GEOMETRIC MODELS OF CONCURRENT COMPUTATIONS

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Habilitation à diriger des recherches

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We are interested in **concurrent** programs:

- they consist in multiple subprograms running in parallel,
- ► their scheduling is inherently non-deterministic.



They raise specific problems:

- how can we efficiently verify those programs?
- how can we represent the state space of those programs?
 (= all possible states the program can be)

We should understand the structure of computations, applications will follow.

The geometric approach

The general idea is that we are going to interpret the state space of programs as a **geometric space**

$$P_{a}; P_{b}; P_{c}; V_{a}; P_{f}; V_{c}; V_{b}; V_{f}$$

$$\| P_{d}; P_{e}; P_{a}; V_{d}; P_{c}; V_{e}; V_{a}; V_{c}$$

$$\| P_{b}; P_{f}; V_{b}; P_{d}; V_{f}; P_{e}; V_{d}; V_{e}$$



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which helps programmers

- provides a way to visualize programs
- helps to come up with new methods
- allows the use of powerful invariants (fundamental category, curvature, homology, etc.)

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which raises new questions

- requires adapting classical concepts in order to incorporate the direction of time
- provides interesting classes of spaces

Commutation of actions

In concurrent programs, some actions can be interleaved

x := 5 || x := 9

which means that we have the following executions:



In fact, the resulting x could even be different from 5 and 9! (we should ensure that the two actions are mutually exclusive)

Commutation of actions

In concurrent programs, some actions do commute

x := 5 || y := 9

in the sense that their order do not matter



Commutation of actions

Two executions which are equivalent up to reordering of commuting actions give rise to the same result:

we can reduce the state-space!



Truly concurrent semantics

The control-flow graph should incorporate this information of commutation between actions:



This is called **true concurrency**: Mazurkiewicz traces, trace monoids, asynchronous transition systems, transition systems with independence, automata with concurrency relations, ...

THE TITLE

(Geometric Semantics for Concurrent Programs)

I am interested in various notions of "concurrent programs".

An imperative programming language:

(if
$$x = 3$$
 then $y := 1$ else $y := 2$) $\| z := 5$



We want to verify programs, reduce the state-space, find invariants, find problematic code (deadlocks / dead code), etc.

(Herlihy, ...)

I am interested in various notions of "concurrent programs".

Asynchronous protocols with a shared memory:

 $(U_1; S_1)^* \parallel (U_2; S_2)^* \parallel \dots \parallel (U_n; S_n)^*$

Which tasks can be implemented in this model, in the presence of *failures*?

I am interested in various notions of "concurrent programs".

Distributed version control systems:



What are the atomic operations and their rules? How to represent the states of the system in the case of conflicting operations?

I am interested in various notions of "concurrent programs".

• (String) rewriting systems:



We want to show confluence, reduce the number of rules, etc.

GEOMETRIC MODELS

The model of asynchronous graphs is already quite geometric:



we have:

- ▶ 0-dimensional objects: the vertices
- ▶ 1-dimensional objects: the edges
- > 2-dimensional objects: the commutation squares

(Pratt, van Glabbeek, ...)

In fact we could also take in account commutation of n actions:



and more. In precubical sets, we have:

- O-dimensional cubes: points
- ► 1-dimensional cubes: edges
- 2-dimensional cubes: squares

These can be defined as a suitable presheaf category $\hat{\Box}$: each *n*-cube has a source and target in dimension *i* for $0 \le i < n$.

(Pratt, Goubault, Raussen, Haucourt, ...)

These models are still very algebraic in nature. However, we can realize them as **topological spaces**:

|-| : $\hat{\Box} \rightarrow \mathbf{Top}$

For instance:



(Pratt, Goubault, Raussen, Haucourt, ...)

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|-| : $\hat{\Box} \rightarrow \mathbf{Top}$

For instance:





dipath = execution dihomotopy = equivalence

(Pratt, Goubault, Raussen, Haucourt, ...)

