

ENRICHED LAWVERE THEORIES FOR OPERATIONAL SEMANTICS

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April 28, 2019

ABSTRACT. Enriched Lawvere theories are a generalization of Lawvere theories that allow us to describe operational semantics for formal systems. For example, a graph-enriched Lawvere theory describes structures that have a *graph* of operations of each arity, where the vertices are operations and the edges are rewrites going between operations. Enriched theories can be used to equip systems with operational semantics, and maps between enriching categories can serve to translate between different forms of operational and denotational semantics. We use a definition of Lucyshyn-Wright which allows for theories to be parameterized by a monoidal subcategory of arities, and show that presentation of enriched Lawvere theories is simplified by restricting to natural number arities. We illustrate these ideas with the *SKI* combinator calculus, a variable-free version of the lambda calculus, presented as a graph-enriched theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

Formal systems are sometimes defined without intrinsic connection to how they actually operate in practice. Lawvere theories [15] are an excellent formalism for describing algebraic structures obeying equational laws, but they do not specify how to compute in such a structure, for example taking a complex expression and simplifying it using rewrite rules. Recall that a Lawvere theory is a category with finite products \mathbf{T} generated by a single object t , for “type”, and morphisms $t^n \rightarrow t$ representing n -ary operations, with commutative diagrams specifying equations. There is a theory for groups, a theory for rings, and so on. We can specify algebraic structures of a given kind in some category \mathbf{C} with finite products by a power-preserving functor $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$. This is a simple and elegant form of *denotational* semantics. However, Lawvere theories know nothing of *operational* semantics. Our goal here is to address this using “enriched” Lawvere theories.

$$(\lambda x.x + x \ 2) \xrightarrow{\beta} 2 + 2 \xrightarrow{+} 4$$

sorts	: generating object t	
term constructors	: generating morphisms $t^n \rightarrow t$	
structural congruence	: commuting diagrams	
* rewrite rules	: generating hom-edges	*

- **Graphs:** Gph-theories represent “small-step” operational semantics
— a hom-graph edge represents a *single term* rewrite.
- **Categories:** Cat-theories represent “big-step” operational semantics*
— composition generates morphisms representing *big-step* rewrites
(*Conventionally, a big-step rewrite is one resulting in a “normal form”, i.e. an expression which has been computed completely. We will use the term more generally.)
- **Posets:** Pos-theories represent “full-step” operational semantics:
— a hom-poset boolean represents the *existence* of a big-step rewrite.
- **Sets:** Set-theories represent denotational semantics:
— a hom-set element represents an *equivalence class* of the symmetric closure of the big-step relation.

In section §2, we review Lawvere theories as a more explicit, but equivalent, presentation of finitary monads. In §3, we recall the basics of enrichment, and especially the theory of powers. In §4 we give the central definition of \mathbf{V} -theory, from Lucyshyn-Wright [17], which allows us to parametrize our theory by a monoidal subcategory of arities.

In §5 we discuss how functors between enriching categories induce change-of-base 2-functors between their 2-categories of enriched categories, and in §6 we show that functors preserving finite products induce *change-of-semantics*: that is, they map theories to theories and models to models. Our main examples arise from this chain of adjunctions:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & \xrightarrow{\text{FC}} & & \xrightarrow{\text{FP}} & & \xrightarrow{\text{FS}} & \\
 \text{Gph} & \begin{array}{c} \perp \\ \hline \end{array} & \text{Cat} & \begin{array}{c} \perp \\ \hline \end{array} & \text{Pos} & \begin{array}{c} \perp \\ \hline \end{array} & \text{Set} \\
 & \xleftarrow{\text{UG}} & & \xleftarrow{\text{UC}} & & \xleftarrow{\text{UP}} &
 \end{array}$$

The right adjoints here automatically preserve finite products, but the left adjoints do as well, and these are more important in applications:

- Change of base along FC: $\text{Gph} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$ maps small-step operational semantics to big-step operational semantics.
- Change of base along FP: $\text{Cat} \rightarrow \text{Pos}$ maps big-step operational semantics to full-step operational semantics.
- Change of base along FS: $\text{Pos} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ maps full-step operational semantics to denotational semantics.

In §7 we show that models of all possible theories with all possible enrichments can be assimilated into one category using the Grothendieck construction. Finally, in §8 we bring all the strands together by demonstrating these concepts with the *SKI*-combinator calculus, introducing the idea of developing actual programming languages with enriched Lawvere theories.

Acknowledgements. This paper builds upon the ideas of Mike Stay and Greg Meredith presented in “Representing operational semantics with enriched Lawvere theories” [30]. 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.

2. LAWVERE THEORIES

Algebraic structures are traditionally treated as sets equipped with operations obeying equations, but we can generalize such structures to live in any category with finite products. For example, given any category \mathbf{C} with finite products, we can define a monoid internal to \mathbf{C} to consist of:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{an object} & M \\
 \text{an identity element} & e: 1 \rightarrow M \\
 \text{and multiplication} & m: M^2 \rightarrow M \\
 \text{obeying the associative law} & m \circ (m \times M) = m \circ (M \times m) \\
 \text{and the right and left unit laws} & m \circ (e \times \text{id}_M) = \text{id}_M = m \circ (\text{id}_M \times e).
 \end{array}$$

Lawvere theories formalize this idea. For example, there is a Lawvere theory $\text{Th}(\mathbf{Mon})$, the category with finite products freely generated by an object t equipped with an identity element $e: 1 \rightarrow t$ and multiplication $m: t^2 \rightarrow t$ obeying the associative law and unit laws listed above. This captures the “Platonic idea” of a monoid internal to a category with finite products. A monoid internal to \mathbf{C} then corresponds to a functor $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ that preserves finite products.

In more detail, let \mathbf{N} be any skeleton of the category of finite sets \mathbf{FinSet} . Because \mathbf{N} is the free category with finite coproducts on 1, \mathbf{N}^{op} is the free category with finite products on 1. A **Lawvere theory** is a category with finite products \mathbf{T} equipped with a functor $\tau: \mathbf{N}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ that is bijective on objects and preserves finite products. Thus, a Lawvere theory is essentially a category generated by

one object $\tau(1) = t$ and n -ary operations $t^n \rightarrow t$, as well as the projection and diagonal morphisms of finite products.

For efficiency let us call a functor that preserves finite products **cartesian**. Lawvere theories are the objects of a category **Law** whose morphisms are cartesian functors $f: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}'$ that obey $f\tau = \tau'$. More generally, for any category with finite products \mathbf{C} , a **model** of the Lawvere theory \mathbf{T} in \mathbf{C} is a cartesian functor $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$. The models of \mathbf{T} in \mathbf{C} are the objects of a category $\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$, in which the morphisms are natural transformations.

A theory can thus have models in many different contexts. For example, there is a Lawvere theory $\mathbf{Th}(\mathbf{Mon})$, the theory of monoids, described as above. Ordinary monoids are models of this theory in **Set**, while topological monoids are models of this theory in **Top**.

For completeness, it is worthwhile to mention the *presentation* of a Lawvere theory: after all, we are arguing their utility in everyday programming. How exactly does the above “sketch” of $\mathbf{Th}(\mathbf{Mon})$ produce a category with finite products? It is precisely analogous to the presentation of an algebra by generators and relations: we form the free category with finite products on the data given, and impose the required equations. The result is a category whose objects are powers of M , and whose morphisms are composites of products of the morphisms in $\mathbf{Th}(\mathbf{Mon})$, projections, deletions, symmetries and diagonals. A detailed account was given by Barr and Wells [4, Chap. 4]; for a more computer-science-oriented approach see Crole [9, Chap. 3].

Currently, monads are more widely used in computer science than Lawvere theories. However, Hyland and Power have suggested that Lawvere theories could do much of the work that monads do today [10]. In 1965, Linton [16] proved that Lawvere theories correspond to “finitary monads” on the category of sets. For every Lawvere theory \mathbf{T} , there is an adjunction:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \text{Set} & \xrightleftharpoons[\quad U \quad]{\quad} & \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Set}). \\ & \perp & \end{array}$$

The functor

$$U: \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Set}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

sends each model μ to its underlying set, $X = \mu(\tau(1))$. Its left adjoint, the free model functor

$$F: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Set}),$$

sends each finite set $n \in \mathbf{N}$ to the representable functor $\mathbf{T}(\tau(n), -): \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, and in general any set X to the colimit of all such representables as n ranges over the poset of finite subsets of X . In rough terms, $F(X)$ is the set of all possible n -ary operations from \mathbf{T} on the set X .

If we momentarily abbreviate $\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Set})$ as \mathbf{Mod} , we obtain an adjunction

$$\mathbf{Mod}(F(n), \mu) = \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}(\tau(n), -), \mu) \cong \mu(\tau(n)) \cong \mu(\tau(1))^n = \mathbf{Set}(n, U(\mu))$$

where the left isomorphism arises from the Yoneda lemma, and the right isomorphism from the product preservation of μ .

This adjunction induces a monad T on **Set**:

$$(1) \quad T(X) = \int^{n \in \mathbf{N}} X^n \times \mathbf{T}(n, 1).$$

The integral here is a coend, essentially a coproduct quotiented by the equations of the theory and the equations induced by the cartesian structure of the category. The monad constructed this way is always **finitary**: that is, it preserves filtered colimits [1].

