

# Enriched Lawvere Theories for Operational Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

University of California, Riverside

SYCO 4, May 22 2019

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

How do we integrate syntax and semantics?

type	object
term	morphism
* rewrite	2-morphism *

algebraic theories : *denotational* semantics

$$(ab)c = a(bc)$$

**enriched theories** : *operational* semantics



theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

# Lawvere theories

$\text{Th}(\text{Mon})$

**type**

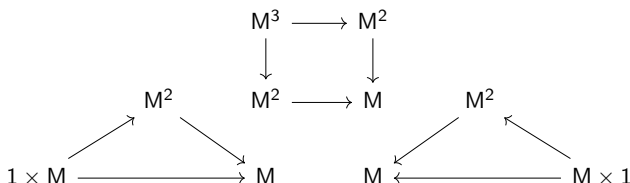
$M$

monoid

**operations**

$m: M^2 \rightarrow M$  multiplication  
 $e: 1 \rightarrow M$  identity

**equations**



theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

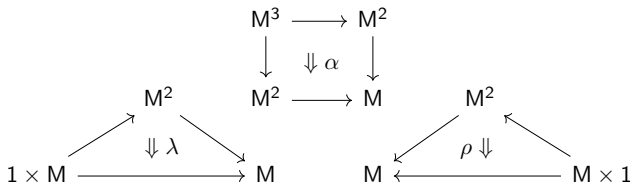
# Enriched theories

$\text{Th}(\text{PsMon})$

**type**  $M$  pseudomonoid

**operations**  $\otimes: M^2 \rightarrow M$  multiplication  
 $I: 1 \rightarrow M$  identity

**rewrites**



**equations** pentagon, triangle identities

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

Let  $V$  be monoidal (cartesian).

**$V$ -category**  $C(a, b) \in V$

**$V$ -functor**  $F_{ab}: C(a, b) \rightarrow D(F(a), F(b)) \in V$

**$V$ -transformation**  $\alpha_a: 1_V \rightarrow D(F(a), G(a)) \in V$

These form the 2-category  $VCat$ .

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

$V$ -theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

# Our enriching category

Let  $V$  be a cartesian closed category:

$$V(a \times b, c) \cong V(a, [b, c]).$$

Then  $\underline{V} \in \mathbf{VCat}$ .

Let  $V \in \mathbf{CCC}_{fc(1)}$ , meaning assume and choose:

$$n_V := \sum_n 1_V.$$

Let  $N_V := \{n_V | n \in \mathbb{N}\} \subset_{full} V$

and  $A_V := \underline{N}_V^{\text{op}}$  – our “arities”.

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

The **V-product** of  $(a_i) \in \mathbf{C}$  is an object  $\prod_i a_i \in \mathbf{C}$  equipped with a V-natural isomorphism

$$\mathbf{C}(-, \prod_i a_i) \cong \prod_i \mathbf{C}(-, a_i).$$

A V-functor  $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$  **preserves** V-products if the “projections” induce a V-natural isomorphism:

$$\mathbf{D}(-, F(\prod_i a_i)) \cong \prod_i \mathbf{D}(-, F(a_i)).$$

Let  $\mathbf{VCat}_{fp}$  be the 2-category of V-categories with finite V-products and V-functors preserving them.

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

## Definition

A **V-theory** is a V-category  $T \in \mathbf{VCat}_{fp}$  equipped with:

$$\tau: A_V \rightarrow T$$

i.e., whose objects are finite V-products of  $t := \tau(1_V)$ .

The 2-category of V-theories is  $\mathbf{VLaw} := A_V \downarrow \mathbf{VCat}_{fp}$ .

If  $V$  is *complete*, then  $\mathbf{VLaw} \in \mathbf{VCat}$ .

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base



## Definition

A **context** is a  $V$ -category  $C \in \mathbf{VCat}_{fp}$ .

A **model** of  $T$  is a  $V$ -functor

$$\mu: T \rightarrow C \in \mathbf{VCat}_{fp}.$$

The 2-category of models is  $\mathbf{Mod}(T, C) := \mathbf{VCat}_{fp}(T, C)$ .

