

# Chasing the blend

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## Abstract

We model the mathematical process whereby new mathematical theories are produced, involving shared and individual creativity. Here we provide rational reconstructions of some developments from mathematical history; our longer-term goal is to support machine and human mathematical creativity.

## Introduction

To be written by Alan.

## Background

### Blending in Mathematics

Alison?

### Image Schemas

Marco

## Blending and the infinite

**Note:** *Marco, Ewen, Alan, Felix*

## Naturals and Integers

### A Simple Example – the Integers

In order to demonstrate the machinery involved in blending mathematical theories, we consider combining a theory of natural numbers with the concept of the inverse of a function to obtain the integers. Let us assume an simple axiomatisation of the natural numbers (without order axioms) as shown in Figure 1, and call this theory  $\mathbb{N}$ . Now let us also define a simple theory which introduces the concept of a function with an inverse as shown in Figure 2, and call this theory  $\mathbb{F}$ .

**Identifying a Generic Space** In order to incorporate the notion of blending here we want to be able to identify a “generic” component of each theory and compute the pushout as discusses in §. We can use the HDTP system (Gust, Kühnberger, and Schmidt, 2006; Schmidt, 2010) to discover a common theory and signature morphism between symbols in the two theories  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{F}$ . The Generic theory contains

```
spec NAT =
  sort Nat
  ops   zero : Nat;
        s : Nat → Nat;
        _+_ : Nat × Nat → Nat
  ∀ x, y, z : Nat
  • s(x) = y ∧ s(x) = z ⇒ y = z
  • s(x) = s(y) ⇒ x = y
  • ∃ a : Nat • s(x) = a
  • ¬ s(x) = zero
  • s(x) + y = s(x + y)
  • zero + y = y
end
```

Figure 1: A theory of the natural numbers without order

```
spec FUNC =
  sort X
  op   f : X → X
  op   finv : X → X
  ∀ x : X
  • f(finv(x)) = x
  • finv(f(x)) = x
end
```

Figure 2: A theory with a function and its inverse defined

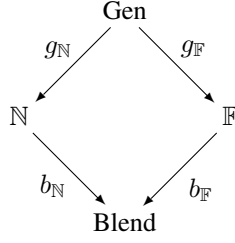
a sort  $N$  and a function  $func$ , and the morphisms from the Generic theory to  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{F}$  are:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} s & \xleftarrow{g_{\mathbb{N}}} & func & \xrightarrow{g_{\mathbb{F}}} & f \end{array} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Nat & \xleftarrow{g_{\mathbb{N}}} & N & \xrightarrow{g_{\mathbb{F}}} & X \end{array} \quad (2)$$

Here the successor function is identified in the mapping with the function in the theory  $\mathbb{F}$ , and  $g_K$  is the label for the set of symbol mappings determined by the signature morphism from the Generic space the theory  $K$ .

**Computing the Colimit** The HETS system (Mosakowski, Maeder, and Lüttich, 2007) can then be exploited to find a new theory by computing the colimit:



This generates the theory shown in 3.

```

spec SPEC =
  sort N
  op  _+_ : N × N → N
  op  p : N → N
  op  s : N → N
  op  zero : N
  ∀ x, y, z : N • s(x) = y ∧ s(x) = z ⇒ y = z      %(Ax1)%
  ∀ x, y : N • s(x) = s(y) ⇒ x = y                  %(Ax2)%
  ∀ x : N • ∃ a : N • s(x) = a                        %(Ax3)%
  ∀ x : N • ¬ s(x) = zero                             %(Ax4)%
  ∀ x, y : N • s(x) + y = s(x + y)                   %(Ax5)%
  ∀ y : N • zero + y = y                             %(Ax6)%
  ∀ x : N • s(p(x)) = x                              %(Ax1_7)%
  ∀ x : N • p(s(x)) = x                              %(Ax2_8)%

```

Figure 3: An inconsistent version of the integers (without order)

**Removal of Inconsistencies** This theory is automatically determined to be inconsistent due to the axioms

$$\forall x : \mathbb{Z}. \text{not } s(x) = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$s(p(x)) = x \quad (4)$$

Removal of the limiting axiom (3) results in a theory which is very similar to what we understand to be the integers as shown in Figure 4.

```

spec SPEC =
  sort N
  op  _+_ : N × N → N
  op  p : N → N
  op  s : N → N
  op  zero : N
  ∀ x, y, z : N • s(x) = y ∧ s(x) = z ⇒ y = z      %(Ax1)%
  ∀ x, y : N • s(x) = s(y) ⇒ x = y                  %(Ax2)%
  ∀ x : N • ∃ a : N • s(x) = a                        %(Ax3)%
  ∀ x, y : N • s(x) + y = s(x + y)                   %(Ax4)%
  ∀ y : N • zero + y = y                             %(Ax5)%
  ∀ x : N • s(p(x)) = x                              %(Ax1_7)%
  ∀ x : N • p(s(x)) = x                              %(Ax2_8)%
end

```

Figure 4: A consistent version of the integers (without order)

**Running the Blend** Running the blend refers to discovering axioms or definitions which make the blend incomplete. In the example of the version in Figure 4, the definition of plus needs to be extended to understand how to calculate with the predecessor function:

$$p(x) + y = p(x + y)$$

from which theorems such as

$$p(x) + s(y) = x + y$$

can be discovered.