Conversely, for a monad T on \mathbf{Set} , its Kleisli category $\mathbf{Kl}(T)$ is the category of all free algebras of the monad, which has all coproducts. There is a functor $k: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kl}(T)$ that is the identity on objects and preserves coproducts (because it is a right adjoint). Thus,

$$k^{\text{op}}: \mathbf{Set}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Kl}(T)^{\text{op}}$$

is a cartesian functor, and restricting its domain to \mathbf{N}^{op} is a Lawvere theory. When T is finitary, the monad arising from this Lawvere theory is naturally isomorphic to T itself. For more details see [4, 15, 21].

This correspondence sets up an equivalence between the category \mathbf{Law} of Lawvere theories and the category of finitary monads on \mathbf{Set} . There is also an equivalence of between the category $\mathbf{Mod}(T)$ of models of any given Lawvere theory and the category of algebra of the corresponding finitary monad T . Furthermore, all this generalizes with \mathbf{Set} replaced by any “locally finitely presentable” category [1].

3. ENRICHMENT

To allow more general semantics, we now turn to Lawvere theories that have hom-*objects* rather than mere hom-*sets*. To do this we use enriched category theory [12] and replace sets with objects of a cartesian closed category \mathbf{V} , called the “enriching” category or “base”. A \mathbf{V} -enriched category or **V-category** \mathbf{C} is:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a collection of objects} & \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \\ \text{a hom-object function} & \mathbf{C}(-, -): \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \times \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \text{Ob}(\mathbf{V}) \\ \text{composition morphisms} & \circ_{a,b,c}: \mathbf{C}(b, c) \times \mathbf{C}(a, b) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(a, c) \quad \forall a, b, c \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \\ \text{identity-assigning morphisms} & i_a: 1_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(a, a) \quad \forall a \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \end{array}$$

such that composition is associative and unital. A **V-functor** $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$ is:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{a function} & F: \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \text{Ob}(\mathbf{D}) \\ \text{a collection of morphisms} & F_{ab}: \mathbf{C}(a, b) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(F(a), F(b)) \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbf{C} \end{array}$$

such that F is compatible with composition and identity. A **V-natural transformation** $\alpha: F \Rightarrow G$ is:

$$\text{a family} \quad \alpha_a: 1_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(F(a), G(a)) \quad \forall a \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$$

such that α is “natural” in a . There is a 2-category \mathbf{VCat} of \mathbf{V} -categories, \mathbf{V} -functors, and \mathbf{V} -natural transformations.

We can construct new \mathbf{V} -categories from old by taking products and opposites in an obvious way. There is also a \mathbf{V} -category denoted $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$ with the same objects as \mathbf{V} and with hom-objects given by the internal hom:

$$\underline{\mathbf{V}}(v, w) = w^v \quad \forall v, w \in \mathbf{V}.$$

The concepts of adjunction and monad generalize straightforwardly to \mathbf{V} -categories, and when we speak of an adjunction or monad in the enriched context this generalization is what we mean [12]. For example, there is an adjunction

$$\underline{\mathbf{V}}(u \times v, w) \cong \underline{\mathbf{V}}(u, w^v)$$

called “currying”; its counit is “evaluation”.

We can generalize products and coproducts to the enriched context. Given a \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} , a **V-product** of an n -tuple of objects $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ is an object b equipped with \mathbf{V} -natural

isomorphism

$$(2) \quad \mathbf{C}(-, b) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbf{C}(-, b_i).$$

If such an object b exists, we denote it by $\prod_{i=1}^n b_i$. This makes sense even when $n = 0$: a 0-ary product in \mathbf{C} is called a **V-terminal object** and denoted as $1_{\mathbf{C}}$.

Whenever \mathbf{V} is cartesian closed, the finite products in \mathbf{V} are also \mathbf{V} -products in $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$; this mainly amounts to saying

$$(u \times v)^w \cong u^w \times v^w \quad \text{and} \quad 1_{\mathbf{V}}^w \cong 1_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Conversely, any finite \mathbf{V} -product in \mathbf{V} is also a product in the usual sense. In a general \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} , it makes no sense to say a \mathbf{V} -product is a product in the usual sense. However, the \mathbf{V} -natural isomorphism in Eq. (2) gives rise to a morphism

$$\pi_i : 1_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(b, b_i)$$

for each i , defined as the composite

$$1_{\mathbf{V}} \xrightarrow{i_a} \mathbf{C}(b, b) \xrightarrow{\sim} \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbf{C}(b, b_i) \longrightarrow \mathbf{C}(b, b_i).$$

These morphisms π_i serve as substitutes for the projections from b to b_i . They are “elements” of the hom-objects $\mathbf{C}(b, b_i)$, where an **element** of $v \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{V})$ is a morphism from $1_{\mathbf{V}}$ to v . Elements of hom-objects behave much like morphisms for \mathbf{C} . For example, we can define a morphism

$$p_i : \mathbf{C}(a, b) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(a, b_i),$$

which acts like composition with π_i , as follows:

$$\mathbf{C}(a, b) \xrightarrow{\sim} 1_{\mathbf{V}} \times \mathbf{C}(a, b) \xrightarrow{\pi_i \times 1} \mathbf{C}(b, b_i) \times \mathbf{C}(a, b) \xrightarrow{\circ_{a, b, b_i}} \mathbf{C}(a, b_i).$$

This morphism is \mathbf{V} -natural in a , and the isomorphism in Eq. (2) has components given by the morphisms p_i .

Similarly, the **V-coproduct** of $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ is an object b equipped with a \mathbf{V} -natural isomorphism

$$\mathbf{C}(b, -) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbf{C}(b_i, -).$$

If such an object exists, we denote it by $\sum_{i=1}^n b_i$. When $n = 0$ we call this a **V-initial object** $0_{\mathbf{C}}$. When \mathbf{V} is cartesian closed, any finite coproduct that exists in \mathbf{V} is also a \mathbf{V} -coproduct in $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$; this mainly amounts to saying

$$u^{v+w} \cong u^v \times u^w \quad \text{and} \quad 0^w \cong 1_{\mathbf{V}}$$

whenever 0 is an initial object of \mathbf{V} . Conversely, any finite \mathbf{V} -coproduct that exists in \mathbf{V} is also a coproduct in the usual sense.

We say that a \mathbf{V} -functor $F : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$ **preserves** \mathbf{V} -products if for every $b = \prod_{i=1}^n b_i$ in \mathbf{C} , the \mathbf{V} -natural transformations

$$F(\pi_i \circ -) : \mathbf{D}(-, F(b)) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(-, F(b_i))$$

are the components of a \mathbf{V} -natural isomorphism

$$\mathbf{D}(-, F(b)) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbf{D}(-, F(b_i)),$$

and similarly for \mathbf{V} -coproducts.

A bit more subtly, generalizing the product and internal hom of \mathbf{V} , a \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} can have “tensors” and “powers” (which are sometimes called “copowers” and “cotensors”). Given $a \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ and $v \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{V})$, we say an object $v \cdot a \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ is the **tensor** of a by v if it is equipped with isomorphisms

$$\mathbf{C}(v \cdot a, b) \cong \mathbf{C}(a, b)^v$$

\mathbf{V} -natural in b . In the special case $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Set}$ this forces $v \cdot a$ to be the v -fold coproduct of copies of a :

$$v \cdot a = \sum_{i \in v} a.$$

Similarly, given $b \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ and $v \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{V})$, we say an object $b^v \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ is a **power** of b by v if it is equipped with isomorphisms

$$\mathbf{C}(a, b^v) \cong \mathbf{C}(a, b)^v$$

\mathbf{V} -natural in a . In the special case $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Set}$ this forces b^v to be the v -fold product of copies of b :

$$b^v = \prod_{i \in v} b.$$

When all objects of \mathbf{C} have both tensors and powers by some object $v \in \mathbf{V}$, we have isomorphisms

$$\mathbf{C}(v \cdot a, b) \cong \mathbf{C}(a, b)^v \cong \mathbf{C}(a, b^v)$$

that are \mathbf{V} -natural in a and b . When \mathbf{V} is cartesian closed and $\mathbf{C} = \overline{\mathbf{V}}$ this holds for all $v \in \mathbf{V}$, since we can take $v \cdot a$ to be the product in \mathbf{V} and take b^v to be the exponential.

There are just a few more technicalities. A category is **locally finitely presentable** if it is the category of models for a finite limits theory, and an object is **finite** if its representable functor is **finitary**: that is, it preserves filtered colimits [1]. A \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} is **locally finitely presentable** if its underlying category \mathbf{C}_0 is locally finitely presentable, \mathbf{C} has finite powers, and $(-)^x : \mathbf{C}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_0$ is finitary for all finitely presentable x . The details are not crucial here: all categories to be considered are locally finitely presentable. We will use \mathbf{V}_f to denote the full subcategory of \mathbf{V} of finite objects: in \mathbf{Gph} , these are simply graphs with finitely many vertices and edges.

