

Catoids as a Basis for Algebras of Programs

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I've worked on algebras of programs for some years
(semirings, Kleene algebras, quantales, relation algebras, ...)

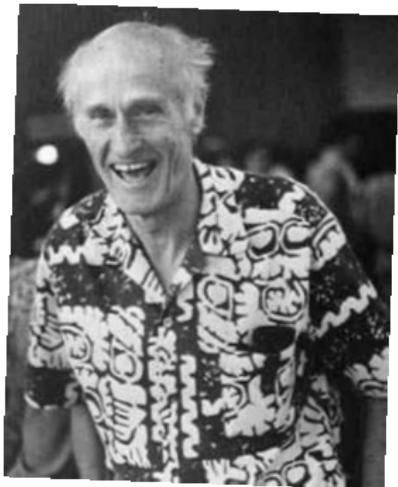
developed variants such as modal/concurrent Kleene algebras
and studied their models/properties

formalised algebra/models with proof assistants
and built program verification tools based on them

formalising models felt like playing variations on a theme

but which theme?

Kleene's Quest



U. S. AIR FORCE
PROJECT RAND
RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

REPRESENTATION OF EVENTS IN NERVE NETS AND
FINITE AUTOMATA

S. C. Kleene

RM-704

15 December 1951

Kleene Algebra

regular expressions $t ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid a \in \Sigma \mid t + t \mid tt \mid t^*$

languages $X \subseteq \Sigma^*$

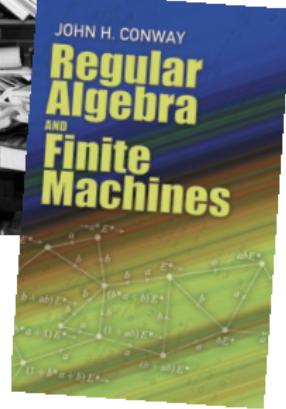
interpretation map $L : \text{RegExp}_\Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\Sigma^*$ defines regular languages

task: axiomatise congruence $s \approx t \Leftrightarrow L(s) = L(t)$

find algebra KA with signature $(+, \cdot, 0, 1, ^*)$

prove $\text{KA} \vdash s = t \Leftrightarrow L(s) = L(t)$

Conway's Visions



Kleene Algebra Axioms

$$(K, +, \cdot, 0, 1, {}^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + (y + z) &= (x + y) + z & x + y &= y + x & x + 0 &= x & x + x &= x \\x(yz) &= (xy)z & x1 &= x & 1x &= x \\x(y + z) &= xy + xz & (x + y)z &= xz + yz \\x0 &= 0 & 0x &= 0 \\1 + xx^* &= x^* & z + xy \leq y \Rightarrow x^*z \leq y \\1 + x^*x &= x^* & z + yx \leq y \Rightarrow zx^* \leq y\end{aligned}$$

where $x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x + y = y$

and indeed $\text{KA} \vdash s = t \Leftrightarrow L(s) = L(t)$

Language Kleene Algebras

soundness proof constructs language KA over free monoid Σ^*

$$(\mathcal{P}\Sigma^*, \cup, \cdot, \emptyset, \{\varepsilon\}, ^*)$$

$$AB = \{vw \mid v \in A, w \in B\}$$

$$A^* = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} A^i \quad \text{for } A^0 = 1, A^{i+1} = AA^i$$

or just KA \mathcal{PM} for any monoid M

regular languages are then sub-KAs generated by Σ

weighted languages $f : \Sigma^* \rightarrow K$ form convolution KAs

$$(K^{\Sigma^*}, +, *, 0, id, ^*)$$

$$(f + g)(w) = f(w) + g(w)$$

$$0(w) = 0$$

$$(f * g)(w) = \sum_{w=u \cdot v} f(u) \cdot g(v)$$

$$id(w) = \delta_\varepsilon(w)$$

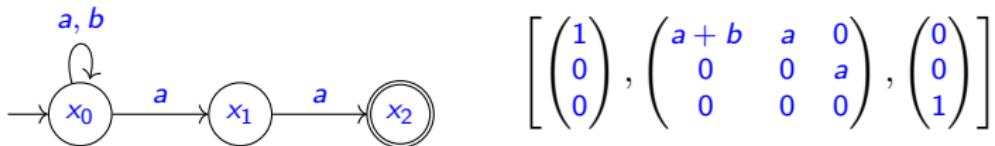
$$f^*(\varepsilon) = f(\varepsilon)^*$$

$$f^*(w) = f^*(\varepsilon) \cdot \sum_{\substack{w=u \cdot v \\ u \neq 1}} f(u) \cdot f^*(v) \quad \text{for } x \neq 1$$

standard languages take weights in KA 2

Matrix Kleene Algebras

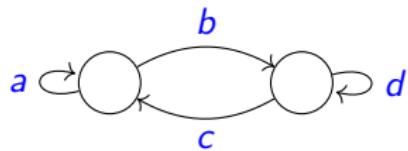
completeness proof formalises automata as K -valued matrices



