

strid – A string diagrams generator

Samuel Mimram

June 13, 2023

Contents

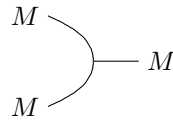
1	Presentation of <i>strid</i>	2
1.1	A first example	2
1.2	Visualizing your diagram	4
1.3	Compiling	4
2	The operators	5
2.1	Line: <code>line</code>	5
2.2	Multiplication: <code>mult</code>	5
2.3	Unit: <code>unit</code>	5
2.4	Adjunction: <code>adj</code>	5
2.5	Symmetry: <code>sym</code>	6
2.6	Braiding: <code>braid</code>	6
2.7	m, n -ary box: <code>mboxn</code>	6
2.8	Vertical box: <code>vbox</code>	6
2.9	Region: <code>region</code>	7
3	Parameters of operators	7
3.1	Labels	7
3.1.1	Triangles: <code>triangle</code> / <code>t</code>	8
3.1.2	Rectangles: <code>rectangle</code> / <code>r</code>	9
3.2	Arrows	9
4	Configuration files	10
5	Examples	10
5.1	Yang-Baxter equality for braids	10
5.2	Hopf law for bialgebras	11
5.3	Naturality condition for natural transformations between two lax functors between bicategories	12

strid is a string diagrams generator for inclusion into L^AT_EX files. It is entirely programmed in OCaml¹. Feel free to drop me a line at samuel.mimram@pps.jussieu.fr if you have some comments, bug reports or feature requests about it.

1 Presentation of *strid*

1.1 A first example

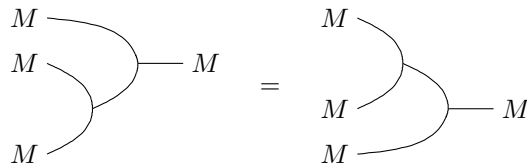
Suppose that $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, I)$ is a strict monoidal category. A *monoid* in \mathcal{C} is an object M of \mathcal{C} together with two maps $\mu : M \otimes M \rightarrow M$, called *multiplication*, and $\eta : I \rightarrow M$, called *unit*, respectively drawn as



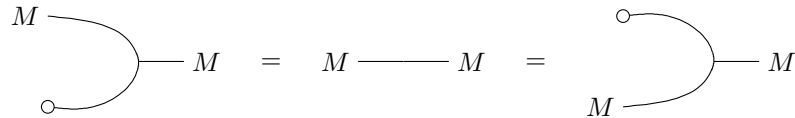
and



such that the equalities

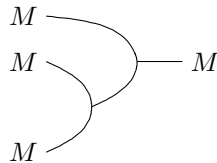


and



hold.

Let's have a look at how we typeset the left member of the associativity equation:



The *strid* code for this figure is

```
matrix {
text(r) [1,t=#M$#] \\
text(r) [1,t=#M$#]&&\mult(u1,d1,r)&text(r) [1,t=#M$#]& \\
&\mult(u1,d1,) \\
text(r) [1,t=#M$#] \\
}
```

¹OCaml can be downloaded at <http://caml.inria.fr/>.

Despite its apparent complexity, this code is very simple! Like every *strid* diagram, this code starts with “`matrix {`” and ends with “`}`”. Between those lines comes the actual description of the diagram. It is structured as a matrix whose columns are separated by “`&`” and whose lines are separated by “`\\`”.

The rightmost multiplication is typeset by

```
mult(ul1,dl,r)
```

Here, “`mult`” is the kind of the operator (a multiplication-shaped one) and its arguments specify that it should be linked to the relative positions $(-2, 1)$ (`ul1` means up-left-left), $(-1, -1)$ (`dl` means down-left) and $(1, 0)$. The order in which the links should be specified is indicated on the figure below:



As for other operators, links are specified inputs first and then outputs.

The labels are specified similarly by instructions like

```
text(r)[l,t=##M$#]
```

This creates a “`text`” operator from here to the relative position $(1, 0)$. The brackets “`[l,t=##M$#]`” are here to specify optional parameters related to this operator. The “`l`” indicates that we are going to add a label and the “`t=##M$#`” means that the label’s text should be “`M`”. The text between `#` is quoted uninterpreted.