4. ENRICHED LAWVERE THEORIES

Power introduced the notion of enriched Lawvere theory about twenty years ago, “in seeking a general account of what have been called notions of computation” [25]. The original definition is as follows: for a symmetric monoidal closed category $(\mathbf{V}, \otimes, 1)$, a “ \mathbf{V} -enriched Lawvere theory” is a \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{T} that has powers by objects in \mathbf{V}_f , equipped with an identity-on-objects \mathbf{V} -functor

$$\tau : \underline{\mathbf{V}}_f^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$$

that preserves these powers. A “model” of a \mathbf{V} -theory is a \mathbf{V} -functor $\mu : \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$ that preserves powers by finite objects of \mathbf{V} . There is a category $\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V})$ whose objects are models and whose morphisms are \mathbf{V} -natural transformations. The monadic adjunction and equivalence of §2 generalize to this context.

However, this sort of \mathbf{V} -enriched Lawvere theory has arities for every finite object of \mathbf{V} . These *generalized arities* may be very powerful—rather than only inputting n -tuples of terms, we can input any finite object of terms. Despite its potential, this generalization remains largely unexploited in computer science. Power [13] introduced “enriched sketches” as a way of presenting enriched Lawvere theories, and “monads with arities” have been explored by Berger, Melliés and Weber [6], but they are not yet widely understood or used. What does it really mean for an operation to take

in a finite graph of terms? How can we learn to use this generality? We hope that someone answers these questions, so that we can use more general arities in computer programming.

In this paper, however, we only consider *natural number* arities, while still retaining enrichment. To do this we use the work of Lucyshyn-Wright [17], who along with Power [23] has generalized Power's original ideas to allow a more flexible choice of arities. We also limit ourselves to the case where the tensor product of \mathbf{V} is cartesian. This has a significant simplifying effect, yet it suffices for many cases of interest in computer science.

Thus, in all that follows, we let $(\mathbf{V}, \times, 1_{\mathbf{V}})$ be a cartesian closed category equipped with chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object $1_{\mathbf{V}}$, say

$$n_{\mathbf{V}} = \sum_{i \in n} 1_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Define $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ to be the full subcategory of \mathbf{V} containing just these objects $n_{\mathbf{V}}$. There is also a \mathbf{V} -category $\underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}}$ whose objects are those of $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ and whose hom-objects are given as in \mathbf{V} . We define the \mathbf{V} -category of **arities** for \mathbf{V} to be

$$\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} := \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}}^{\text{op}}.$$

We shall soon see that $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}$ has finite \mathbf{V} -products.

Definition 1. We define a **V-theory** (\mathbf{T}, τ) to be a \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{T} equipped with a \mathbf{V} -functor

$$\tau: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$$

that is bijective on objects and preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products.

Definition 2. A **model** of \mathbf{T} in a \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} is a \mathbf{V} -functor

$$\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$$

that preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products.

Just as all the objects of a Lawvere theory are finite products of a single object, we shall see that all the objects of \mathbf{T} are finite \mathbf{V} -products of the object

$$t = \tau(1_{\mathbf{V}}).$$

Definition 3. For every \mathbf{V} -theory (\mathbf{T}, τ) and every \mathbf{V} -category \mathbf{C} with finite \mathbf{V} -products, we define the **category of models** of (\mathbf{T}, τ) in \mathbf{C} , $\text{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$, to consist of \mathbf{V} -functors $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ that preserve finite \mathbf{V} -products and \mathbf{V} -natural transformations between these.

Definition 4. We define the **category of V-theories**, $\mathbf{V}\text{Law}$, to be the category for which an object is a \mathbf{V} -theory and a morphism from (\mathbf{T}, τ) to (\mathbf{T}', τ') is a \mathbf{V} -functor $f: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}'$ that preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products and has $f\tau = \tau'$.

The basic monadicity results for Lawvere theories generalize to \mathbf{V} -theories when \mathbf{V} is complete and cocomplete, as in the main examples we consider: $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Gph}, \mathbf{Cat}, \mathbf{Pos}$, and \mathbf{Set} . Under this extra assumption we shall see that $\text{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$ naturally becomes a \mathbf{V} -category $\underline{\text{Mod}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$. Furthermore, there is a \mathbf{V} -functor

$$U: \underline{\text{Mod}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}) \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$$

sending any model $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$ to its underlying object $\mu(t) \in \mathbf{V}$. Recall that monads and adjunctions make sense in \mathbf{VCat} , just as they do in \mathbf{Cat} . The \mathbf{V} -functor U has a left adjoint

$$F: \underline{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Mod}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}),$$

and $\underline{\text{Mod}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V})$ is equivalent to the \mathbf{V} -category of algebras of the resulting monad $T = UF$. More precisely:

Theorem 5. Suppose \mathbf{V} is cartesian closed, complete and cocomplete, and has chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object. Let (\mathbf{T}, τ) be a \mathbf{V} -theory. Then there is a monadic adjunction

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \mathbf{V} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}) \\ & U & \end{array} \quad \perp$$

Proof. This follows from Lucyshyn-Wright’s general theory [17], so our task is to explain how. He allows \mathbf{V} to be a symmetric monoidal category, and uses a more general concept of algebraic theory with a system of arities given by any fully faithful symmetric monoidal \mathbf{V} -functor $j: \mathbf{J} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$. For us $\mathbf{J} = \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}}$ and $j: \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ is the obvious inclusion; this is his Example 3.7.

Lucyshyn-Wright defines a **J-theory** to be a \mathbf{V} -functor $\tau: \mathbf{J}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ that is the identity on objects and preserves powers by objects in \mathbf{J} (or more precisely, their images under j). For us $\mathbf{J}^{\text{op}} = \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}$. We are only demanding that $\tau: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ be bijective on objects, but we can make it the identity on objects simply by renaming the objects of \mathbf{T} . So, to apply his theory, we need to show that a \mathbf{V} -functor $\tau: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ preserves powers by objects in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ if and only if it preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products. This is Lemma 12 below.

He defines a model (or “algebra”) of a \mathbf{J} -theory to be a \mathbf{V} -functor $\tau: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ that preserves powers by objects in \mathbf{J} . He defines a morphism of models to be a \mathbf{V} -natural transformation between such \mathbf{V} -functors. So, to apply his theory, we also need to show that when $\mathbf{J} = \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}}$, a \mathbf{V} -functor $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ preserves powers by objects of \mathbf{J} if and only if it preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products. This is Lemma 13 below.

A technical concept fundamental to Lucyshyn-Wright’s theory is that of an **eleutheric** system of arities $j: \mathbf{J} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$. This is one where the left Kan extension of any \mathbf{V} -functor $T: \mathbf{J} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ along j exists and is preserved by each \mathbf{V} -functor $\underline{\mathbf{V}}(x, -): \underline{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$. In Example 7.5.5 he shows that $j: \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ is eleutheric when \mathbf{V} is countably cocomplete. In Thm. 8.9 shows that when $j: \mathbf{J} \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$ is eleutheric, and has equalizers, we may form the \mathbf{V} -category $\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V})$, and that the forgetful \mathbf{V} -functor

$$U: \mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}) \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{V}}$$

is monadic. This is the result we need. So, our theorem actually holds whenever \mathbf{V} is cartesian closed, with equalizers and countable colimits, and has chosen finite coproducts of the initial object. \square

Before proving the required lemmas, a word about Lucyshyn-Wright’s construction of the left adjoint F and the monad T is in order. These rely on the “free model” on an object $n_{\mathbf{V}} \in \mathbf{V}$. This is the enriched generalization of the free model described in Section 2: it is the composite of $\tau^{\text{op}}: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}^{\text{op}}$ with the enriched Yoneda embedding $y: \mathbf{T}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow [\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}]$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}^{\text{op}} & \xrightarrow{\tau^{\text{op}}} & \mathbf{T}^{\text{op}} & \xrightarrow{y} & [\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}] \\ n_{\mathbf{V}} & \mapsto & t^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} & \mapsto & \mathbf{T}(t^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}, -) \end{array}$$

Since an object of \mathbf{V} does not necessarily have a “poset of finite subobjects” over which to take a filtered colimit (as in **Set**), the extension of this “free model” functor $y\tau^{\text{op}}$ to all of \mathbf{V} is specified

by a somewhat higher-powered generalization: it is the left Kan extension of $y\tau$ along j .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{N}_V & \xrightarrow{y\tau^{\text{op}}} & [\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}] \\ & \searrow j & \downarrow \eta \\ & & \mathbf{V} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \nearrow F := \text{Lan}_j y\tau \end{array}$$

This is the universal “best solution” to the problem of making the triangle commute up to a \mathbf{V} -natural transformation. That is, for any functor $G: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow [\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V}]$ and \mathbf{V} -natural transformation $\theta: y\tau \Rightarrow Gj$, the latter factors uniquely through η . From the adjunction between \mathbf{V} and the category of models $\text{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{V})$ we obtain a \mathbf{V} -enriched monad

$$T = UF: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{V},$$

and this has a more concrete formula as an enriched coend:

$$T(V) = \int^{n_V \in \mathbf{N}_V} V^{n_V} \times \mathbf{T}(t^{n_V}, t)$$

Example 6. When $\mathbf{V} = \text{Cat}$, a \mathbf{V} -category is a 2-category, so a \mathbf{V} -theory deserves to be called a **2-theory**. For example, let $\mathbf{T} = \text{Th}(\text{PsMon})$ be the 2-theory of pseudomonoids [14]. A pseudomonoid is a weakened version of a monoid: rather than associativity and unitality *equations*, it has 2-isomorphisms called the associator and unitors, which we can treat as *rewrite rules*. To equate various possible rewrite sequences, these 2-isomorphisms must obey equations called “coherence laws”. Here is a presentation of the 2-theory for pseudomonoids:

Th(PsMon)

sorts	M	pseudomonoid
operations	$e: 1 \rightarrow M$ $m: M^2 \rightarrow M$	identity multiplication
rewrites	$\alpha: m \circ (m \times \text{id}_M) \xRightarrow{\sim} m \circ (\text{id}_M \times m)$ $\lambda: m \circ (e \times \text{id}_M) \xRightarrow{\sim} \text{id}_M$ $\rho: m \circ (\text{id}_M \times e) \xRightarrow{\sim} \text{id}_M$	associator left unitor right unitor
coherence laws		

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M^4 & \xrightarrow{1 \times 1 \times m} & M^3 \\ \downarrow m \times 1 \times 1 & \searrow 1 \times m \times 1 & \downarrow 1 \times m \\ & M^3 & \xrightarrow{1 \times m} M^2 \\ & \searrow \alpha \times 1 & \downarrow m \\ M^3 & \xrightarrow{m \times 1} & M^2 \\ \downarrow m \times 1 & \searrow \alpha & \downarrow m \\ M^2 & \xrightarrow{m} & M \end{array} \quad = \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M^4 & \xrightarrow{1 \times 1 \times m} & M^3 \\ \downarrow m \times 1 \times 1 & \searrow 1 \times m & \downarrow m \times 1 \\ & M^3 & \xrightarrow{1 \times m} M^2 \\ & \searrow m \times 1 & \downarrow m \\ M^3 & \xrightarrow{m \times 1} & M^2 \\ \downarrow m \times 1 & \searrow \alpha & \downarrow m \\ M^2 & \xrightarrow{m} & M \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& M^2 & \\
1 \times e \times 1 \swarrow & \xrightarrow{1 \times \lambda} & \searrow 1 \\
M^3 & \xrightarrow{1 \times m} & M^2 \\
m \times 1 \downarrow & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & \downarrow m \\
M^2 & \xrightarrow{m} & M
\end{array}
=
\begin{array}{ccc}
& M^2 & \\
1 \times e \times 1 \swarrow & & \searrow 1 \\
M^3 & \xrightarrow{\rho \times 1} & M^2 \\
m \times 1 \downarrow & & \downarrow m \\
M^2 & \xrightarrow{m} & M
\end{array}$$

The top diagram expresses the pentagon identity for the associator, while the bottom one expresses the usual coherence law involving the left and right unitors.

Models of $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{Th}(\mathbf{PsMon})$ in \mathbf{Cat} are monoidal categories. A \mathbf{Cat} -enriched monad is called a 2-monad, and \mathbf{T} gives rise to the “free monoidal category” 2-monad on \mathbf{Cat} [7]. Let us explore this example in more detail. A model of \mathbf{T} is a finite-product-preserving 2-functor $\mu: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$, which sends

$$\begin{array}{ll}
t & \mapsto \mathbf{C} \\
m & \mapsto \otimes: \mathbf{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \\
e & \mapsto I: 1 \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \\
\alpha & \mapsto a: \otimes \circ (\otimes \times 1_{\mathbf{C}}) \Rightarrow \otimes \circ (1_{\mathbf{C}} \times \otimes) \\
\lambda & \mapsto \ell: I \circ 1_{\mathbf{C}} \Rightarrow 1_{\mathbf{C}} \\
\rho & \mapsto r: 1_{\mathbf{C}} \circ I \Rightarrow 1_{\mathbf{C}}
\end{array}$$

such that the coherence laws of the rewrites are preserved. Thus, a model is a category equipped with a tensor product \otimes and unit object I such that these operations are unital and associative up to natural isomorphism; so these models are precisely monoidal categories. In this way, 2-theories generalize equipping *set*-like objects with operations obeying equations to equipping *category*-like objects with operations obeying equations up to transformations that obey certain equations of their own.

To form the free model on a category $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbf{Cat}$, we follow the above method: the formula for left Kan extension (writing n instead of $n_{\mathbf{Cat}}$ for simplicity) gives $F(\mathbf{C}): \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$ by

$$F(\mathbf{C}) = \int^{n \in \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{Cat}}} \mathbf{T}(t^n, t^{(-)}) \times \mathbf{C}^n$$

which is constructed by pairing n -ary morphisms in \mathbf{T} with n -tuples of objects in \mathbf{C} for all $n \in \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{Cat}}$, then quotienting the coproduct of these pairs by the equations of \mathbf{T} and \mathbf{C} .

This functor is not very intuitive, but composing with the left adjoint, i.e., evaluating $F(\mathbf{C})$ at 1, gives the *free monoidal category* on \mathbf{C} : in the same way that the (underlying set of the) free monoid on a set X consists of all finite strings of elements of X , $F(\mathbf{C})(1)$ consists of all finite tensors of objects and morphisms of \mathbf{C} , and all composites of these morphisms, up to the relations induced by the (composites and tensors of the) images of the associator and unitors.

In general for each $m \in \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{Cat}}$, $F(\mathbf{C})(m)$ gives the category of all m -tuples of elements of $F(\mathbf{C})(1)$, forming the “free monoidal category on \mathbf{C} with m variables”. Finally, an algebra of the monad

$$T = UF: \mathbf{C} \mapsto \int^n \mathbf{C}^n \times \mathbf{T}(n, 1)$$

is a category A equipped with a functor $\otimes_A: F(A)(1) \rightarrow A$ such that it is compatible with the multiplication and unit of the monad, which are the “free” tensor bifunctor and monoidal unit on A . Hence, (A, \otimes_A, I_A) is precisely a monoidal category, and we have the equivalence:

$$\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{Cat}) \simeq \mathbf{Alg}(T).$$

Example 7. Enrichment generalizes operations in more ways than by weakening equations to coherent relations. By enriching in $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Cat}$, \mathbf{V} -theories are, in particular, 2-categories. Hence we can consider operations which are characterized by 2-categorical properties, such as adjunction. The structure of a category \mathbf{C} having chosen finite products is given by a right adjoint \prod to the diagonal $\Delta_{\mathbf{C}}: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{C}$. Similarly, a category is equipped with chosen finite coproducts by a left adjoint to the diagonal.

So for example, there is a \mathbf{Cat} -theory of *distributive categories*, categories equipped with finite products and coproducts, such that the former distribute over the latter. Indeed, by the internalization philosophy of algebraic theories, this generalizes the notion of distributive category to a “distributive object” in any 2-category with finite products. Every structure of this kind – duoidal categories, linearly distributive categories, rig categories etc. – can be expressed as 2-theories. This gives a systematic formalization of these categories, internalizes them to new contexts, and allows for the generation of 2-monads which encapsulate them.

Th(DistObj)**sort**

D distributive object

products

$\sqcap: D^2 \rightarrow D$ product
 $\triangle: id_D \Rightarrow \sqcap \Delta_D$ diagonal
 $\pi: \Delta_D \sqcap \Rightarrow id_{D^2}$ projection
 $(\triangle, \pi): \sqcap \vdash \Delta_D$ universality

$*$: $1 \rightarrow D$ terminal element
 $\top: id_D \Rightarrow *!_D$ terminate
 $(\top, id_1): * \vdash !_D$ universality

coproducts

$\sqcup: D^2 \rightarrow D$ coproduct
 $\nabla: \sqcup \Delta_D \Rightarrow id_D$ folding
 $\iota: id_{D^2} \Rightarrow \Delta_D \sqcup$ inclusion
 $(\nabla, \iota): \Delta_D \vdash \sqcup$ universality

$\emptyset: 1 \rightarrow D$ initial element
 $\perp: !_D \emptyset \Rightarrow id_D$ initiate
 $(id_1, \perp): !_D \vdash \emptyset$ universality

$$\textbf{distributivity} \quad \delta: a \sqcap (b \sqcup c) \xRightarrow{\sim} (a \sqcap b) \sqcup (a \sqcap c)$$

In the 2-theory of distributive categories, there is a subtle distinction between the external product structure of the theory, and the internal product structure of the generating object – this is the *microcosm principle* at work [1]. Without the coproduct structure, this is the 2-theory of categories with finite products, also known as multisorted Lawvere theories, or algebraic theories. This serves as a testament to the power of the generalization from theories to enriched theories: the former is a category of models of the latter.

In fact, letting arities be finite categories, there are **Cat**-theories of categories with limits and colimits, and we can internalize this structure in any 2-category with products. However for the purposes of this paper, to establish and simplify these concepts, we focus on arities which are like the natural numbers, and justify the claim that “**V**-theories are simply **V**-categories with finite products”.

5. NATURAL NUMBER ARITIES

In this section we prove the lemmas required for Theorem 5 and our study of base change in Section 6. Throughout this section **V** is cartesian closed with chosen n -fold coproducts n_V of its terminal object. By $F: C \rightarrow D$ preserving finite **V**-products, we refer to the definition provided in §3, and assume that the **V**-natural isomorphisms $D(-, \prod_{i=1}^n F(b)) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n D(-, b)$, written $F(b)^n \cong F(b)^n$, are induced by the images of the projections $F(\pi_b)$.