KAs are closed under matrix formation: for $m, n : I \times I \rightarrow K$

$$(m + n)_{ij} = f_{ij} + g_{ij} \quad (m \cdot n)_{ij} = \sum_k f_{ik} \cdot g_{kj} \quad 0_{ij} = 0 \quad id_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$$

the star is somewhat tricky



$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \quad M^* = \begin{pmatrix} f^* & f^*bd^* \\ d^*cf^* & d^* + d^*cf^*bd^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{for } f = a + bd^*c$$

partition larger matrices into submatrices with squares along diagonal

Relation Kleene Algebras

binary relations are 2-valued matrices $X \times X \rightarrow 2$

and thus KAs

$$(\mathcal{P}(X \times X), \cup, ;, \emptyset, \Delta, ^*)$$

$$(RS)_{ab} \Leftrightarrow \exists c. R_{ac} \wedge S_{cb}$$

$$\Delta_{ab} \Leftrightarrow a = b$$

$$(R^*)_{ab} \Leftrightarrow \exists k \geq 0. (R^k)_{ab}$$

but we can't write $(RS)_{a,b} = \sum_c R_{a,c} \wedge R_{c,b}$ — sums may be infinite!

Quantales

quantale $(Q, \leq, \cdot, 1)$ consists of complete lattice (Q, \leq) and monoid $(Q, \cdot, 1)$ such that

$$x(\bigvee Y) = \bigvee \{xy \mid y \in Y\} \quad (\bigvee X)y = \{xy \mid x \in X\}$$

quantales are KAs with $x^* = \bigvee_{i \geq 0} x^i$

examples: $(\mathbb{R}_+^\infty, \geq, \max, 0)$ (Lawvere quantale) or $([0, 1], \leq, \cdot, 1)$

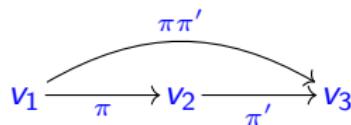
we can now construct quantale $Q^{X \times X}$ of Q -valued relations
and convolution quantale Q^M for any monoid M

Path Quantales

automata are digraphs $s, t : E \rightarrow V$

paths are sequences $\pi : v_1 \rightarrow v_n = (v_1, e_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-1}, e_{n-1}, v_n)$

we compose them on matching ends:



we define $AB = \{\pi\pi' \mid \pi \in A, \pi' \in B, t(\pi) = s(\pi')\}$ and $id = \{(v) \mid V\}$

this yields path KA/quantale ... and we can add weights to edges

more generally, Q^C forms a category quantale for any (small) category C

Single-Set Categories?

categories. A category is a set C of arrows with two functions $s, t : C \rightarrow C$, called “source” and target”, and a partially defined binary operation $\#$, called composition, all subject to the following axioms, for all x, y , and z in C :

The operation $x \# y$ is defined iff $sx = ty$ and then

$$s(x \# y) = sy, \quad t(x \# y) = tx; \quad (1)$$

$$x \# sx = x, \quad tx \# x = x; \quad (2)$$

$$(x \# y) \# z = x \# (y \# z) \quad \text{if either side is defined;} \quad (3)$$

$$ssx = sx = tsx;$$

$$ttx = tx = stx. \quad (4)$$

Then x is an identity iff $x = sx$ or, equivalently, iff $x = tx$.

Shuffle Quantales

shuffle $\Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\Sigma^*$ is defined, for $a, b \in \Sigma$ and $v, w \in \Sigma^*$ as

$$v\|v = \{v\} = v\|v \quad (av)\|(bw) = a(v\|(bw)) \cup b((av)\|w)$$

we extend to $\| : \mathcal{P}\Sigma^* \times \mathcal{P}\Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\Sigma^*$

$$A\|B = \bigcup\{v\|w \mid v \in A, w \in B\}$$

we can construct shuffle KA/quantale — and convolution algebras with

$$(f\|g)(w) = \sum_{w \in u\|v} f(u) \cdot g(v)$$

words under $\|$ don't form category!