If  $V$  is *complete*, then  $\mathbf{Mod}(T, C) \in \mathbf{VCat}$ .

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

**V-theories**

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

# Example: cartesian object

$\text{Th}(\text{Cart})$

type	$X$	cartesian object
<b>operations</b>	$m: X^2 \rightarrow X$ $e: 1 \rightarrow X$	product terminal element
<b>rewrites</b>	$\Delta: \text{id}_X \Rightarrow m \circ \Delta_X$ $\pi: \Delta_X \circ m \Rightarrow \text{id}_{X^2}$ $\top: \text{id}_X \Rightarrow e \circ !_X$ $\epsilon: !_X \circ e \Rightarrow \text{id}_1$	unit of $m \vdash \Delta_X$ counit of $m \vdash \Delta_X$ unit of $e \vdash !_X$ counit of $e \vdash !_X$
<b>equations</b>		triangle identities

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

# Change of base

Enriched Lawvere  
Theories  
for Operational  
Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

Let  $F: V \rightarrow W$  preserve finite products, and  $C \in \mathbf{VCat}$ .

Then  $F$  induces a **change of base**:

$$F_*(C)(a, b) := F(C(a, b)).$$

This gives a 2-functor

$$F_*: \mathbf{VCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{WCat}.$$

Enrichment provides semantics, so change of base should *preserve* theories to be a *change of semantics*.

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

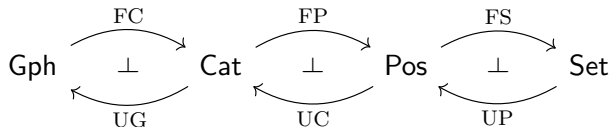
applications

combinators

change of base

# Change of semantics

There is a “spectrum” of semantics:



- $\text{FC}_*$  maps small-step to big-step operational semantics.
- $\text{FP}_*$  maps big-step to full-step operational semantics.
- $\text{FS}_*$  maps full-step to denotational semantics.

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

## Theorem

Let  $F: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W} \in \text{CCC}_{fc(1)}$ .

Then  $F$  is a **change of semantics**:

$F_*$  preserves theories. For every  $\mathcal{V}$ -theory  $\tau_{\mathcal{V}}: A_{\mathcal{V}} \rightarrow T$ ,

$$\tau_{\mathcal{W}} := A_{\mathcal{W}} \xrightarrow{\sim} F_*(A_{\mathcal{V}}) \xrightarrow{F_*(\tau_{\mathcal{V}})} F_*(T) \quad \text{is a } \mathcal{W}\text{-theory.}$$

$F_*$  preserves models. For every model  $\mu: T \rightarrow C$ ,

$$F_*(\mu): F_*(T) \rightarrow F_*(C) \quad \text{is a model of } (F_*(T), \tau_{\mathcal{W}}).$$

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

The  $\lambda$  calculus:

$$M, N := x \mid (M \ N) \mid \lambda x.M$$

$$\beta: (\lambda x.M \ N) \Rightarrow M[N/x].$$

Variable binding is subtle:

$$(\lambda x.(\lambda y.(x \ y)) \ y) \Rightarrow ?$$

Translate to *combinators*:

$$[[ - ]]: \Lambda \rightarrow \{\text{SKI}\}.$$

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

# The theory of SKI

Enriched Lawvere  
Theories  
for Operational  
Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

theories

Lawvere theories  
enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories  
enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories  
examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators  
change of base

Th(SKI)

**type**  $t$

**terms**  $S:$   $1 \rightarrow t$   
 $K:$   $1 \rightarrow t$   
 $I:$   $1 \rightarrow t$   
 $(- -):$   $t^2 \rightarrow t$

**rewrites**  $\sigma:$   $((S a) b) c \Rightarrow ((a c) (b c))$   
 $\kappa:$   $((K a) b) \Rightarrow a$   
 $\iota:$   $(I a) \Rightarrow a$

# A model of Th(SKI)

Enriched Lawvere  
Theories  
for Operational  
Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