We begin with a study of N_V , the full subcategory of **V** on the objects n_V . First we must resolve a potential ambiguity. On the one hand, for any object b of **V** we can form the exponential b^{n_V} . On the other hand, we can take the product of n copies of b , which we call b^n . Luckily these are the same, or at least naturally isomorphic:

Lemma 8. The functors $(-)^{n_V}: V \rightarrow V$ and $(-)^n: V \rightarrow V$ are naturally isomorphic.

Proof. If $a, b \in \mathbf{V}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{V}(a, b^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}) &\cong \mathbf{V}(a \times n_{\mathbf{V}}, b) && \text{hom-tensor adjunction} \\
&= \mathbf{V}(a \times (n \cdot 1_{\mathbf{V}}), b) && \text{definition of } n_{\mathbf{V}} \\
&\cong \mathbf{V}(n \cdot (a \times 1_{\mathbf{V}}), b) && \text{products distribute over coproducts} \\
&\cong \mathbf{V}(n \cdot a, b) && \text{unitality} \\
&\cong \mathbf{V}(a, b)^n && \text{definition of coproduct} \\
&\cong \mathbf{V}(a, b^n) && \text{definition of product.}
\end{aligned}$$

Each of these isomorphisms is natural in a and b , so by the Yoneda lemma $(-)^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} \cong (-)^n$. \square

We can now understand coproducts, products and exponentials in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$:

Lemma 9. If \mathbf{V} is any cartesian closed category with chosen coproducts of the initial object then $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ is cartesian closed, with finite coproducts. The unique initial object of $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ is $0_{\mathbf{V}}$. The binary coproducts in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ are unique, given by

$$m_{\mathbf{V}} + n_{\mathbf{V}} = (m + n)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

The unique terminal object of $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ is $1_{\mathbf{V}}$, and the binary products are unique, given by

$$m_{\mathbf{V}} \times n_{\mathbf{V}} = (mn)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Exponentials in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ are also unique, given by

$$m_{\mathbf{V}}^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} = (m^n)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Proof. In \mathbf{V} we know that $0_{\mathbf{V}}$ is an initial object and $1_{\mathbf{V}}$ is a terminal object, by definition. Since the subcategory $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ is skeletal $0_{\mathbf{V}}$ is the unique initial object and $1_{\mathbf{V}}$ is the unique terminal object in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$. Similarly, in \mathbf{V} we have defined $(m + n)_{\mathbf{V}}$ to be a coproduct of $m_{\mathbf{V}}$ and $n_{\mathbf{V}}$, so in $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ it is the unique such, and we can unambiguously write

$$m_{\mathbf{V}} + n_{\mathbf{V}} = (m + n)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Products distribute over coproducts in any cartesian closed category, so in \mathbf{V} we have

$$m_{\mathbf{V}} \times n_{\mathbf{V}} \cong (1_{\mathbf{V}} + \cdots + 1_{\mathbf{V}}) \times (1_{\mathbf{V}} + \cdots + 1_{\mathbf{V}}) \cong (mn)_{\mathbf{V}}$$

where in the second step we use the distributive law twice. It follows that $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ has finite products, and since this subcategory is skeletal they are unique, given by

$$m_{\mathbf{V}} \times n_{\mathbf{V}} = (mn)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

Finally, by Lemma 8 we have

$$m_{\mathbf{V}}^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} \cong m_{\mathbf{V}}^n \cong \prod_{i=1}^n m_{\mathbf{V}} \cong (m^n)_{\mathbf{V}}.$$

It follows that $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ has exponentials, and since this subcategory is skeletal they are unique, given by

$$m_{\mathbf{V}}^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} = (m^n)_{\mathbf{V}}. \quad \square$$

We warn the reader that $\text{hom}(m_{\mathbf{V}}, n_{\mathbf{V}})$ may not have n^m elements. It does in \mathbf{Gph} , \mathbf{Cat} , \mathbf{Pos} and of course \mathbf{Set} , but not in $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{Set}^k$, where $|\text{hom}(m_{\mathbf{V}}, n_{\mathbf{V}})| = n^{km}$. Richard Garner has shown us a simple argument showing that $|\text{hom}(1_{\mathbf{V}}, 2_{\mathbf{V}})|$ must be a power of 2 if it is finite. Namely, $2_{\mathbf{V}}$ is an internal Boolean algebra in \mathbf{V} , so its set of points must be a Boolean algebra in \mathbf{Set} , and thus its cardinality must be a power of 2 when finite. It should be possible to completely understand the structure of $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ as a category, but this would be a digression from our current mission.

Now suppose \mathbf{C} is a \mathbf{V} -category. The question arises whether the power of an object $c \in \mathbf{C}$ by $n_{\mathbf{V}}$ must also be the \mathbf{V} -product of n copies of c . The answer is yes:

Lemma 10. Let \mathbf{C} be a \mathbf{V} -category and $c \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$. Then the power $c^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}$ exists if and only if the n -fold \mathbf{V} -product c^n exists, in which case they are isomorphic.

Proof. If the power $c^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}$ exists, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}(a, c^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}) &\cong \mathbf{C}(a, c)^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} && \text{definition of powers} \\ &\cong \mathbf{C}(a, c)^n && \text{Lemma 8} \end{aligned}$$

Each of these isomorphisms is \mathbf{V} -natural in a , so $c^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}$ is the n -fold product of copies of c . Conversely, if the n -fold product c^n exists, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}(a, c^n) &\cong \mathbf{C}(a, c)^n && \text{definition of } \mathbf{V}\text{-products} \\ &\cong \mathbf{C}(a, c)^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} && \text{Lemma 8} \end{aligned}$$

and each of these isomorphisms is \mathbf{V} -natural in a , so c^n is the power of c by $n_{\mathbf{V}}$. \square

Lemma 11. Suppose \mathbf{C} is a \mathbf{V} -category such that every object is the n -fold \mathbf{V} -product c^n of some object c . Then a \mathbf{V} -functor $F: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$ preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products if and only if it preserves $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ -powers.

Proof. Suppose F preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products. Then for any object $b \in \text{Ob}(\mathbf{C})$ there are isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} F(b^{n_{\mathbf{V}}}) &\cong F(b^n) && \text{Lemma 10} \\ &\cong F(b)^n && \text{preservation of } \mathbf{V}\text{-products} \\ &\cong F(b)^{n_{\mathbf{V}}} && \text{Lemma 10} \end{aligned}$$

so F preserves $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ -powers. Conversely suppose F preserves $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ -powers. To show that F preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products it suffices to show it preserves the terminal object and binary products. For the former note that

$$\begin{aligned} F(1_{\mathbf{C}}) &\cong F(c^0) && \mathbf{V}\text{-terminal object is a 0-ary product} \\ &\cong F(c^{0_{\mathbf{V}}}) && \text{Lemma 10} \\ &\cong F(a)^{0_{\mathbf{V}}} && \text{preservation of } \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}\text{-powers} \\ &\cong F(a)^0 && \text{Lemma 10} \\ &\cong 1_{\mathbf{D}} && \mathbf{V}\text{-terminal object is a 0-ary product.} \end{aligned}$$

For the latter note that

$$\begin{aligned} F(c^m \times c^n) &\cong F(c^{m+n}) && \mathbf{V}\text{-products in } \mathbf{C} \\ &\cong F(c^{(m+n)_{\mathbf{V}}}) && \text{Lemma 10} \\ &\cong F(c)^{(m+n)_{\mathbf{V}}} && \text{preservation of } \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}\text{-powers} \\ &\cong F(c)^{m+n} && \text{Lemma 10} \\ &\cong F(c)^m \times F(c)^n && \text{definition of } m+n\text{-fold } \mathbf{V}\text{-product.} \end{aligned}$$

\square

Lemma 12. Let \mathbf{V} be cartesian closed with chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object and let \mathbf{T} be a \mathbf{V} -category. These conditions for a \mathbf{V} -functor $\tau: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$ are equivalent:

- (1) (\mathbf{T}, τ) is a \mathbf{V} -theory,
- (2) τ preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products,
- (3) τ preserves powers by objects of $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$.

Proof. Conditions 1 and 2 are equivalent by definition. Since $A_V = \underline{N}_V^{\text{op}}$, finite V -products in A_V are the same as finite V -coproducts in \underline{N}_V , which are the same as finite coproducts in N_V . Since every object in \underline{N}_V is a finite coproduct of copies of 1_V , Lemma 11 implies that conditions 2 and 3 are equivalent. \square

Lemma 13. Given a V -theory (T, τ) and a V -functor $\mu: T \rightarrow C$, the following conditions are equivalent:

- μ is a model of (T, τ) ,
- μ preserves finite V -products,
- μ preserves powers by objects of N_V .

Proof. Conditions 1 and 2 are equivalent by definition. Since τ is bijective on objects and preserves V -products each object of T is of the form t^n where $t = \tau(1_V)$. Thus, Lemma 11 implies that conditions 2 and 3 are equivalent. \square

6. CHANGE OF BASE

We now have the tools to formulate the main idea: a choice of enrichment for Lawvere theories corresponds to a choice of *semantics*, and changing enrichments corresponds to a *change of semantics*. We propose a general framework in which one can translate between different forms of semantics: small-step, big-step, full-step operational semantics, and denotational semantics.