Catoids

a catoid (X, \odot, s, t) equips set X with multioperation $\odot : X \times X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}X$ and source/target maps $s, t : X \rightarrow X$ that satisfy

$$\bigcup\{x \odot v \mid v \in y \odot z\} = \bigcup\{u \odot z \mid u \in x \odot y\}$$
$$x \odot y \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow t(x) = s(y) \quad s(x) \odot x = \{x\} \quad x \odot t(x) = \{x\}$$

if we extend to $\odot : \mathcal{P}X \times \mathcal{P}X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}X$

$$A \odot B = \bigcup_{x \in A, y \in B} x \odot y,$$

the first axiom becomes

$$x \odot (y \odot z) = (x \odot y) \odot z$$

a catoid morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies

$$f(x \odot_X y) \subseteq f(x) \odot_Y f(y) \quad f \circ s_X = s_Y \circ f \quad f \circ t_X = t_Y \circ f$$

it is bounded if $f(x) \in u \odot_Y v$ implies $x \in y \odot_X z$, $u = f(y)$, $v = f(z)$ for some $y, z \in X$

a catoid is functional if $x, x' \in y \odot z \Rightarrow x = x'$

and local if $t(x) = s(y) \Rightarrow x \odot y \neq \emptyset$

a single-set category is a local functional catoid

$X_s = \{x \mid s(x) = x\} = X_t$ determines objects of (small) category

all structures considered so far are catoids

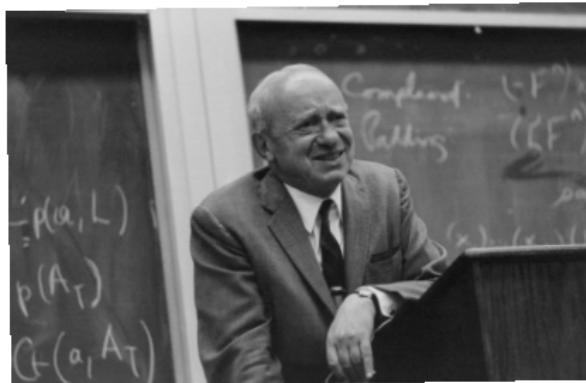
relations are constructed from the pair groupoid on $X \times X$

shuffle languages form the shuffle catoid

with \parallel total and $s(w) = \varepsilon = t(w)$ for all $w \in \Sigma^*$

there are many other interesting examples

Jónsson-Tarski Duality



in boolean algebras with operators

n -ary modalities in B are dual to $n+1$ -ary relations in X

we view $\cdot : \mathcal{P}X \times \mathcal{P}X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}X$ as binary modality

and $\odot : X \times X \rightarrow \mathcal{P}X$ as ternary relation

for powerset structures this duality is almost trivial

$$x \in y \odot z \Leftrightarrow \{x\} \subseteq \{y\} \cdot \{z\}$$

atoms in powerset structure Q define relational structure Q_+

relational structure X yields powerset structure X^+ with

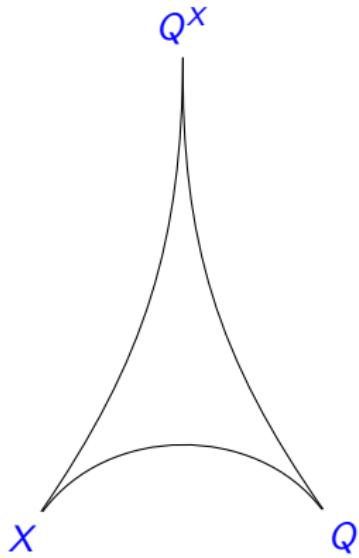
$$AB = \bigcup \{y \odot z \mid y \in A, z \in B\}$$

Jónsson/Tarski have shown that $(Q_+)^+ \cong Q$ and $(X^+)_+ \cong X$

in fact, the categories of powerset and relational structures
are dually equivalent

Jónsson-Tarski duality yields modal correspondences
translating identities between X and Q

more generally we can prove 2-out-of-3 correspondences
in convolution algebras



$$(f * g)(x) = \bigvee_{x \in y \odot z} f(y) \cdot g(z)$$

$$id_{X_s}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in X_s \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$(\bigvee F)(x) = \bigvee \{f(x) \mid f \in F\}$$

$$0(x) = 0$$

Basic Correspondences

theorem:

1. if X is catoid and Q quantale, then Q^X is quantale
2. if Q^X is quantale and Q supported quantale, then X is catoid
3. if Q^X is quantale and X supported catoid, then Q is quantale