A Gph-product preserving Gph-functor  $\mu: \text{Th}(\text{SKI}) \rightarrow \text{Gph}$  yields a graph  $\mu(t)$  of SKI-terms:

$$1 \cong \mu(1) \xrightarrow{\mu(S)} \mu(t) \xleftarrow{\mu((- -))} \mu(t^2) \cong \mu(t)^2.$$

The rewrites are transferred by the enrichment of  $\mu$ :

$$\mu_{1,t}: \text{Th}(\text{SKI})(1, t) \rightarrow \text{Gph}(1, \mu(t)).$$

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base



# The free model of SKI

Enriched Lawvere  
Theories  
for Operational  
Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

The syntax and semantics of the SKI combinator calculus are given by the free model

$$\mu_{SKI}^{\text{Gph}} := \text{Th}(SKI)(1, -): \text{Th}(SKI) \rightarrow \text{Gph}.$$

The graph  $\mu_{SKI}^{\text{Gph}}(t)$  is the *transition system* which represents the **small-step operational semantics** of the SKI-calculus:

$$(\mu(a) \rightarrow \mu(b) \in \mu_{SKI}^{\text{Gph}}(t)) \iff (a \Rightarrow b \in \text{Th}(SKI)(1, t)).$$

theories

Lawvere theories  
enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories  
enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories  
examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators  
change of base

# Change of semantics

The *free category* functor  $FC: \mathbf{Gph} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$  preserves products, and hence induces a change-of-semantics from *small-step* to *big-step* operational semantics:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & (((S\ K)\ (I\ K))\ S) & & \\
 & \swarrow \ell & & \searrow \sigma & \\
 (((S\ K)\ K)\ S) & & & & ((K\ S)\ ((I\ K)\ S)) \\
 \downarrow \sigma & \swarrow \ell\sigma & \swarrow \sigma\ell & \searrow \kappa\sigma & \downarrow \kappa \\
 ((K\ S)\ (K\ S)) & \swarrow \ell & \swarrow \kappa\ell\sigma & \searrow \kappa\sigma\ell & S.
 \end{array}$$

$\xrightarrow{\kappa}$

We can further consider translating to “full-step” semantics by  $FP: \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ , and finally to denotational semantics by  $FS: \mathbf{Pos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ .

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base

## Th(CCS)

<b>types</b>	$P$ $N$ $\overline{N}$	processes actions coactions
<b>operations</b>	$0: 1 \rightarrow P$ $\tau: 1 \rightarrow P$ $ : P^2 \rightarrow P$ $+: P^2 \rightarrow P$ $\cdot: N \times P \rightarrow P$ $\bar{\cdot}: \overline{N} \times P \rightarrow P$	nullity internal action parallel choice input output
<b>congruence</b>	$(P,  , 0)$ $(P, +, 0)$	comm. monoid comm. monoid
<b>rewrites</b>	$(\tau.P \xrightarrow{\text{tau}} P)$ $(P' + a.P   \bar{a}.Q \xrightarrow{\text{react}} P   Q)$	internal action interaction

theories

Lawvere theories  
enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories  
enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories  
examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators  
change of base

# Conclusion

Enriched Lawvere theories provide a framework for unifying the structure and behavior of formal languages. Enriching theories in category-like structures reifies operational semantics by incorporating rewrites between terms, and cartesian functors between enriching categories induce change-of-semantics functors between categories of models.

This paper builds on the ideas of Mike Stay and Greg Meredith presented in “Representing operational semantics with enriched Lawvere theories” [?]. We appreciate their offer to let us develop this work further for use in the innovative distributed computing system RChain, and gratefully acknowledge the support of Pyroflex Corporation.

theories

Lawvere theories  
enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories  
enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories  
examples

change of  
semantics

change of base  
preserving theories

applications

combinators  
change of base

# References

Enriched Lawvere  
Theories  
for Operational  
Semantics

John C. Baez  
Christian Williams

theories

Lawvere theories

enriched theories

enrichment

enriched categories

enriched products

enriched theories

V-theories

examples

change of  
semantics

change of base

preserving theories

applications

combinators

change of base