These models are still very algebraic in nature. However, we can realize them as **directed topological spaces**:

|-| : $\hat{\Box} \rightarrow dTop$

For instance:





dipath = execution dihomotopy = equivalence

In order to be able to speak about quantitative properties, one would also like to consider **metric** models

|-| : $\hat{\Box} \rightarrow \mathbf{Met}$

For instance:



Geometric models (Burroni, ...)

Presentations of (higher-)categories, called **polygraphs**, involve relations which are not necessarily squares:

$$\langle s, t \mid st \Rightarrow ts, sts \Rightarrow tst \rangle$$

can be depicted as





I will present *some* aspects of these models and focus on some important results:

- give an overview of the methods in the field
- give an overview of their possible applications

MUTEXES AND THE CUBE PROPERTY

Control flow graphs To any program one can associate a **control flow graph**:



How can we extend these to concurrent programs?

In order to prevent incompatible actions from running in parallel, one uses **mutexes**, which are *resources* on which two actions are available

- P_a : take the resource a
- V_a : *release* the resource *a*

and implementation

- guarantees that a resource has been taken at most once at any moment,
- ▶ forbids releasing a resource which as not been taken.

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and implementation

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Our earlier program should be rewritten as

$$P_a; x:=5; V_a \parallel P_a; x:=9; V_a$$

In the program

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the possible executions are



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The cubical semantics

Definition

The **cubical semantics** \check{C}_p of a program p is

▶ the precubical set *C_p* associated to *p* by induction:

$$C_{p \parallel q} = C_p \otimes C_q$$

with forbidden vertices removed (and iterated cofaces)

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Lemma

The dipaths starting from the initial vertex are in bijection with possible executions of the program.



Dihomotopy between dipaths

Definition

The **dihomotopy** relation $\hat{\sim}$ between dipaths is the smallest congruence such that $A \cdot B \hat{\sim} B' \cdot A'$ whenever $A \cdot B \diamond B' \cdot A'$:



Proposition

For "coherent" programs, two dihomotopic executions lead to the same state.

Lisbeth Fajstrup · Eric Goubault Emmanuel Haucourt · Samuel Mimram Martin Raussen

Directed Algebraic Topology and Concurrency



HOMOTOPY VS DIHOMOTOPY
Dipaths

From a topological point of view, instead of considering directed paths (or **dipaths**)

$$\xrightarrow{A} \xrightarrow{B} \xrightarrow{C} \text{ or } A \cdot B \cdot C$$

it is more natural to consider paths

$$\xrightarrow{A} \xleftarrow{B} \xrightarrow{C} \text{ or } A \cdot \overline{B} \cdot C$$

where arrows can occur backward.

Homotopy

Similarly, one would usual consider **homotopy** \sim between paths: the smallest congruence, containing dihomotopy $\hat{\sim}$ and such that for every edge

$$x \xrightarrow{A} y$$

we have

$$\operatorname{id}_{X} \sim A \,.\, \overline{A} \qquad \qquad \overline{A} \,.\, A \sim \operatorname{id}_{Y}$$

Remark

Clearly $f \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} g$ implies $f \sim g$, but converse is *not* generally true.

Homotopy vs dihomotopy (Fahrenberg)

Consider the following "matchbox":



where every square is filled excepting the top one:

Homotopy vs dihomotopy (Fahrenberg)

Consider the following "matchbox":





We have

 $A_1 \, . \, B_4 \sim B_1 \, . \, A_4$ but not $A_1 \, . \, B_4 \stackrel{_\sim}{\sim} B_1 \, . \, A_4$



















This example cannot be obtained as the semantics of a program!

Binary conflicts

In a situation such as



the vertex \mathbf{x} is forbidden (and has to be removed).

Binary conflicts

In a situation such as



the vertex *x* is forbidden (and has to be removed).

In this case, the vertex y has to be removed too, because $B \neq V_a$!

The cube property

Proposition

Semantics of programs satisfy the **cube property**:



(and other more minor properties).

Theorem

In a precubical set satisfying the cube property, two dipaths are dihomotopic if and only if they are homotopic: the inclusion functor

$$\vec{\Pi}_1(C) \hookrightarrow \Pi_1(C)$$

is faithful.