Suppose that we have put the text of this figure in a file named `monoid_assoc_l.strid`. Compiling this file can be simply done by typing

```
strid monoid_assoc_l.strid
```

This generates a file `monoid_assoc_l.tex` which can be used in a \LaTeX file like:

```
\documentclass{article}

\usepackage{tikz}

\begin{document}
\input{monoid_assoc_l.tex}
\end{document}
```

You will need the `TikZ` package which can be downloaded at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pgf/>.

Similarly, the right member of the equation is generated in a file `monoid_assoc_r.tex`. To have the equality sign between the two diagrams centered vertically you need to center the two diagrams. This can be done using the `\vcenter` and `\hbox` \LaTeX commands as shown in the following example:

```
\[
\vcenter{\hbox{\input{monoid_assoc_l.tex}}}
=
\vcenter{\hbox{\input{monoid_assoc_r.tex}}}
\]
```

1.2 Visualizing your diagram

Making a nice diagram is sometimes hard and L^AT_EX compilation of the diagrams usually takes some time to complete. If you want to quickly see the diagram generated by *strid* on a file `toto.strid`, type the command

```
strid -g toto.strid
```

This will open a window in which the output diagram is displayed, which is refreshed every time the file `toto.strid` is changed.

1.3 Compiling

Compiling diagrams can quickly become a tedious task : you have to run *strid* to generate a L^AT_EX file and then use `latex` or `pdflatex` to produce the final document (which can take long to compile). If you want to speed up the compilation of the document, you can have *strid* generate directly pdf files by typing

```
strid --pdf toto.strid
```

The resulting `toto.pdf` file can then be integrated in a L^AT_EX document as follows.

```
\documentclass{article}

\usepackage{graphics}

\begin{document}
\[\includegraphics{toto.pdf}\]
\end{document}
```

In order to have the pdf files automatically generated from the strid files, a `Makefile` file can be used, containing

```
STRIDFILES=$(wildcard *.strid)
STRIDPDF=$(STRIDFILES:.strid=.pdf)

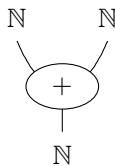
pdf: $(STRIDPDF)

%.pdf: %.strid
    $(STRID) --pdf $<
```

The pdf files corresponding to the strid files of the current directory can then be generated by simply typing

```
make
```

Be careful, if you use macros in your strid files those won't be known when generating the pdf. The solution is to put your macros in a `macros.sty` file (or whatever name.sty) and include those in the tex file used to produce the pdf by using the `--latex-preamble` command of *strid*. For example,



is typeset in a file `add.strid` containing

```

matrix {
text(d) [1,t=#$\N$#]&&text(d) [1,t=#$\N$#]\\
\\
&mult(u1,ur,d) [1,t=#$+$#]&\\
\\
&text(u) [1,t=#$\N$#]&\\
}

```

and is compiled with

```
strid --pdf --latex-preamble "\\usepackage{macros}" add.strid
```

where the `macros.sty` file contains

```

\usepackage{amsfonts}
\newcommand{\N}{\mathbb{N}}

```

The Makefile above can obviously be modified in order to cope with such situations.

2 The operators

2.1 Line: line



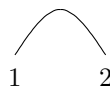
2.2 Multiplication: mult



2.3 Unit: unit



2.4 Adjunction: adj



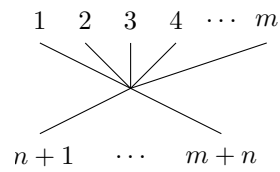
2.5 Symmetry: sym



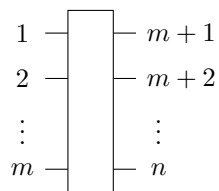
2.6 Braiding: braid



2.7 m, n -ary box: $mboxn$

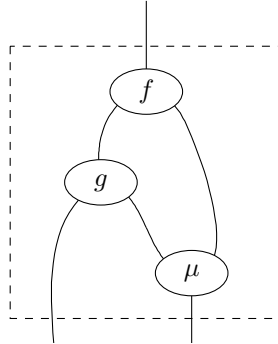


2.8 Vertical box: vbox



2.9 Region: region

Regions can be delimited:



is typeset by

```
matrix {
  \\
  region(6d6r)&&&&&\\
  &&&mult(dl,dr,uu) [1,t=#f$#]\\
  \\
  &&mult(4dl,dr,u) [1,t=#g$#]\\
  \\
  &&&mult(ul,uuu,dd) [1,t=#μ$#]\\
  \\
}
```