## Potential and actual infinity

The work of Lakoff and Núñez (2000) provides a wide range of examples of metaphorical reasoning in mathematics, while stressing the embodied cognition involved in basic mathematical experience. Some of the ideas have been re-worked by the authors, increasing the emphasis on conceptual blending as central. In particular, the analysis of mathematical infinity, given in metaphorical form as the “Basic Metaphor of Infinity” (BMI) in Lakoff and Núñez (2000), is represented in blend form in Núñez (2005) as the “Basic Mapping of Infinity” (so, still “BMI”).

We show here how this blend works out in our setting.

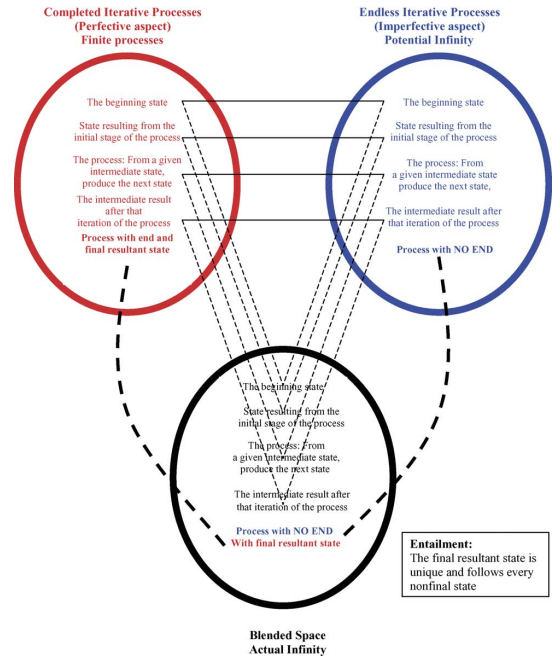


Figure 5: Blend from Núñez (2005, p ??)

Figure 5 gives an indication of the components of the blend:

- The two input spaces at the top correspond to notions of processes involving state change:
  - Completed Iterative Processes are those that from some initial state, terminate in a final state after a finite number of state transitions;

- Endless Iterative Processes are those that continue indefinitely to change state.

The marked correlations between features of the input spaces indicate the common structure that is captured in our approach by the Generic Space, and as a result appear in the blend space.

- Finally, the blend includes new features taken from both of the input spaces, namely both “process with no end” and “final resultant state”.

## Prime Ideals as a blend

### Introduction

One of the most fundamental concepts of modern mathematics, which is the basis of commutative algebra and a seminal ingredient of the language of schemes in modern algebraic geometry is the one of prime ideal (Grothendieck and Dieudonné, 1971; Eisenbud, 1995).

In this section, we present an implementation done in Hets (Mossakowski, Maeder, and Codescu, 2014), in the language of CASL for the case of a principal ideal domain (PID). The resulting blending space contains two equivalent definitions of the containing relation for ideals. One of them is the trivial one in terms of elements and the other one is given in terms of product of ideals. It states that an ideal  $X$  is contained in an ideal  $Y$  if and only if there exists an ideal  $C$  such that  $X = Y * C$ . This is true if the base ring is a PID (it is an elementary exercise). However, if the base ring is not a PID, for example  $R = \mathbb{Z}[T]$ , then one can check that the ideals  $X = (2)$  and  $Y = (2, T)$  gives a counterexample. Here, it is important to point out that in this implementation we looked for a minimal set of axioms such that, at the same time, the semantic interpretation can be uniquely determined. It is always possible to construct an implementation with additional axioms given by properties that could be logically derived from the main axioms, (e.g. the set theoretical properties of the containment relation for subsets of a set) but these properties are secondary ones, meanwhile, the ones defining the arithmetic of the ring, of an ideal and of the set of ideals of the ring are the essential ones.

We will recover the concept of prime ideal of a commutative ring with unity as a sort of partial (or weaken) blending (i.e. a blend for just some axioms of the input theories) between the concepts of an ideal of a commutative ring with unity (enriched with the collection of all the ideals of the corresponding ring) and the concept of a prime number of the integers.