Proof.

Uses 2-dimensional rewriting techniques!

Some consequences

From this follows many interesting properties:

- normal forms for dihomotopy classes of paths,
- an easy definition of universal covers,

► ...

IV

NON-POSITIVELY CURVED PRECUBICAL SETS

Metric semantics

A semantics in metric spaces is desirable:

- we want to have a notion of length of paths (corresponding to the duration of an execution),
- interesting notions, such as *curvature* are available in this context.

Geometric realization

In order to define a geometric realization $\left|-\right|$ in metric spaces, we should use the usual formula

$$|C| = \int^{n \in \Box} C_n \cdot I^n$$

However, the category of metric spaces does not have enough colimits.

We should consider Lawvere's generalized metric spaces!

Definition

A **metric space** is a space X equipped with a metric $d: X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ such that, given $x, y, z \in X$,

(1) point equality:
$$d(x, x) = 0$$

(2) triangle inequality: $d(x, z) \le d(x, y) + d(y, z)$
(3) finite distances: $d(x, y) < \infty$
(4) separation: $d(x, y) = 0$ implies $x = y$
(5) symmetry: $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$

We consider contracting maps $f : X \to Y$:

$$d_Y(f(x), f(x')) \leq d_X(x, x')$$

Unfortunately, the resulting category is not cocomplete!

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Intuitively, X + Y should be such that

$$d(x,y) = \infty$$

for $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$.

Definition

A **metric space** is a space X equipped with a metric $d: X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ such that, given $x, y, z \in X$,

(1) point equality: d(x, x) = 0(2) triangle inequality: $d(x, z) \le d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ (3) finite distances: $d(x, y) < \infty$ (4) separation: d(x, y) = 0 implies x = y(5) symmetry: d(x, y) = d(y, x)

Consider the relation \approx on X identifying a family of points $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $d(x_i, y) = 1/i$ for some y

Intuitively, in X / \approx , we should have $d([x_i], [y]) = 0$.

Definition

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We can encode direction in the distance!



$$d(x,y) = \bigwedge \left\{ \rho - \theta \mid x = e^{i2\pi\theta}, y = e^{i2\pi\rho}, \rho \ge \theta \right\}$$

Generalized metric spaces (Lawvere)

Definition

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Proposition

The category **GMet** enjoys the following:

- the category GMet is complete and cocomplete,
- \blacktriangleright the forgetful functor $\textbf{GMet} \rightarrow \textbf{Set}$ has left and right adjoints,
- the forgetful functor **GMet** \rightarrow **Top** preserves <u>finite</u> (co)limits.

Metric realization

We can define a metric realization functor

$$|-|$$
 : $\hat{\Box} \rightarrow$ GMet

Theorem

For a locally finite precubical set C, the space |C|

- ► has the usual geometric real. as underlying topological space
- ▶ is a geodesic length space.

Non-positively curved spaces

The cube property for precubical sets is analogous to Gromov's condition for characterizing NPC cubical complexes:

Theorem

Given a finite dimensional geometric precubical set C satisfying the cube property, it metric realization |C| is **non-positively** curved, *i.e.* locally CAT(0).



In fact, many definitions and properties of NPC cubical complexes can be carried on directly in the setting of precubical sets!

Some consequences

We have the properties of NPC spaces:

- ► |*C*| is locally uniquely geodesic
- ▶ the universal cover is NPC,
- ▶ the fundamental group is automatic,
- links with geometric group theory,

► ...

This suggests generalizations of the cube property:

▶ what are the corresponding notion of "NPC"?

DISTRIBUTED VERSION CONTROL SYSTEMS

DVCS

. . .

😡 darcs

Distributed Version Control Systems are used when working collaboratively on files and import modifications from other people

🚯 git

A **patch** stores the difference between two files (i.e. the list of inserted and deleted lines).

Users can perform two actions:

S U B V E R S I O N

- commit the difference between the current version and the last committed version as a patch to a server
- update its current version by importing all the new patches on the server

Intuitively, we have a category of files and patches.

