) = \mathbf{set}^{\mathbf{F}_{\text{inj}}}\big(A(s + \cdot), B(s + \cdot)\big)$$

for functor exponentiation in [34, Section 5] is an instance of the Exponent Representation Lemma of [18, Lemma 4], which in fact holds for any $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{C})$ category.

5 Discussion

We have described here the construction of a polynomial symmetric monoidal (closed) category, obtained from a symmetric monoidal (closed) category by freely adjoining a system of monoidal indeterminates. The construction was motivated by our desire to understand the categories of possible worlds that have been used in semantical analyses of languages allowing creation of "new" variables or names. These categories, though originally presented in fairly *ad hoc* fashion, have all been shown here to be polynomial monoidal categories, with corresponding universality properties. Intuitively, the indeterminates represent uninitialized "new" components of the state or name context; the substitution functor $F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}$ then provides the means to produce an "expanded" state or context with *initialized* new variables, for any appropriate choice of initial values $\boldsymbol{d}$:

$$\mathbf{C} \underset{F|_{\boldsymbol{x}}^{\boldsymbol{d}}}{\overset{R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}}{\rightleftarrows}} \mathbf{C}[\boldsymbol{x}\colon j\boldsymbol{\Sigma}]$$

We expect that the methodology introduced here will be useful in other applications. For example, it is tempting to consider "contextual (or functional) completeness" [6] in the symmetric-monoidal setting by requiring $R_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ to have a left (resp. right) adjoint. However, we have not yet been able to identify reasonable conditions under which the adjunctions would be Kleisli or co-monadic.

Related work

After our initial submission of this work, it came to our attention that the construction of a category generated by an indeterminate for a *single* object (cf. §2.8) in the

strict symmetric monoidal case and its universal property were briefly described in the Appendix of Richard Wood's dissertation [37].

Pavlović [26] considered an application of monoidal indeterminates in relation to Milner's action calculi. Only the evident "syntactic" construction is considered, together with the well-known special case when the object under consideration admits a comonoid structure, whereby the addition of an indeterminate can be realised by taking the Kleisli category of the resulting comonad, see §2.9. This latter identification is further analyzed in [6], where it is shown that, in the cartesian setting, $\mathbf{C}_{\times w}$ has the universal property of $\mathbf{C}[x_w : w]$ based merely on its 2-categorical universal characterisation as a lax colimit, regardless of any explicit description.

The above mentioned "syntactic" construction corresponds to the fact that the categorical structures under consideration are monadic over the category of graphs [2], and therefore admit presentations by generators and relations. Thus, given a symmetric monoidal category $\mathbf{C}$, we consider its underlying graph $G(\mathbf{C})$, add whichever elements $\mathcal{W}$ we require, freely generate a symmetric monoidal category on the extended graph $F\big(G(\mathbf{C}) + \mathcal{W}\big)$, and then impose the existing relations in $\mathbf{C}$ so as to obtain a strong symmetric monoidal functor $R \colon \mathbf{C} \to \big[F\big(G(\mathbf{C}) + \mathcal{W}\big)\big]_{\simeq}$.

As far as the structure of categories of possible worlds is concerned, the prominent role of expansion morphisms and an associated notion of *quotient* are considered in [13].

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