

# Coherence in cartesian theories using rewriting

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# Coherence theorems

The goal of this work is

- to better understand **coherence theorems**
- to provide **tools** to show such theorem

# The coherence theorem for monoidal categories

A monoidal category  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{e}, \alpha, \lambda, \rho)$  comes equipped with

$$\alpha_{x,y,z} : (x \otimes y) \otimes z \xrightarrow{\sim} x \otimes (y \otimes z) \quad \lambda_x : \mathbf{e} \otimes x \xrightarrow{\sim} x \quad \rho_x : x \otimes \mathbf{e} \xrightarrow{\sim} x$$

satisfying axioms:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} ((x \otimes y) \otimes z) \otimes w & \longrightarrow & (x \otimes (y \otimes z)) \otimes w & \longrightarrow & x \otimes ((y \otimes z) \otimes w) \\ \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ (x \otimes y) \otimes (z \otimes w) & \longrightarrow & & \longrightarrow & x \otimes (y \otimes (z \otimes w)) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (x \otimes \mathbf{e}) \otimes y & \longrightarrow & x \otimes (\mathbf{e} \otimes y) \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & x \otimes y & \end{array}$$

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satisfying axioms.

The **coherence theorem** for monoidal categories states that every diagram whose morphisms are composites of  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$  commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (e \otimes x) \otimes y & \longrightarrow & e \otimes (x \otimes y) \\ \downarrow & & \searrow \\ x \otimes y & \longrightarrow & x \otimes (y \otimes e) \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & e \otimes (x \otimes (y \otimes e)) \end{array}$$

# The coherence theorems for monoidal categories

In fact, there are various ways of formulating the coherence theorem:

**1. Coherence:**

every diagram in a monoidal category made up of  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$  commutes.

**2. Strictification:**

every monoidal category is monoidally equivalent to a strict monoidal category.

**3. Global strictification:**

the forgetful 2-functor from strict monoidal categories to monoidal categories has a left adjoint and the components of the unit are equivalences.

# The coherence theorems for symmetric monoidal categories

A monoidal category is **symmetric** when equipped with

$$\gamma_{x,y} : x \otimes y \rightarrow y \otimes x$$

satisfying axioms, which do not imply the commutation of

A commutative diagram with two nodes,  $x \otimes x$  on the left and  $x \otimes x$  on the right. An upper curved arrow points from the left node to the right node, labeled  $\gamma_{x,x}$ . A lower curved arrow points from the left node to the right node, labeled  $\text{id}_{x \otimes x}$ .

## 1. Coherence:

every generic diagram in a monoidal category made up of  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\gamma$  commutes.

## 2. Strictification:

every symmetric monoidal category is symmetric monoidally equivalent to a strict symmetric monoidal category.

## 3. Global strictification: ...

## Global strictification

There is a monad  $T$  on **Cat** whose

- strict algebras are strict monoidal categories,
- pseudo algebras are unbiased monoidal categories.

### Theorem (Power'89)

*The canonical 2-functor*

$$T\text{-StrAlg} \rightarrow T\text{-PsAlg}$$

*admits a left 2-adjoint such that the components of the unit of the adjunctions are equivalences of  $T$ -pseudo-algebras.*

## A generic framework for coherence

Here, we investigate general coherence theorems which

- apply to biased notions of categories
- are partial, i.e. coherence holds with respect to part of the structure (e.g.  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$  but not  $\gamma$ )
- handle structural morphisms that can erase or duplicate variables:

$$\delta_{x,y,z} : x \otimes (y \oplus z) \rightarrow (x \otimes y) \oplus (x \otimes z)$$

- use rewriting theory.



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- use rewriting theory.

We begin by studying the situation in an abstract setting.

Part I

# Abstract coherence

## An abstract setting

Fix a category  $\mathcal{C}$  which we think of as describing an **algebraic structure**.

For instance, we have a theory of symmetric monoidal categories:

- the objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  are formal tensor expressions

$$\mathbf{e} \otimes ((\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{e}) \otimes \mathbf{y})$$

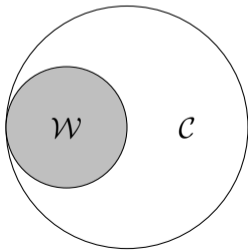
- morphisms are composites of  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\gamma$  modulo axioms.

## An abstract setting

Fix a category  $\mathcal{C}$  which we think of as describing an **algebraic structure**.

We suppose fixed a subgroupoid  $\mathcal{W} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with the same objects, which we are interested in strictifying.

(for SMC,  $\mathcal{W}$  would be the groupoid of composites of  $\alpha$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$ , but not  $\gamma$ )



## Quotient of categories

The **quotient**  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$  is the universal way of making the elements of  $\mathcal{W}$  identities

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{D} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \tilde{F} & \\ \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W} & & \end{array}$$

### Question

When is the quotient functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$  an equivalence of categories?