Using DVCS

Alice Bob

b

Using DVCS

Alice

Bob

b

Using DVCS

Alice Bob


Using DVCS

Alice Bob



Using DVCS

Alice Bob



Using DVCS

Alice Bob



Merging modifications is naturally modeled by pushouts.

In particular, this provides residual patches!

Conflicts

However, not every pair of coinitial morphisms has a pushout!

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We should extend our model to account for "files with conflicts" and their handling.

There were many proposals for this. Instead of discussing the relative merits of each of those, we instead look for a

universal property

that this extension should satisfy: we want to

formally add pushouts.

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that this extension should satisfy: we want to

formally add finite colimits which do not already exist.

We should extend our model to account for "files with conflicts" and their handling.

There were many proposals for this. Instead of discussing the relative merits of each of those, we instead look for a

universal property

that this extension should satisfy: we want to

compute a conservative finite cocompletion.

Enforcing confluence

This is a different perspective on concurrency:

usually, we want to check the confluence property:



▶ here, we want to enforce confluence

Let's begin with a simplified model:

- one file
- lines can only be inserted
- lines don't have contents

The category of files and insertions

Definition

We write ${\boldsymbol{\mathcal L}}$ for the category whose

- objects are sets $\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- morphisms are injective increasing functions:



Remark

This is also known as the augmented presimplicial category.

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Proposition

This is the free monoidal category containing an object 1 and a morphism

$$\eta$$
 : $0
ightarrow 1$

The category of files and insertions

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- objects are sets $\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
- morphisms are injective increasing functions:



Remark

We can add labels to the lines by using a slice category construction.

The conservative finite cocompletion

The category \mathcal{P} of "files with conflicts" should be the **free** conservative finite cocompletion of \mathcal{L} :



with

- \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{C} with finite colimits
- Y, F, \tilde{F} preserving finite colimits

$\mathsf{Computing}\ \mathcal{P}$

It is well-known that $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ is the free cocompletion of \mathcal{L} :



Theorem (Kelly)

The free conservative cocompletion of \mathcal{L} is the full subcategory of $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$ whose objects are continuous presheaves.

The finite cocompletion can be obtained by further restricting to "finite" presheaves.

Computing ${\mathcal P}$

From this one can extract an explicit description of \mathcal{P} .

Theorem

The free conservative finite cocompletion \mathcal{P} of \mathcal{L} is the category:

- objects (A, <) are finite sets equipped with a transitive relation <,
- a morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a function respecting the relation.

Computing in ${\mathcal P}$

We have all pushouts, e.g. the pushout of



is

A free cocompletion of ${\boldsymbol{\mathcal L}}$

Every object in \mathcal{P} can be obtained as a colimit of objects in \mathcal{L} . For instance, consider the morphisms



By coproduct, we get a "sequentialization" morphism



A free cocompletion of ${\boldsymbol{\mathcal L}}$

Every object in \mathcal{P} can be obtained as a colimit of objects in \mathcal{L} . For instance, consider the morphisms



Computing in $\ensuremath{\mathcal{P}}$

Notice that we get a way of identifying two independent lines, which can be used to solve a conflict.



Extensions

There are many possible extensions of this work:

- patches with deletions,
- structured files,
- ▶ many files,
- ...

Pijul (Meunier, Becker, ...)



http://pijul.org/

VI

PRESENTATIONS MODULO OF CATEGORIES

Presentations of *n*-categories

(Burroni, ...)

An *n*-category can be *presented* by a **polygraph**, i.e. described as

- ▶ the free *n*-category on given 0-, 1, ..., *n*-generators,
- ▶ quotiented by a congruence generated by relations on *n*-cells.



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An *n*-category can be *presented* by a **polygraph**, i.e. described as

- ▶ the free *n*-category on given 0-, 1, ..., *n*-generators,
- ▶ quotiented by a congruence generated by relations on *n*-cells.



Remark

Since the quotient is performed on *n*-cells the underlying (n-1)-category is free!

Question

Can we coherently quotient in lower dimensions?

We provide an answer for n = 1 and n = 2.

Presentations of categories.