Suppose that V and W are enriching categories of the sort we are considering: cartesian closed categories equipped with chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object. Suppose $F: V \rightarrow W$ preserves finite products. This induces a **change of base** functor $F_*: \mathbf{VCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{WCat}$ [8] which takes any V -category C and produces a W -category $F_*(C)$ with the same objects but with

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

for all objects a, b . Composition in $F_*(C)$ is defined by

$$F(C(b, c)) \times F(C(a, b)) \xrightarrow{\sim} F(C(b, c) \times C(a, b)) \xrightarrow{F(\circ_{a,b,c})} F(C(a, b)).$$

The identity-assigning morphisms are given by

$$1 \xrightarrow{\sim} F(1) \xrightarrow{F(i_a)} F(C(a, b)).$$

Moreover, if $f: C \rightarrow D \in \mathbf{VCat}$ is a V -functor, there is a W -functor $F_*(f): F_*(C) \rightarrow F_*(D)$ that on objects equals f and on hom-objects equals $F(f)$. If $\alpha: f \Rightarrow g$ is a V -natural transformation and $c \in \text{Ob}(C)$, then we define $F_*(\alpha)_c$ to be the composite

$$1 \xrightarrow{\sim} F(1) \xrightarrow{F(i_a)} F(C(a, b)).$$

Thus, change of base actually gives a 2-functor from the 2-category of V -categories, V -functors and V -natural transformations to the corresponding 2-category for W .

In fact, the change of base operation gives a 2-functor

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{MonCat} & \xrightarrow{(-)_*} & \mathbf{2Cat} \\ (F: V \rightarrow W) & \mapsto & (F_*: \mathbf{VCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{WCat}) \end{array}$$

In particular, if \mathbf{V} has not just finite coproducts of the terminal object, but all coproducts of this object, there is a map of adjunctions

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Set} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{-\cdot 1} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{\mathbf{V}(1,-)} \end{array} & \mathbf{V} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{Cat} & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{(-1)_*} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{(\mathbf{V}(1,-))_*} \end{array} & \mathbf{VCat}. \end{array}$$

Each set X is mapped to the X -indexed coproduct of the terminal object in \mathbf{V} and conversely each object v of \mathbf{V} is represented in Set by the hom-set from the unit to v . The latter induces the “underlying (Set -)category” change of base, which forgets the enrichment. The former induces the “free \mathbf{V} -enrichment” change of base, whereby ordinary Set -categories are converted to \mathbf{V} -categories, denoted $\mathbf{C} \mapsto \underline{\mathbf{C}}$. These form an adjunction, because 2-functors preserve adjunctions.

This is what we implicitly used in the definition of \mathbf{V} -theory: the arity category \mathbf{N} “sits inside” many enriching categories under various guises: as finite discrete graphs, categories, posets, etc. For each \mathbf{V} we define the arity subcategory $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{V}}$ to be the full subcategory of finite coproducts (copowers) of the unit object, and this remains essentially unchanged by the change-of-base to $\underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\mathbf{V}}$.

We now study how change of base affects theories and their models. In Theorem 14 we see that everything works as one would hope.

We want to know when the functor $F: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}$ induces a change of base $F_*: \mathbf{VCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{WCat}$ that “preserves enriched theories”. That is, given a \mathbf{V} -theory

$$\tau: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$$

we want to determine conditions for the base-changed functor

$$F_*(\tau): F_*(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}) \rightarrow F_*(\mathbf{T})$$

to induce a \mathbf{W} -theory in a canonical way. Recall that we require \mathbf{V} and \mathbf{W} to be cartesian closed, equipped with chosen finite coproducts of their terminal objects. We thus expect the following conditions to be sufficient: F should be cartesian, and it should preserve the chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object:

$$F(n_{\mathbf{V}}) = n_{\mathbf{W}}$$

for all n .

Given these conditions there is a \mathbf{W} -functor, in fact an isomorphism

$$\tilde{F}: \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{W}} \rightarrow F_*(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}).$$

On objects this maps $n_{\mathbf{W}}$ to $n_{\mathbf{V}}$, and on hom-objects it is simply the identity from

$$\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{W}}(m_{\mathbf{W}}, n_{\mathbf{W}}) = n_{\mathbf{W}}^{m_{\mathbf{W}}} = (n^m)_{\mathbf{W}}$$

to

$$F(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}(m_{\mathbf{V}}, n_{\mathbf{V}})) = F(n_{\mathbf{V}}^{m_{\mathbf{V}}}) = F((n^m)_{\mathbf{V}}) = (n^m)_{\mathbf{W}}$$

where we use Lemma 9 in these computations.

Using this we obtain a composite \mathbf{W} -functor

$$\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{W}} \xrightarrow{\tilde{F}} F_*(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{V}}) \xrightarrow{F_*(\tau)} F_*(\mathbf{T}).$$

This is a bijection on objects and preserves finite \mathbf{V} -products because each of the factors has these properties. It is thus a \mathbf{W} -theory.

Theorem 14. Let V, W be cartesian closed categories with chosen finite coproducts of their terminal objects, and let $F: V \rightarrow W$ be a cartesian functor that preserves these chosen coproducts. Then F preserves theories: that is, for every V -theory $\tau_V: A_V \rightarrow T$, the W -functor

$$\tau_W := F_*(\tau_V) \circ \tilde{F}: A_W \rightarrow F_*(T)$$

is a W -theory. Moreover, F preserves models: for every model $\mu: T \rightarrow C$ of (T, τ_V) , the W -functor $F_*(\mu): F_*(T) \rightarrow F_*(C)$ is a model of $(F_*(T), \tau_W)$.

Proof. We have seen that τ_W is a W -theory, and $F_*(\mu)$ is a model by the previous lemma. (To show that $F_*(\mu)$ is a model, we need to show it preserves finite V -products. We do this separately for the V -terminal object and binary V -products. For the former, we need to show $F_*(\mu)1_{F_*(T)}$ is W -terminal in $F_*(C)$, i.e. $F_*(C)(c, F_*(\mu)1_{F_*(T)})$ is terminal in W for all objects c of C . But ...) \square

Hence, any cartesian functor that preserves chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object gives a “change of semantics” — this is a simple, ubiquitous condition, which provides for a method of translating formal languages between various “modes of operation”.

Moreover, this reasoning generalizes to **multisorted** V -theories, enriched theories which have multiple sorts: given any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the monoidal subcategory $(N_V)^n$, the category of n -fold products of coproducts of 1_V , is also an eleutheric system of arities. In Section 8.4, we give an example of this generalization.

Before exploring applications, we introduce two more useful kinds of translations, and demonstrate how all of this information be encapsulated in one categorical notion.

7. THE CATEGORY OF ALL V -THEORIES

In addition to change-of-base, there are two other natural and useful translations for these theories. Let $V\text{Law}$ be the category of V -theories, and let $f: T \rightarrow T'$ be a morphism of theories; this induces a “change-of-theory” functor between the respective categories of models

$$f^*: V\text{Mod}(T', C) \rightarrow V\text{Mod}(T, C)$$

defined as precomposition with f . Similarly, given a cartesian functor $g: C \rightarrow C'$, this induces a “change-of-model” functor

$$g_*: V\text{Mod}(T, C) \rightarrow V\text{Mod}(T, C')$$

defined as postcomposition with g . **NO, we need preservation of chosen finite coproducts of the terminal object as well!!! Fix this everywhere!!! We need a different category, not CCC, below!!!**

These translations, as well as change-of-base, can all be packed up nicely using the **Grothendieck construction**: given a (pseudo)functor $F: D \rightarrow \text{Cat}$, there is a category $\int F$ that encapsulates all of the categories in the image of F , defined as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{objects} & (d, x): d \in D, x \in F(d) \\ \text{morphisms} & (f: d \rightarrow d', a: F(f)(x) \rightarrow x') \\ \text{composition} & (f, a) \circ (f', a') = (f \circ f', a \circ F(f)(a')). \end{array}$$

Moreover there is a functor $\bar{F}: \int F \rightarrow D$ given as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{on objects} & \bar{F}: (d, x) \mapsto d \\ \text{on morphisms} & \bar{F}: (f, a) \mapsto f. \end{array}$$

For more details see [8, 11]. We noted in §4 that \mathbf{VLaw} and $\mathbf{Mod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$ are \mathbf{V} -categories when \mathbf{V} is complete and cocomplete: this and further conditions imply we can use the *enriched* Grothendieck construction [5]; but we will focus on the **Set**-enriched case for simplicity.

This idea allows us to bring together all of the different enrichments, theories, and models into one big category. For every enriching category \mathbf{V} , let \mathbf{VCat}_{np} be the subcategory of \mathbf{VCat} of \mathbf{V} -categories with \mathbf{N} -powers and \mathbf{N} -power preserving functors; then there is a functor

$$\mathbf{VMod}: \mathbf{VLaw}^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{VCat}_{np} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

which sends (\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C}) to $\mathbf{VMod}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C})$. The (bi)functoriality of \mathbf{VMod} gives the contravariant change-of-theory and the covariant change-of-model above.

Using the Grothendieck construction, we obtain a category $\int \mathbf{VMod}$, in which a morphism

$$((f, g), \alpha): ((\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C}), \mu) \rightarrow ((\mathbf{T}', \mathbf{C}'), \mu')$$

consists of:

- A \mathbf{V} -functor $f: \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}'$, (OBEYING SOME CONDITIONS!!!)
- $g: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}'$,
- and \mathbf{V} -natural transformation $\alpha: \mathbf{VMod}(f, g)(\mu) \rightarrow \mu'$.