“supported” means structures have enough elements for a construction
(e.g., $0 \neq 1$ or some composable elements)

we get KA if X is finitely decomposable: $\{(y, z) \mid x \in y \odot z\}$ finite f.a. x

$$\begin{aligned}
(f * (g * h))(x) &= \bigvee_{x \in u \odot y} f(u) \cdot \left(\bigvee_{y \in v \odot w} g(v) \cdot h(w) \right) \\
&= \bigvee_{x \in u \odot (v \odot w)} f(u) \cdot (g(v) \cdot h(w)) \\
&= \bigvee_{x \in (u \odot v) \odot w} (f(u) \cdot g(v)) \cdot h(w) \\
&= \bigvee_{x \in y \odot w} \left(\bigvee_{y \in u \odot w} f(u) \cdot g(v) \right) \cdot h(w) \\
&= ((f * g) * h)(x)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
x \in u \odot (v \odot w) &\Leftrightarrow (\delta_u * (\delta_v * \delta_w))(x) = 1 \\
&\Leftrightarrow ((\delta_u * \delta_v) * \delta_w)(x) = 1 \\
&\Leftrightarrow x \in (u \odot v) \odot w
\end{aligned}$$

Catoids and Modal Quantales

a domain quantale equips a quantale with $\text{dom} : Q \rightarrow Q$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}\text{dom}(x)x &= x & \text{dom}(x + y) &= \text{dom}(x) + \text{dom}(y) \\ \text{dom}(0) &= 0 & \text{dom}(x) \leq 1 & \quad \text{dom}(x\text{dom}(y)) = \text{dom}(xy)\end{aligned}$$

a codomain quantale (Q, cod) is a domain quantale $(Q^{\text{op}}, \text{dom})$

a modal quantale is a domain and codomain quantale such that

$$\text{dom} \circ \text{cod} = \text{cod} \quad \text{cod} \circ \text{dom} = \text{dom}$$

in relation quantale $\text{dom}(R)_{aa} \Leftrightarrow \exists b. R_{ab}$ and $\text{cod}(R)_{aa} \Leftrightarrow \exists b. R_{ba}$

domain elements $Q_{\text{dom}} = \{x \mid \text{dom}(x) = x\}$ form distributive lattice and boolean algebra if Q is boolean

we define modal operators for $x \in Q$ and $p \in Q_{\text{dom}}$

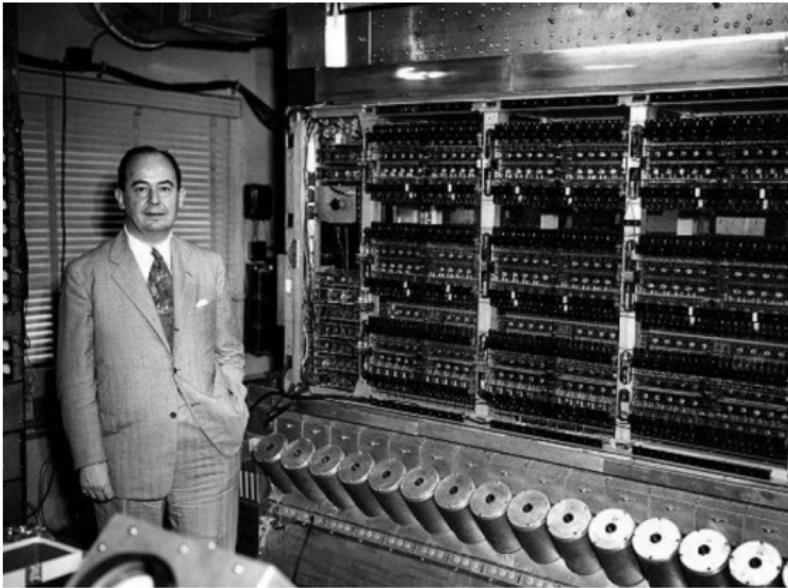
$$\begin{array}{ll} |x\rangle p = \text{dom}(xp) & \langle x|p = \text{cod}(px) \\ |x]p = \bigvee \{q \mid |x\rangle q \leq p\} & [x|p = \bigvee \{q \mid \langle x|q \leq p\} \end{array}$$

this yields dynamic logics/algebras, predicate transformer algebras, boolean algebras with operators

in relation quantale

$$(|R\rangle P)_{aa} \Leftrightarrow \exists b. R_{ab} \wedge P_{bb} \quad (|R]P)_{aa} \Leftrightarrow \forall b. R_{ab} \Rightarrow P_{bb}$$