Graphs

Definition

A graph G = (V, s, t, E) consists of

- ► a set V of vertices
- ► a set *E* of *edges*
- source and target functions $s, t : E \to V$



Graphs

Definition

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- ► a set V of vertices
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- source and target functions $s, t : E \to V$

The **free category** generated by G has

- objects: vertices V
- ▶ morphisms: paths *E*^{*} (with concatenation as composition)



Presentations of categories

Definition

A **presentation** P of category consists of

- ► a graph (the *signature*)
- a set of rules relating a path with another path with same source and target



The *presented category* ||P|| is the free category on the graph with paths taken modulo the congruence generated by rules.

Presentations of categories (formally)

Definition

A presentation P of category consists of



- ▶ a set P₀ of *object generators*
- a set P_1 of morphism generators
- ► a set P_2 of *relations* with $s_0^* \circ s_1 = s_0^* \circ t_1$ and $t_0^* \circ s_1 = t_0^* \circ t_1$

Question

How do we add a quotient on objects too?

Presentations modulo

Definition

A presentation modulo (P, \tilde{P}_1) of category consists of

- ► a presentation of category *P*,
- ▶ a set $\tilde{P}_1 \subseteq P_1$ of equational generators.



$$\begin{array}{rcl}
P_{0} & = & \{x_{i}\} \\
P_{1} & = & \{f_{i}, g_{i}\} \\
\tilde{P}_{1} & = & \{f_{i}\} \\
P_{2} & = & \{\rho\}
\end{array}$$

Presentations modulo

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- ► a presentation of category *P*,
- a set $\tilde{P}_1 \subseteq P_1$ of equational generators.



Since, we want to consider objects modulo relations in $\tilde{P}_1,$ it is natural to suppose that

Assumption

The abstract rewriting system (P_0, \tilde{P}_1) is convergent.

The category presented modulo



Given a presentation modulo (P, \tilde{P}_1) , we have three possible ways of defining the presented category from ||P||:

The category presented modulo



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1. **quotient** by equational generators: turn them into identities,
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2. **localize** by equational generators: turn them into isomorphisms,

The category presented modulo



Given a presentation modulo (P, \tilde{P}_1) , we have three possible ways of defining the presented category from ||P||:

1. **quotient** by equational generators: turn them into identities,

2. **localize** by equational generators: turn them into isomorphisms,

3. **restrict** to objects which are normal forms wrt equational generators.

The main result

Theorem

Given a presentation modulo (P, \tilde{P}_1) satisfying suitable assumptions, the three constructions are related by



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Theorem

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Remark

This generalizes Ore-Dehornoy conditions ensuring that a (presented) category embeds into its enveloping groupoid.

► One of these assumptions is a variant of the cube property

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- The motivations (and tools) are the same as for defining the category of components (Goubault, Haucourt, ...):



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- We need the notion of residual for rewriting paths
- The motivations (and tools) are the same as for defining the category of components (Goubault, Haucourt, ...):



• ... which is itself closely related to **partial order reduction**.

In dimension 2

Presentations of 1-categories is a toy case, this has since then been extended to monoidal categories (= 2-categories) to obtain a presentation of

$\triangle \times \triangle$

as a product of monoidal categories (with similar properties).

VII

There is more work in the manuscript:

▶ adj. between cubical models and classical ones (Winskel)



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- relating partial order reduction and the cat. of components

 \rightarrow





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- geometric models and asynchronous computability



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- homotopical completion of rewriting systems



There is more work in the manuscript:

- ▶ adj. between cubical models and classical ones (Winskel)
- relating partial order reduction and the cat. of components
- geometric models and asynchronous computability
- homotopical completion of rewriting systems
- preliminary implementation of polygraphs



Unifying viewpoints and techniques Computation Algebra Geometry

Perspectives:

- higher-dimensional categories and rewriting:
 - computational properties
 - homotopical properties
 - presentations of weak ∞ -categories
 - directed homotopy equivalence

<u>ا</u>

- geometric invariants for asynchronous computations
 - first links with geom. sem. and partially commutative monoids
 - more invariants (Squier?)

…

QUESTIONS?