3 Parameters of operators

3.1 Labels

Labels can be added to operators. For example the diagram



can be typeset by

```
matrix {
  \\
  &mult(ul,ur,d) [1,t=#μ$#]&\\
  \\
}
```

If you don't like the size of the ellipse surrounding the label, this can of course be changed. For example,



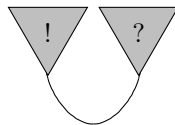
can be typeset by

```
matrix {
\\
&mult(u1,ur,d) [1,t=#$\mu$#,w=0.6,h=0.4]&\\
\\
}
```

Various shapes are available for labels:

3.1.1 Triangles: triangle / t

For example,

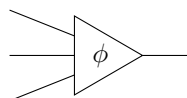


can be typeset by

```
matrix {
\\
&unit(d) [1,t=#$!$#,s=triangle,d=d,c=lightgray]&&
unit(d) [1,t=#$?$#,s=triangle,d=d,c=lightgray]&\\
\\
&&arc(u1,ur)&\\
}
```

Here, the *s* parameter is the *shape*, the *d* parameter is the *direction* of the triangle (here it is pointing down) and the *c* parameter specifies the *color* of the triangle. There are shortcuts for the shapes, for example you can type *s=t* instead of *s=triangle*, which is more concise but less readable.

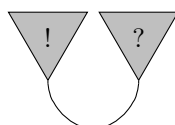
There is a particular case where the direction of the triangle can be guessed and you don't need to specify the direction of the triangle: when there is only one output port. The `operad` operator does precisely this.



can be typeset by

```
matrix {
\\
&&operad(d2l,2l,u2l,2r) [1,t=#$\phi$#]&&\\
\\
}
```

It also provides minor improvements of the drawing for example, the output wire is exactly starting at the vertex of the triangle :



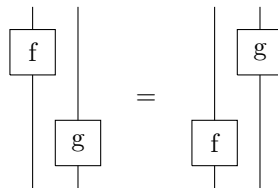
is typeset by


```

matrix {
\\
&operad(d)[l,t=#$!$#,c=lightgray]&&
operad(d)[l,t=#$?$#,c=lightgray]&\\
\\
&&arc(ul,ur)&\\
}

```

3.1.2 Rectangles: rectangle / r



The left member is typeset by

```

matrix {
\\
1box1(u,3d)[l,t=#f#,s=rectangle]\\
\\
&1box1(3u,d)[l,t=#g#,s=rectangle]\\
\\
}

```

3.2 Arrows

Lines can be oriented using the **a** attribute. For example,



can be typeset by

```

matrix {
\\
&mult(ul,dl,r)[a]&\\
\\
}

```

To specify that the direction should be backwards use the **d=b** subattribute. For example,



can by typeset by

```

matrix {
\\

```

```
&mult(u1,d1,r)[a,d=b]&\
\\
}
```

The position of the arrow can be changed by setting the `t` parameter which is a float between 0. and 1.. For example, the arrow can be put at the end of a line by using the `t=1.` parameter :



is typeset by

```
matrix {
line(2r)[a,t=1.]&&\
}
```

4 Configuration files

All parameters can be saved in a configuration file named `strid.conf`. To generate a configuration file, type

```
strid --dump-conf
```

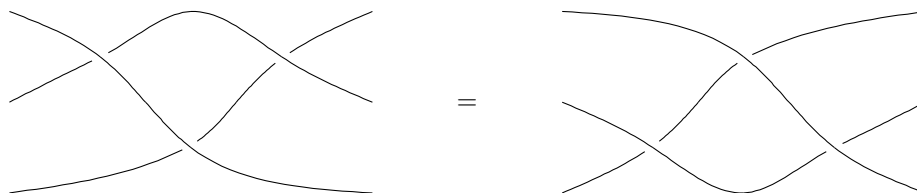
You can then edit `strid.conf`.

Some of the options that can be set are:

- `line_width`: default width of a line
- `label_width`: default width of a label
- `label_height`: default height of a label
- `no_tex_environment`: do not output `\begin{tikz}` and `\end{tikz}`
- `scaling_factor`: scale the diagrams
- `label_triangle_height`: default height of a triangular label
- `label_rectangle_width`: default width of a rectangular label
- `label_rectangle_height`: default height of a rectangular label
- `interpolation`: interpolation method for drawing lines (possible values are `cspline` and `linear`)
- `small_circle_ray`: ray of small circles (used to tweak the drawing of multiplications)