Modal Quantales and Program Correctness



Modal Quantales and Program Correctness

we use relations over program store to verify programs

$x \in Q$ as programs, $+$ as nondeterministic choice, \cdot as sequential composition, $(-)^*$ as finite iteration

in boolean quantale, for $x \in Q$, $p \in Q_{\text{dom}}$

$$\text{if } p \text{ then } x \text{ else } y = px + \bar{p}y \quad \text{while } p \text{ do } x = (px)^* \bar{p}$$

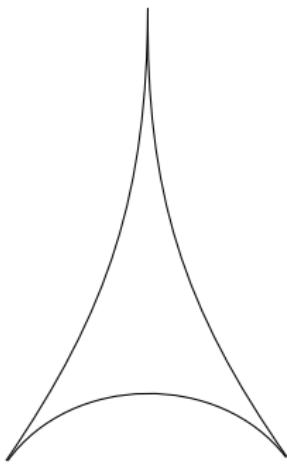
$|x]p$ calculates wlp of program x from postcondition q

program x is (partially) correct if $p \leq |x]q$

Local Catoids and Modal Quantales

theorem: we have 2-out-of-3 correspondences

modal quantale Q^X



$$dom(f) = \bigvee_{x \in X} dom(f(x))\delta_{s(x)}$$

$$cod(f) = \bigvee_{x \in X} cod(f(x))\delta_{t(x)}$$

for $Q = 2$

1. if X is local catoid, then $(\mathcal{P}X, \subseteq, \odot, X_s, \mathcal{P}s, \mathcal{P}t)$ is modal quantale
2. if $\mathcal{P}X$ is modal quantale, then X is local catoid

we derive $s(xs(y)) = s(xy)$ and $s \circ r = r$ in X and lift to *dom*-axioms in $\mathcal{P}X$ (other *dom*-axioms don't depend on identities in X)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dom}(A \odot \text{dom}(B)) &= \bigcup \{s(x \odot s(y)) \mid x \in A, y \in B, t(x) = s(s(y))\} \\ &= \bigcup \{s(x \odot y) \mid x \in A, y \in B, t(x) = s(y)\} \\ &= \text{dom}(A \odot B) \end{aligned}$$

we can recover the catoid axioms from the atom structure in $\mathcal{P}X$

$$\begin{aligned} s(x \odot s(y)) &= \text{dom}(\{x\} \odot \text{dom}(\{y\})) \\ &= \text{dom}(\{x\} \odot \{y\}) \\ &= s(x \odot y) \end{aligned}$$

Models of Modal Quantales

if you want to build a modal convolution quantale, look for a catoid

the lifting is then generic

locality axiom $\text{dom}(x\text{dom}(y)) = \text{dom}(xy)$ is precisely the composition pattern of categories

absorption axiom $\text{dom}(x)x = x$ corresponds to left unit axiom of catoids

every category gives rise to modal quantale

Catoids and Concurrent Quantales

word concatenation interacts with shuffle via interchange law

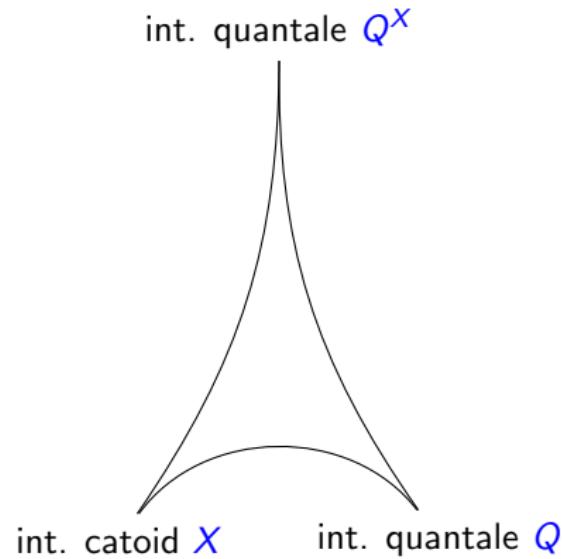
$$(v \| v') \cdot (w \| w') \subseteq (v \cdot w) \| (v' \cdot w')$$

we can lift it to $(A \| A') \cdot (B \| B') \subseteq (A \cdot B) \| (A' \| B')$

an interchange catoid $(X, \odot_0, s_0, t_0, \odot_1, s_1, t_1)$ consists of two catoids that interact via $(x \odot_1 x') \odot_0 (y \odot_1 y') \subseteq (x \odot_0 y) \odot_1 (x' \odot_0 y')$