Lemma 15. There is a functor

$$\mathbf{thy}: \mathbf{CCC} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$$

which assigns \mathbf{V} to $\int \mathbf{VMod}$ and $(F: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{W})$ to a functor $(F_*: \int \mathbf{VMod} \rightarrow \int \mathbf{WMod})$.

Proof. Given $F: \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}$, base change $F_*: \mathbf{VCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{WCat}$ is a 2-functor, thereby inducing the functor $F_*: \mathbf{VMod} \rightarrow \mathbf{WMod}$ which sends a morphism $((f, g), \alpha)$ to $((F_*(f), F_*(g)), F_*(\alpha))$. Checking functoriality is left to the reader. \square

Thus, we can use the Grothendieck construction once more to encapsulate even the enrichment:

Theorem 16. There is a category $\mathbf{Thy} := \int \mathbf{thy}$ with a morphism

$$(F, ((f, g), \alpha)): (\mathbf{V}, ((\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C}), \mu)) \rightarrow (\mathbf{W}, ((\mathbf{T}', \mathbf{C}'), \mu'))$$

being a cartesian functor F and a morphism $(f, g, \alpha): F_*(((\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{C}), \mu)) \rightarrow ((\mathbf{T}', \mathbf{C}'), \mu')$ in \mathbf{WMod} .

This category assimilates a whole lot of useful information. Most importantly, there are morphisms between objects of “different kinds”, something we consider often but is normally not possible in category theory. For example, in \mathbf{Thy} there is a morphism:

$$(\mathbf{Set}, ((u_{\mathbf{Grp}}, \text{Disc}), \text{exp})): (\mathbf{Set}, ((\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{Grp}}, \mathbf{Set}), (\mathbb{R}, +, 0))) \rightarrow (\mathbf{Set}, ((\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{Grp}}, \mathbf{Top}), (\mathbb{R}, \times, 1)))$$

There are many unexplored questions about the large, heterogeneous categories which arise from the Grothendieck construction, regarding what unusual structure may be gained, such as limits and colimits with objects of different types, or identifying “processes” in which the kinds of objects change in an essential way. This is just a remark; for our purposes we need only recognize that enriched Lawvere theories can be assimilated into one category, which provides a unified context for change-of-base, change-of-theory, and change-of-modelling.

8. APPLICATIONS

In theoretical computer science literature, enriched algebraic theories have primarily been studied in the context of “computational effects”. Mike Stay and Greg Meredith have recognized that Lawvere theories can actually be utilized for the design of *programming languages* [31]. This idea comes from an important but underappreciated subject in foundations — combinatory logic.

8.1. The *SKI*-combinator calculus. The λ -calculus is an elegant formal language which is the foundation of functional computation, the model of intuitionistic logic, and the internal logic of cartesian closed categories: this is the Curry–Howard–Lambek correspondence [2].

Terms are constructed recursively by *variables*, *application*, and *abstraction*, and the basic rewrite is *beta reduction*:

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

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

Despite its apparent simplicity, there are complications regarding *substitution*, or evaluation of functions. Consider the term $M = \lambda x.(\lambda y.(xy))$: if this is applied to the variable y , then $(M y) \Rightarrow \lambda y.(y y)$ — but this is not intended, because the y in M is just a placeholder, it is “bound” by whatever will be plugged in, while the y being substituted is “free”, meaning it can refer to some other value or function in the program. Hence whenever a free variable is to be substituted for a bound variable, we need to rename the bound variable to prevent “variable capture” (e.g. $(My) \Rightarrow \lambda z.(y z)$).

This problem was noticed early in the history of mathematical foundations, even before the λ -calculus, and so Moses Schönfinkel invented **combinatory logic** [26], a basic form of logic without the red tape of variable binding, hence without functions in the usual sense. The *SKI*-calculus is the “variable-free” representation of the λ -calculus; λ -terms are translated via “abstraction elimination” into strings of combinators and applications. This is an important method for programming languages to minimize the subtleties of variables. A great introduction into the world of strange and powerful combinators can be found in [29].

The key insight of Stay and Meredith [30] is that Lawvere theories are by definition free of variables, and it is precisely through abstraction elimination that a programming language can be made an algebraic object. When representing a computational calculus as an **Gph**-theory, the general rewrite rules are simply edges in the hom-graphs $t^n \rightarrow t$, with the object t serving in place of the variable. Below is the theory of the *SKI*-calculus:

Th(*SKI*)

	sort	t
term constructors	S :	$1 \rightarrow t$
	K :	$1 \rightarrow t$
	I :	$1 \rightarrow t$
	$(- -)$:	$t^2 \rightarrow t$
structural congruence	n/a	
rewrites	σ :	$((S -) =) \equiv \Rightarrow ((- \equiv) (= \equiv))$
	κ :	$((K -) =) \Rightarrow -$
	ι :	$(I -) \Rightarrow -$

These rewrites are implicitly universally quantified; i.e. they apply to arbitrary subterms $-$, $=$, \equiv without any variable binding involved, by using the cartesian structure of the category. They are

simply edges with vertices:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
(((S -) =) \equiv): & t^3 \xrightarrow{l^{-1} \times t^3} 1 \times t^3 \xrightarrow{S \times t^3} t^4 \xrightarrow{(-) \times t^2} t^3 \xrightarrow{(-) \times t} t^2 \xrightarrow{(-)} t & \\
\sigma \Downarrow & \Downarrow & \\
((- \equiv) (= \equiv)): & t^3 \xrightarrow{t^2 \times \Delta} t^4 \xrightarrow{t \times \tau \times t} t^4 \xrightarrow{(-) \times (-)} t^2 \xrightarrow{(-)} t & \\
\\
((K -) =): & t^2 \xrightarrow{l^{-1} \times t^2} 1 \times t^2 \xrightarrow{K \times t^2} t^3 \xrightarrow{(-) \times t} t^2 \xrightarrow{(-)} t & \\
\kappa \Downarrow & \Downarrow & \\
-: & t^2 \xrightarrow{t \times !} t \times 1 \xrightarrow{r} t & \\
\\
(I -): & t \xrightarrow{l^{-1}} 1 \times t \xrightarrow{I \times t} t^2 \xrightarrow{(-)} t & \\
\iota \Downarrow & \Downarrow & \\
-: & t \xrightarrow{t} t &
\end{array}$$

These abstract rules are evaluated on concrete terms by “plugging in” via precomposition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
((KS)I): & 1 \xrightarrow{S \times I} t^2 \xrightarrow{((K -) =)} t & \\
\kappa \circ (S \times I) \Downarrow & \Downarrow & \\
S: & 1 \xrightarrow{S \times I} t^2 \xrightarrow{-} t &
\end{array}$$

(Morphisms $1 \rightarrow t$ are the “closed” terms, meaning they have no free variables; in general morphisms $t^n \rightarrow t$ are terms with n free variables, and the same reasoning applies.)

A model of this theory is a power-preserving **Gph**-functor $\mu: \mathbf{Th}(SKI) \rightarrow \mathbf{Gph}$. This gives a graph $\mu(t)$ of all terms and rewrites in the SKI -calculus as follows:

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

The images of the nullary operations S, K, I are distinguished vertices of the graph $\mu(t)$, because μ preserves the terminal object which “points out” vertices. The image of the binary operation $(- -)$ gives for every pair of vertices $(u, v) \in \mu(t)^2$, through the isomorphism $\mu(t)^2 \cong \mu(t^2)$, a vertex $(u \ v)$ in $\mu(t)$ which is their application. In this way we get all possible terms (writing $\mu(S), \mu(K), \mu(I)$ as S, K, I for simplicity):

$$(((S (K (I I))) S) \dots$$

The rewrites are transferred by the enrichment of the functor: rather than functions between hom-sets, the morphism component of μ consists of graph homomorphisms between hom-graphs. So,

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

maps the “syntactic” graph of all closed terms and rewrites coherently into the “semantic” graph, meaning a rewrite in the theory $a \Rightarrow b$ is sent to a rewrite in the model $\mu(a) \Rightarrow \mu(b)$.

These rewrites in the image of μ are *graph transformations*, which are just like natural transformations of functors, without the commuting diagram: given two graph homomorphisms $f, g: G \rightarrow H$,

a graph transformation $\alpha: f \Rightarrow g$ is a function $G_0 \rightarrow H_1$ which sends a vertex $v \in G$ to an edge $\alpha(v)$ with source $f(v)$ and target $g(v)$.