In fact, in order to obtain the desired space it is enough to consider a more general version of the prime numbers (in our case a partial version), namely, a monoid  $(\mathbb{Z}, *, 1)$  with an “special” divisibility relation  $\mid$ . Besides, the generic space would capture just the syntactic correspondences that we wish to identity in the blending space, since the blend would be basically the union of the collection of axioms given on each space, doing the corresponding identifications.

Our approach to blending is the one adopted by Goguen in terms of colimits (Goguen, 1999, 2001, 2005).

We present the conceptual spaces from the standard “pure” mathematical point of view doing concurrently the

corresponding translation into the setting of the Common Algebraic Specification Language (CASL) (Bidoit and Mosses, 2004).

### The first conceptual space

Let  $(R, +, *, 0, 1)$  be a commutative ring with unity, i.e.  $R$  is a set with two binary operations,  $+$  and  $*$ , and two special elements  $0, 1 \in R$  satisfying the following axioms:

1.  $(\forall a \in R)(a + 0 = 0 + a = a)$
2.  $(\forall a \in R)(\exists b \in R)(a + b = b + a = 0)$
3.  $(\forall a, b, c \in R)((a + b) + c = a + (b + c))$
4.  $(\forall a, b \in R)(a + b = b + a)$
5.  $(\forall a \in R)(a * 1 = 1 * a = a)$
6.  $(\forall a, b, c \in R)((a * b) * c = a * (b * c))$
7.  $(\forall a, b \in R)(a * b = b * a)$
8.  $(\forall a, b, c \in R)(a * (b + c) = a * b + a * c)$

Now,  $R$  can be understood as the sort containing the elements of the corresponding commutative ring with unity. An ideal  $I$  is a subset of  $R$  satisfying the following axiom:

$$(\forall i, j \in I)(\forall r \in R)(i + (-j) \in I \wedge r * i \in I).$$

Let us define a unary relation (predicate) *isideal* on the set (sort) of subsets of  $R$ ,  $P(R)$ , as follows: *isideal*( $I$ ) if and only if  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$ .

Now, we define

$$\text{Spec}_I R = \{A \subseteq R : \text{isideal}(A)\}.$$

Here,  $\text{Spec}_I R$  is considered as a subsort of the sort  $P(R)$ .

There is one natural operation on  $\text{Spec}_I R$ , let us say  $\cdot_\iota$ , inherited in a natural way from the corresponding operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $S$ :

Let  $I, J \in \text{Spec}_I R$ , then we define

$$I \cdot_\iota J := \{i_1 \cdot j_1 + \dots + i_n \cdot j_n : n \in \mathbb{N} \wedge i_k \in I \wedge j_k \in J\}.$$

With this operation  $\text{Spec}_I R$  forms a commutative monoid (i.e. it holds commutativity, associativity and there exists a neutral element (in this case the ring)). However, this fact is irrelevant in our case for the blending process. As a matter of fact, the only property that we want to keep into the blend is the one saying that this operation has a neutral element  $1_\iota$ , which can be seen as an additional notation for the ring, but respect to this operation  $\cdot_\iota$  instead of being the sort of elements of the ring, i.e.,  $R$ .

On the other side, we want to see the contention relation  $\subseteq$  as a binary relation over the sort  $\text{Spec}_I R$ .

Summarizing, our first conceptual space consists of sorts  $R, \text{Spec}_I R$  and  $P(R)$ ; operations  $+_R, *_R, 0_R, 1_R, 1_\iota$  and  $\cdot_\iota$ ; and the relations  $\subseteq$  and *isideal*.

Here we add all the corresponding axioms defining  $R$  as a commutative ring, the explicit former definition of *isideal*,  $\text{Spec}_I R$  and  $\cdot_\iota$ ; and the axiom guaranteeing that  $1_\iota$  is the neutral element for  $\cdot_\iota$ .

Let us denote this space by  $\mathbb{I}$ .

## The second conceptual space

Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the set of the integer numbers. Here, we can choose any axiomatization of them, since for the (partial) blending we just take into account only the fact that  $(\mathbb{Z}, *, 1)$  is a commutative monoid. Or even simpler, we only use the fact that 1 is the neutral element with the operation  $*$ . One can, for example, take the simple characterization of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , given by Martin Brandenburg ('Possible axioms for Integers', 2010), as the only ordered commutative ring with unity satisfying the following "bi-inductive" property:

$$\forall M \subseteq \mathbb{Z} [0 \in M \wedge (\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}(n \in M \rightarrow n \pm 1 \in M)) \rightarrow M = \mathbb{Z}].$$

We define also an upside down divisibility relation  $\lfloor$  defined as

$$e \lfloor g := g \mid e,$$

We re-write the classical divisibility relation on this way in order to obtain the right primality condition on the blend. Let us define a unary relation *isprime* on  $\mathbb{Z}$  as follows: for all  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ , *isprime*( $p$ ) holds if  $p \neq 1$  and the following (primality) condition holds:

$$(\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z})(ab \lfloor p) \rightarrow (a \lfloor p \vee b \lfloor p).$$

Besides, we define the set (sort) of the prime numbers as

$$Prime = \{p \in \mathbb{Z} / isprime(p)\}$$

Now, it is an elementary fact to see that this condition is an equivalent form of the standard definition of prime number given in the classical number theory books (see for example Apostol, 1976. In the CASL language, we consider  $\mathbb{Z}$  as the sort of the integer numbers,  $*$  as a binary operation, *prime* as a predicate and  $\lfloor$  as a binary relation, any of them defined over the sort  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

We denote this conceptual space by  $\mathbb{P}$ .