an interchange quantale $(Q, \leq, \cdot_0, 1_0, \cdot_1, 1_1)$ consists of two quantales that interact via $(x \cdot_1 x') \cdot_0 (y \cdot_0 y') \leq (x \cdot_0 y) \cdot_1 (x' \cdot_0 y')$

theorem: we have 2-out-of-3 correspondences



it suffices to consider correspondences for interchange

Interleaving Concurrency

correspondences yield (weighted) shuffle languages with interchange laws

|| is commutative, there's a general 2-out-of-3 for commutativity

the shuffle catoid has one single unit ε

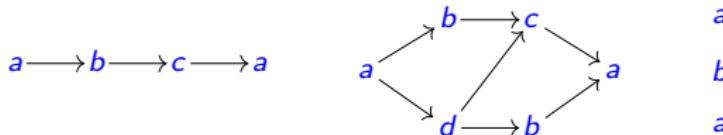
in interchange catoids/quantales with one single unit there's a collapse
à la Eckmann-Hilton, small interchange laws are derivable

$$x \cdot_0 y \leq x \cdot_1 y \quad x \cdot_0 (y \cdot_1 z) \leq (x \cdot_0 y) \cdot_1 z \quad (x \cdot_1 y) \cdot_0 z \leq x \cdot_1 (y \cdot_0 z)$$

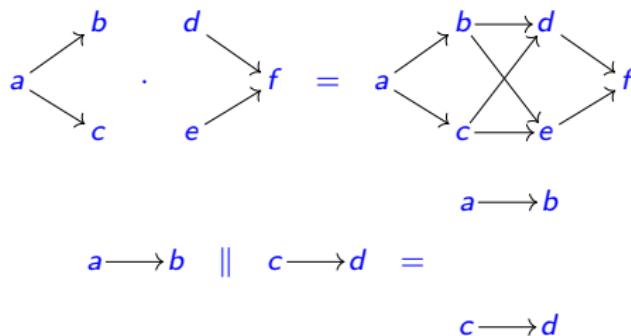
and commutative variants in catoid/quantale

Non-Interleaving Concurrency

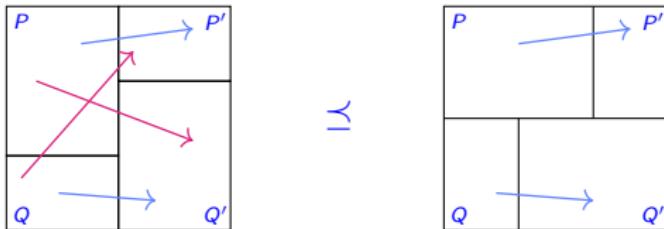
pomsets are a standard model of non-interleaving concurrency



they are composed using serial/parallel composition



operations \cdot and \parallel share the empty pomset ε as their unit



pomset Q subsumes pomset P , $P \preceq Q$, if there exists pomset morphism $Q \rightarrow P$ that is bijective on points

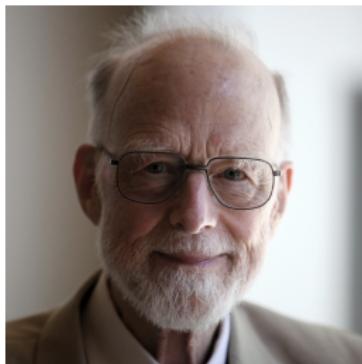
\preceq is partial order on pomsets

we get interchange catoid $(\text{Pom}(\Sigma), \cdot, \Downarrow, \varepsilon)$ with $x \Downarrow y = \{z \mid z \preceq x \parallel y\}$

it lifts to a powerset interchange quantale,
the downclosed languages form subquantale

this generalises to convolution quantales (under technical restrictions)

Models of Concurrent Quantales



construction of interchange/concurrent quantales motivated
this approach

correspondences for interchange catoids/quantales simplified
discussions about potential models

Single-Set n -Categories

Similarly a 2-category can be considered to be a single set X considered as the set of 2-cells (e.g., of natural transformations). Then the previous 1-cells (the arrows) and the 0-cells (the objects) are just regarded as special “degenerate” 2-cells. On the set X of 2-cells there are then two category structures, the “horizontal” structure $(\#_0, s_0, t_0)$ and the “vertical” structure $(\#_1, s_1, t_1)$. Each satisfies the axioms above for a category structure and in addition

- (i) Every identity for the 0-structure is an identity for the 1-structure;
- (ii) The two category structures commute with each other.