5 Examples

5.1 Yang-Baxter equality for braids



Left member is typeset by

```

matrix {
\\
&&braid(ull,dll,urr,dr)&&&braid(ull,dl,urr,drr)&&\\
\\
&&&braid(ul,d4l,ur,d4r)\\
\\
}

```

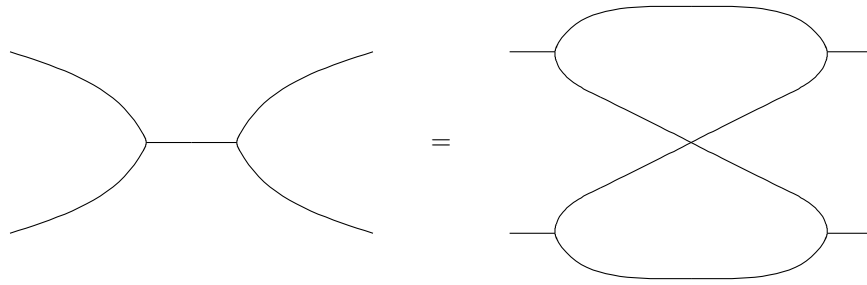
and right member by

```

matrix {
\\
&&&braid(u4l,dl,u4r,dr)\\
\\
&&braid(ull,dll,ur,drr)&&&braid(ul,dll,urr,drr)&&\\
\\
}

```

5.2 Hopf law for bialgebras



Left member is typeset by

```

matrix{
\\
\\
\\
&&&mult(uu3l,dd3l,r)&&mult(uu3r,dd3r,l)&&&\\
\\
\\
\\
}

```

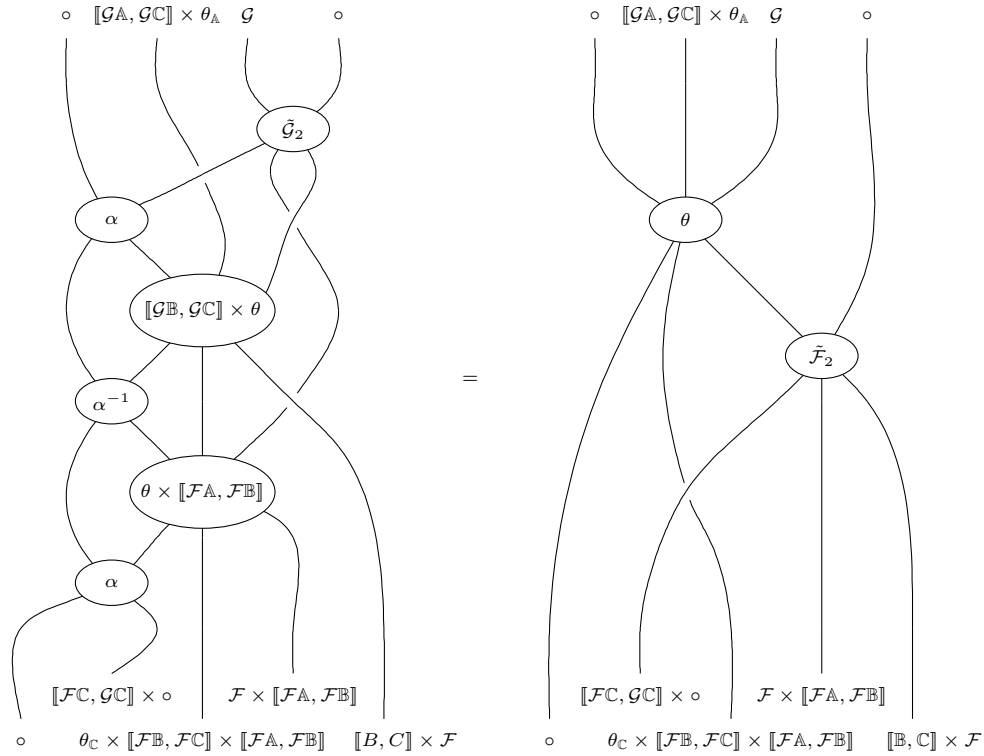
and right member by

```

matrix{
\\
&mult(u3r,dr,l)&&&&mult(u3l,dl,r)&&\\
\\
&&&sym(ull,dll,urr,drr)\\
\\
&mult(ur,d3r,l)&&&&mult(ul,d3l,r)&&\\
\\
}