This is how the model realizes the **Gph**-theory as an actual graph of terms and rewrites: in the same way that a transformation between two constant functors $a \Rightarrow b: 1 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is just a morphism $a(1) \rightarrow b(1)$ in \mathbf{C} , a rewrite of closed terms $a \Rightarrow b: 1 \rightarrow \mu(t)$ corresponds to an edge in $\mu(t)$:

$$\mu((I S)) \bullet \xrightarrow{\mu(\iota)} \bullet \mu(S)$$

Finally, the fact that $\mu((-))$ is not just a function but a graph homomorphism means that pairs of edges (rewrites) $(a \rightarrow b, c \rightarrow d)$ are sent to rewrites $(a b) \rightarrow (c d)$. This gives the full complexity of the theory: given a large term (program), there are many different ways it can be computed — and some are better than others:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 ((K S) (((S K) I) (I K))) & \xrightarrow{((K S) \sigma)} & ((K S) ((K (I K)) (I (I K)))) \\
 \downarrow \kappa & & \downarrow (((K S) \iota) (I (I K))) \\
 & & ((K S) ((K K) (I (I K)))) \\
 & & \downarrow ((K S) ((K K) (I \iota))) \\
 & & ((K S) ((K K) (I K))) \\
 & & \downarrow ((K S) ((K K) \iota)) \\
 & & ((K S) ((K K) K)) \\
 & & \downarrow ((K S) \kappa) \\
 S & \xleftarrow{\kappa} & ((K S) K)
 \end{array}$$

This process is intuitive, but how do we actually define the model, as a functor, to pick out a specific graph? There are many models of $\text{Th}(SKI)$, but in particular we care about the canonical *free* model, which means that $\mu(t)$ is simply the graph of all closed terms and rewrites in the *SKI*-calculus. This utilizes the enriched adjunction of §4:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & f_{\text{Gph}} & \\
 \text{Gph} & \xleftarrow{\quad \perp \quad} & \text{Mod}(\text{Th}(SKI), \text{Gph}) \\
 & u_{\text{Gph}} &
 \end{array}$$

Then the canonical model of closed terms and rewrites is simply the free model on the empty graph, $f_{\text{Gph}}(\emptyset)$, i.e. the \mathbf{V} -functor $\mathbf{T}(1, -): \mathbf{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}$. Hence for us, the syntax and semantics of the *SKI* combinator calculus are unified in the model

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

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

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

Interestingly, in the free model on a nonempty graph, the vertices represent designated “ground variables”, and edges represent rewrites of one variable into another. This is potentially useful for “building in” a language with other basic features not intrinsic to the theory.

8.2. Change-of-base. Now we can succinctly characterize the transformation from small-step to **big-step**, which is found throughout the operational semantics literature. The “free category” functor $\text{FC}: \mathbf{Gph} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ gives for every graph G the category $\text{FC}(G)$ whose objects are the vertices of G , and whose morphisms are freely generated by the edges of G , i.e. sequences

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{objects} & \text{vertices of } G \\ \text{morphisms} & (v_1, e_1, v_2, e_2, \dots, v_n) : \forall i < n \ s(e_i) = v_i, \ t(e_i) = v_{i+1} \\ \text{composition} & (v_1, e_1, v_2, e_2, \dots, v_n) \circ (v'_1, e'_1, v'_2, e'_2, \dots, v'_n) = (v_1, e_1, \dots, v_n = v'_1, e'_1, \dots, v'_n) \end{array}$$

This functor is cartesian, because the definition of graphical product and categorical product are identical except for composition: vertices/objects are pairs of vertices/objects from each component, and same for edges/morphisms; hence the above operation fulfills the preservation isomorphism:

$$\text{FC}(G \times H) \cong \text{FC}(G) \times \text{FC}(H)$$

because they have the same objects, and a morphism of the former is a sequence of pairs, while that of the latter is the corresponding pair of sequences.

Thus FC is the change-of-semantics which induces the transitive closure of the rewrite relation, hence

$$\mu_{SKI}^{\text{Cat}} := \text{FC}_*(\mu_{SKI}^{\text{Gph}})$$

is the category which represents the big-step operational semantics of the SKI -calculus. To correspond with the conventional meaning of big-step semantics, as noted in §1, we can quotient by Curry’s equations to identify SKI -terms which are extensionally equivalent [3].

The same reasoning applies to the “free poset” functor $\text{FP}: \mathbf{Cat} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$; it is a change-of-semantics because the product of posets is defined in the same way. This induces the lesser-known **full-step semantics**, which collapses hom-sets to truth values, simply asserting the existence of a rewrite sequence between terms, without distinguishing between different paths. Since there was no real algebraic information in the free category, this is simply adding the property that all the distinct paths between two terms are equal, while retaining transitivity.

Finally, we can pass to the purely abstract realm where all computation is already complete. One rarely speaks of the “free set on a poset”, but there is a left adjoint $\text{FS}: \mathbf{Pos} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ of the functor $\text{UP}: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pos}$ sending any set to the discrete poset on that set. The functor FP collapses every connected component of the poset to a point. This extracts the denotational semantics of the language, by identifying all terms related by rewrites. If the rewrites are terminating and confluent, we can choose a representative term for each equivalence class.

Thus, from this simple sequence of functors, we can translate between several important kinds of semantics for the SKI -calculus. For example, we have the following computation:

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

$\xleftarrow{\quad \kappa \quad}$

The solid arrows are the one-step rewrites of the initial \mathbf{Gph} -theory; applying FC_* gives the dotted composites, and FP_* asserts that all composites between any two objects are equal. Finally, FS_* collapses the whole diagram to S . This is a simple demonstration of the basic stages of computation: small-step, big-step, full-step, and denotational semantics.

8.3. Change-of-theory: reduction contexts. We can equip term calculi with *reduction contexts*, which determine when rewrites are valid, thus giving the language a certain **evaluation strategy**. For example, the “weak head normal form” is given by only allowing rewrites on the left-hand side of the term.

We can do this for $\text{Th}(SKI)$ by adding a reduction context marker as a unary operation, and a structural congruence rule which pushes the marker to the left-hand side of an application; lastly we modify the rewrite rules to be valid only when the marker is present:

$\text{Th}(SKI + R)$		
sort	t	
term constructors	$S, K, I:$	$1 \rightarrow t$
	$R:$	$t \rightarrow t$
	$(- -):$	$t^2 \rightarrow t$
structural congruence	$R(x\ y) = (Rx\ y)$	
rewrites	$\sigma_r:$	$((RS -) =) \Rightarrow ((R- \equiv) (= \equiv))$
	$\kappa_r:$	$((RK -) =) \Rightarrow R-$
	$\iota_r:$	$(RI -) \Rightarrow R-$

The SKI -calculus is thereby equipped with “lazy evaluation”, an essential paradigm in modern programming. This represents a broad potential application of equipping theories with computational methods, such as evaluation strategies.

Moreover, these equipments can be added or removed as needed: using change-of-theory, we can utilize a “free reduction” **Gph**-functor $f_R: \text{Th}(SKI) \rightarrow \text{Th}(SKI + R)$:

objects	t^n	\mapsto	t^n
hom-vertices	S, K, I	\mapsto	S, K, I
	$(- -)$	\mapsto	$R(- -)$
hom-edges	σ, κ, ι	\mapsto	$\sigma_r, \kappa_r, \iota_r$

This essentially interprets ordinary SKI as having every subterm be a reduction context. This is a **Gph**-functor because its hom component consists of graph-homomorphisms:

$$f_{n,m}: \text{Th}(SKI)(t^n, t^m) \rightarrow \text{Th}(SKI + R)(t^n, t^m)$$

which simply send each application to its postcomposition with R , and each rewrite to its “marked” correspondent; and this is all coherent: for example, even though $((S\ x)\ y)\ z \mapsto R(R(R(S\ x)\ y)\ z)$, the extra markers are ignored by σ_r , because they are now just a part of the lefthand terms.

So, by precomposition this induces the change of theory on categories of models:

$$f_R^*: \text{Mod}(\text{Th}(SKI + R), \mathbf{C}) \rightarrow \text{Mod}(\text{Th}(SKI), \mathbf{C})$$

for all semantic categories \mathbf{C} , which forgets the reduction contexts.

Similarly, there is a **Gph**-functor $u_R: \text{Th}(SKI + R) \rightarrow \text{Th}(SKI)$ which forgets reduction contexts, by sending $\sigma_r, \kappa_r, \iota_r \mapsto \sigma, \kappa, \iota$ and $R \mapsto id_t$; this latter is the only way that the marked reductions can be mapped coherently to the unmarked. However, this means that u_R^* does not give the desired change-of-theory of “freely adjoining contexts”, because collapsing R to the identity eliminates the significance of the marker.

This illustrates a key aspect of categorical universal algebra: because change-of-theory is given by precomposition and is thus contravariant, *properties* (equations) and *structure* (operations) can only be removed.

This is a necessary limitation, at least in the present setup, but there are ways of working around it: of course, these abstract theories are not floating in isolation but are implemented in code. One can simply use a “maximal theory” with all pertinent structure, then selectively forget as needed.

8.4. Bisimulation. This paper uses simple functors to illustrate the basic idea of changing semantics. Of course, there are many interesting and useful change-of-base functors. As demonstrated, any functor $F: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$ which preserves finite products and finite coproducts of the terminal object can be considered as a change in semantics. For example, if we enrich in labelled directed graphs, we can utilize the important concept of

9. CONCLUSION

We have established the basics of how enriched Lawvere theories provide a framework for unifying the syntax and semantics, 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 simplified condition is obtained by using only finite cardinal arities.

This base-change, along with change-of-theory and change-of-modelling, can be assimilated into one category using an iterated Grothendieck construction Thy , which consists of all enriched Lawvere theories. Finally, enriched theories can be used not only for computational effects but the actual design of concrete programming languages, through the use of combinators.

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