Here, the condition (ii) means, of course, that

$$s_0 s_1 = s_1 s_0, \quad s_0 t_1 = t_1 s_0, \quad t_0 s_1 = s_1 t_0, \quad t_0 t_1 = t_1 t_0 \quad (7)$$

and that, for $\alpha, \beta = 0, 1$ or $1, 0$, and for all x, y, u , and v

$$(x \#_\alpha y) \#_\beta (u \#_\alpha v) \#_\alpha (y \#_\beta v), \quad (8)$$

$$t_\alpha(x \#_\beta y) = (t_\alpha x) \#_\beta (t_\alpha y),$$

$$s_\alpha(x \#_\beta y) = (s_\alpha x) \#_\beta (s_\alpha y),$$

whenever both sides are defined.

Since $s_0 x$ and $t_0 x$ are identities for the 0-structure, they are also identities for the 1-structure by condition (i) above. Hence,

$$s_1 s_0 = s_0, \quad t_1 s_0 = s_0, \quad s_1 t_0 = t_0, \quad t_1 t_0 = t_0. \quad (9)$$

With this preparation, we can now readily define a 3-category or more generally an n -category for any natural number n . The latter is a set X with n different category structures $(\#, s_i, t_i)$, for $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$, which commute with each other and are such that an identity for structure i is also an identity for structures j whenever $j > i$. Put differently, each pair $\#_i$ and $\#_j$ for $j > i$ constitute a 2-category. This readily leads to a definition of the useful notion of an ω -category: $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$.

n -Catoids

a (globular) n -catoid $(X, \odot_i, s_i, t_i)_{0 \leq i < n}$ consists of n -catoids (X, \odot_i, s_i, t_i) that interact, for all $0 \leq i < j < n$, via

$$s_i \circ s_j = s_j \circ s_i \quad s_i \circ t_j = t_j \circ s_i \quad t_i \circ s_j = s_j \circ t_i \quad t_i \circ t_j = t_j \circ t_i$$

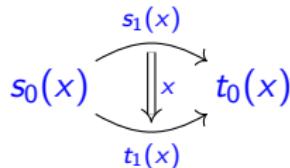
$$(w \odot_j x) \odot_i (y \odot_j z) \subseteq (w \odot_i y) \odot_j (x \odot_i z)$$

$$s_j(x \odot_i y) = s_j(x) \odot_i s_j(y) \quad t_j(x \odot_i y) = t_j(x) \odot_i t_j(y)$$

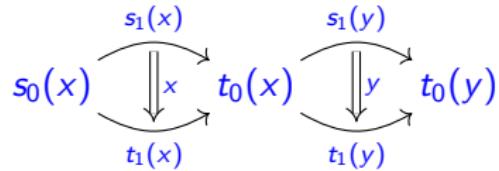
$$s_i(x \odot_j y) \subseteq s_i(x) \odot_j s_i(y) \quad t_i(x \odot_j y) \subseteq t_i(x) \odot_j t_i(y)$$

$$s_j \circ s_i = s_i \quad s_j \circ t_i = t_i \quad t_j \circ s_i = s_i \quad t_j \circ t_i = t_i$$

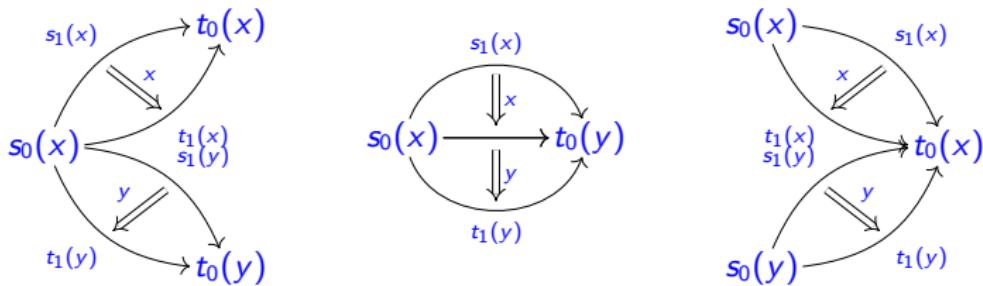
a single-set n -category is a local functional n -catoid