## The Generic Space

The generic space consists of a set (sort)  $G$  with a binary operation  $*_G$ , a neutral element  $S$  and a binary relation  $\leq_G$ .

Let us denote this space by  $\mathbb{G}$ .

## The Blending Morphisms

Now, let us define the morphisms from the generic space into the two corresponding conceptual spaces. Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$  be the morphism induced by the following syntactic correspondences  $\varphi(G) = Spec_I R$ ,  $\varphi(*_G) = *_I$ ,  $\varphi(S) = 1_I$  and  $\varphi(\leq_G) = \subseteq$ .

Furthermore, let  $\delta : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$  be the morphism induced by the syntactic correspondences  $\delta(G) = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\delta(*_G) = *$ ,  $\delta(S) = 1$  and  $\delta(\leq_G) = \lfloor$ .

## The Axiomatization of the Blending

In the every-day research of the working mathematician it happens frequently that one starts to develop general theoretical frameworks by combining just some aspects of two particular theories but without considering the whole theories. For example, the development of differential geometry

was obtained combining just some aspect of general and algebraic topology and some aspects of real analysis (Velez and Cadavid, 2005). The same happens with the methods use in analytic number theory which are a fusion of some components of elementary number theory and some of the real analysis techniques (Apostol, 1976).

Therefore, it is more natural in the daily mathematical research to obtain new concepts as "partial" combinations of two former ones, i.e., as combinations (blends) of just some axioms of the corresponding two theories.

Thus, in our case, a partial blend will give us the desired concept. For example, from the properties defining the integers we transfer into the blend only the fact that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a set with a binary operation  $*$  having 1 as neutral element.

So, after using the same symbols for denoting the ring as a sort of elements or as the neutral element for product of ideals  $\cdot_G$ , the blend has the form

$$(S, +_S, *_S, 0_S, 1_S, G = Spec_I S, isprime, Prime, \cdot_G, S = 1_G, \subseteq)$$

with all the corresponding axioms of the first conceptual space plus the translated version of the axiom defining the primality predicate after doing the corresponding symbolic identifications i.e., an element  $P \in G$  (i.e., an ideal of  $S$ ) satisfied the predicate *isprime* if and only if

$$P \neq S \wedge (\forall X, Y \in G = Spec_I S). \\ (X \cdot_\alpha Y \subseteq P \rightarrow (X \subseteq P \vee Y \subseteq P)).$$

Now, it is an elementary exercise to see that this definition is equivalent to the fact that  $P$  is a prime ideal of  $S$ , i.e. to the condition

$$P \neq S \wedge (\forall a, b \in S)(ab \in P \rightarrow (a \in P \vee b \in P)).$$

Therefore, the predicate *isprime* turns out to be the predicate characterizing the primality of ideals of  $S$  and the set (sort) *Prime* turns out to be the set of prime ideals of  $S$ .

Besides, we just consider the fact that the up-side down divisibility relation is a binary relation without taking into account the formal definition into the blend.

In conclusion, the blending space consists of the axioms assuring that  $S$  is a commutative ring with unity,  $G$  is the set of ideals of  $S$ , *isprime* is the predicate specifying primality for ideals of  $S$  and *Prime* is the collection of all prime ideals of  $S$ .

## Implementation for the Principal Ideal Domain Case

On this section we present an implementation done in Hets (Mossakowski et al., 2014), in the language of CASL for the case of a principal ideal domain (PID). The resulting blending space contains two equivalent definitions of the containing relation for ideals. One of them is the trivial one in terms of elements and the other one is given in terms of product of ideals. It is an elementary exercise to see this equivalence in the PID case.

After computing the corresponding colimit in HETS and after interpreting "RingEl" as the sort containing the elements of the ring  $S$ , the theory defining the blend corresponds to the axioms defining a PID ( $S$ ), the set of all its

ideals (Generic) and the set all its prime ideals (SimplePrime):

The details of this implementation can be consulted at [somewhere/online](#).

## Related Example

— especially Galois.

## Galois Theory

Danny, Joe, Felix, Ewen

## Issues raised

Alan, Ewen, Felix

## Evaluation and Outlook

Joe et al.

## Conclusions

(and references) – everyone!

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