```

5.3 Naturality condition for natural transformations between two lax functors between bicategories



The code for the left-hand side of the equation is

```

matrix {
\\
&\text(u) [1,t=#$\circ$#]
&& \text(u) [1,t=#$\![\mathcal{G}\backslash A,\mathcal{G}\backslash C]\!$ \times \theta\_A$#]
&& \text(u) [1,t=#$\mathcal{G}$#]
&& \text(u) [1,t=#$\circ$#]&\\
\\
&\line(u,)&\line(u,)&\line(u,)&\line(u,)& \\
&&&&&2box3(u1,ur,0.5dl,d0.5l,d0.5r) [1,t=#$\tilde{\mathcal{G}}\_2$#]&&\\
&&&&&braid(0.5ur,2u1,1.5d0.5r,0.5dl)&&&\\
&&\text{sym}(3u1,0.5ur,2d1,dr) [1,t=#$\alpha$#]&&&&braid(u0.5r,u0.5l,2dr,2dl)&&\\
\\
&&&&&3box3(u1,1.5u0.5r,r,d1,2d,dr) [1,t=#$\![\mathcal{G}\backslash B,\mathcal{G}\backslash C]\!$ \times \theta\_B,w=1.6,h=0.8]&&&&\\
\\
&&\text{sym}(2u1,ur,2d1,dr) [1,t=#$\alpha^{-1}$#]&&&&braid(u1,2ur,d1,dr)&&\\
\\
&&&&&3box3(u1,2u,ur,d1,d,dr) [1,t=#$\theta \times \![\mathcal{F}\backslash A,\mathcal{F}\backslash B]\!$# ,w=1.6,h=0.8]&&&&\\
\\
&&\text{sym}(2u1,ur,d1,dr) [1,t=#$\alpha$#] && &&&\\
&\line(,2d)&&&&\line(2u,2d)&&\line(2u,d)&&\line(4u1,2d)\\
&&\line(,ur)&&&&\\
\\
&&
\text(u) [1,t=#$\![\mathcal{F}\backslash C,\mathcal{G}\backslash C]\!$ \times \circ$#]
&& &&
\text(u) [1,t=#$\mathcal{F}$ \times \![\mathcal{F}\backslash A,\mathcal{F}\backslash B]\!$#]
&& \\
\text(u) [1,t=#$\circ$#]
&& &&
\text(u) [1,t=#$\theta\_C \times \![\mathcal{F}\backslash B,\mathcal{F}\backslash C]\!$ \times \![\mathcal{F}\backslash A,\mathcal{F}\backslash B]\!$#]
&& &&
\text(u) [1,t=#$\quad \![B,C]\!$ \times \mathcal{F}$#]
\\
}

```

and the code for the right-hand side is

```
matrix {
  \\\
  &text(u)[1,t=#$\circ$#]&&text(u)[1,t=#$[\!\[\mathcal{G}\backslash A,\mathcal{G}\backslash C\backslash!] \times \theta_A$#]
  &&text(u)[1,t=#$\mathcal{G}$#]&&text(u)[1,t=#$\circ$#]&\
  \\\
  &\\
  &\\
  &&&3box3(2u2l,2u,2u2r,4d2l,3d0.5l,dr)[1,t=#$\theta$#]&&&&\
  &\\
  &\\
  &&&&2box3(2u2l,2ur,dl,d,dr)[1,t=#$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_2$#]&&\
  &\\
  &\\
  &&&braid(2u2r,3u0.5l,d0.5r,d0.5l)&&&&\
  &\\
  &\\
  &line(5ur,dd)&&line(2u0.5r,d)&&line(2u0.5l,dd)&&line(5u,d)&&line(5ul,dd)\
  &\\
  &\\
  &&
  &text(u)[1,t=#$[\!\[\mathcal{F}\backslash C,\mathcal{G}\backslash C\backslash!] \times \circ$#]
  && &&
  &text(u)[1,t=#$\mathcal{F} \times [\!\[\mathcal{F}\backslash A,\mathcal{F}\backslash B\backslash!]$#]
  && \\\
  &text(u)[1,t=#$\circ$#]
  && &&
  &text(u)[1,t=#$\theta_C \times [\!\[\mathcal{F}\backslash B,\mathcal{F}\backslash C\backslash!] \times [\!\[\mathcal{F}\backslash A,\mathcal{F}\backslash B\backslash!]$#]
  && &&
  &text(u)[1,t=#$\quad [\!\[\mathcal{B},\mathcal{C}\backslash!] \times \mathcal{F}$#]
  &\\
  &}
}
```