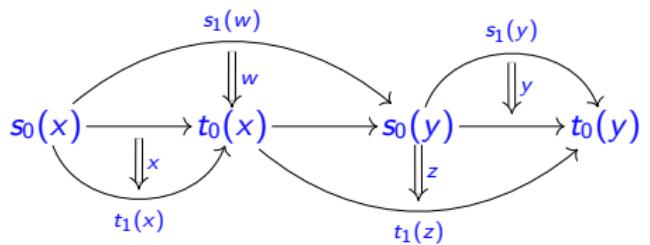
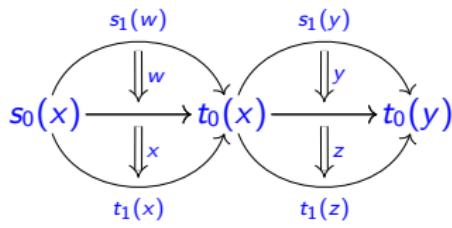
$$s_1(x \odot_0 y) = s_1(x) \odot_0 s_1(y) \text{ and } t_1(x \odot_0 y) = t_1(x) \odot_0 t_1(y)$$



$$s_0(x \odot_1 y) \subseteq s_0(x) \odot_1 s_0(y) \text{ and } t_0(x \odot_1 y) \subseteq t_0(x) \odot_1 t_0(y)$$



$$(w \odot_1 x) \odot_0 (y \odot_1 z) \subseteq (w \odot_0 y) \odot_1 (x \odot_0 z)$$



Reduced n -Catoid Axioms

the following axioms are irredundant and subsume the previous ones

$$(w \odot_j x) \odot_i (y \odot_j z) \subseteq (w \odot_i y) \odot_j (x \odot_i z)$$
$$s_j(x \odot_i y) = s_j(x) \odot_i s_j(y) \quad t_j(x \odot_i y) = t_j(x) \odot_i t_j(y)$$

this streamlines correspondence proofs

n-Quantales

a (*globular*) *n*-quantale $(Q, \leq, \cdot_i, 1_i, \text{dom}_i, \text{cod}_i)_{0 \leq i < n}$ consists of *n* modal quantales $(Q, \leq, \cdot_i, 1_i, \text{dom}_i, \text{cod}_i)$ that interact, for all $0 \leq i < j < n$, via

$$(w \cdot_j x) \cdot_i (y \cdot_j z) \leq (w \cdot_i y) \cdot_j (x \cdot_i z)$$

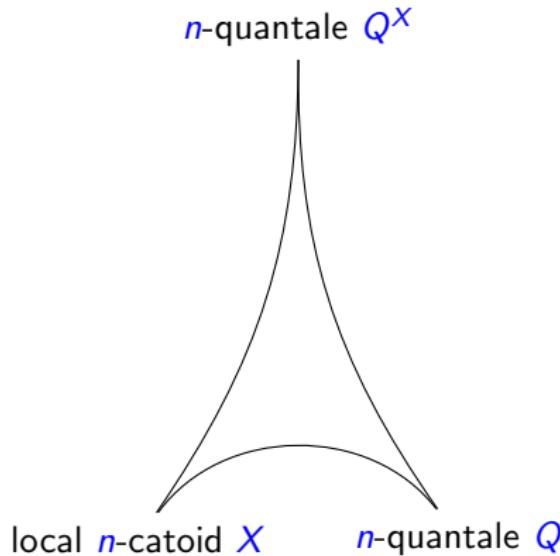
$$\text{dom}_j(x \cdot_i y) = \text{dom}_j(x) \cdot_i \text{dom}_j(y) \quad \text{cod}_j(x \cdot_i y) = \text{cod}_j(x) \cdot_i \text{cod}_j(y)$$

$$\text{dom}_i(x \cdot_j y) \leq \text{dom}_i(x) \cdot_j \text{dom}_i(y) \quad \text{cod}_i(x \cdot_j y) \leq \text{cod}_i(x) \cdot_j \text{cod}_i(y)$$

$$\text{dom}_j(\text{dom}_i(x)) = \text{dom}_i(x)$$

n -Catoids and n -Quantales

theorem: we have 2-out-of-3 correspondences



relative to previous correspondences it remains to check the globular ones

Higher Rewriting

(modal) Kleene algebras allow proving facts from abstract rewriting
(Church-Rosser theorem, Newman's lemma, ...)

n -Kleene algebras allow proving analogous fact from higher rewriting
(using free (n, p) -categories constructed using polygraphs/computads)

our correspondences justify the axioms of n -Kleene algebra firmly
in terms of (free) n -categories

we can justify those of (n, p) -Kleene algebras by integrating
(single-set) groupoids

Jónnsson-Tarski knew about correspondence between groupoids
and relation algebras

single-set approach makes approach easily accessible to proof assistants
and even SMT-solvers

Conclusion

catoids simplify the construction of models for algebras of programs

they often tell where axioms in algebras of programs come from

they provide a particular way of dealing with partiality
(in algebra or category theory)

they might allow formalizing higher categories using automated theorem provers/SMT solvers . . . but this is speculation

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