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### Question

When is the quotient functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$  an equivalence of categories?

Intuitively, when  $\mathcal{W}$  does not contain non-trivial information!

# Rigid groupoids

A groupoid  $\mathcal{W}$  is **rigid** when either

- (i) any two parallel morphisms  $f, g : x \rightarrow y$  are equal
- (ii) any automorphism  $f : x \rightarrow x$  is an identity
- (iii)  $\mathcal{W}$  is equivalent to  $\bigsqcup, 1$

## Quotienting by rigid groupoids

When  $\mathcal{W}$  is rigid the **quotient**  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$  has a simple description:

- objects: eq. classes of objects with  $[\mathbf{x}] = [\mathbf{y}]$  when there is  $\mathbf{w} : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathcal{W}$ ,



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- morphisms: eq. classes of morphisms with  $[f] = [g]$  when there is  $v$  and  $w$  in  $\mathcal{W}$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \\ \mathcal{W} \ni v \downarrow & & \downarrow w \in \mathcal{W} \\ x' & \xrightarrow{g} & y' \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \\ \mathcal{W} \ni v \downarrow & & \downarrow w \in \mathcal{W} \\ x' & \xrightarrow{g} & y' \end{array}$$

- we compose  $[f] : [x] \rightarrow [y]$  and  $[g] : [y] \rightarrow [z]$  as

$$x \xrightarrow{f} y$$

$$y' \xrightarrow{g} z$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \\ \mathcal{W} \ni \downarrow \downarrow \in \mathcal{W} & & \\ y' & \xrightarrow{g} & z \end{array}$$

## Rigidification

The **rigidification**  $\mathcal{C} // \mathcal{W}$  of  $\mathcal{W}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  is obtained from  $\mathcal{C}$  by identifying any two parallel morphisms in  $\mathcal{W}$  (i.e. we make  $\mathcal{W}$  rigid in a universal way).

### Proposition

*The quotient can be obtained in two steps:*

$$\mathcal{C} / \mathcal{W} = (\mathcal{C} // \mathcal{W}) / \mathcal{W}$$

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In particular, the canonical functor

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\quad \dots \quad} & \mathcal{C} / \mathcal{W} \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \\ & \mathcal{C} // \mathcal{W} & \end{array}$$

is surjective on objects and full.

## Coherence for quotients

### Theorem

The quotient functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$  is an equivalence of categories if and only if  $\mathcal{W}$  is rigid.

$\mathcal{C}$	$\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}$
$x \xrightarrow{f} y$ $\xrightarrow{g}$	$x \curvearrowright f$
$x \xrightarrow{f} y$ $\xrightarrow{g}$	$x$

## Coherence for quotients

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### Proof.

We need to show that it is faithful iff  $\mathcal{W}$  is rigid.

- If the quotient functor is faithful, given  $w, w' : x \rightarrow y$ , we have  $[w] = [w'] = \text{id}$  and thus  $w = w'$ .
- If  $\mathcal{W}$  is rigid, given  $f, g : x \rightarrow y$  such that  $[f] = [g]$ , we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x & \xrightarrow{f} & y \\ \mathcal{W} \ni v \downarrow & & \downarrow w \in \mathcal{W} \\ x & \xrightarrow{g} & y \end{array}$$

By rigidity,  $v = \text{id}_x$  and  $w = \text{id}_y$ .

□



## Coherence for algebras

An **algebra** for  $\mathcal{C}$  in  $\mathcal{D}$  is a functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ , we write  $\mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D})$  for the category of algebras.

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### Theorem

*A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$  is an equivalence iff  $\mathbf{Alg}(F, \mathcal{D}) : \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{C}', \mathcal{D})$  is an equivalence natural in  $\mathcal{D}$ .*

### Proof.

Given a **2**-category  $\mathcal{K}$ , the Yoneda functor

$$Y_{\mathcal{K}} : \mathcal{K}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow [\mathcal{K}, \mathbf{Cat}]$$

$$\mathcal{C} \mapsto \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{C}, -)$$

is a local isomorphism. In particular, with  $\mathcal{K} = \mathbf{Cat}$ , we have  $Y_{\mathbf{Cat}}\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Alg}(\mathcal{C}, -)$ .  $\square$

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### Conjecture (?)

The canonical functor  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{W}, \mathbf{Cat}) \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{Cat})$  is an equivalence iff  $\mathcal{W}$  is rigid.

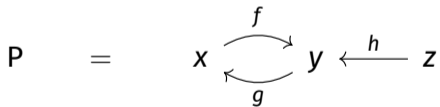
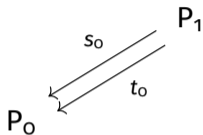
## Question

How do we show **rigidity** in practice?

In the following, we are interested in the case where  $\mathcal{C}$  is a groupoid.

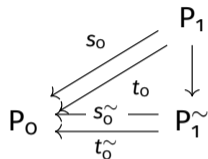
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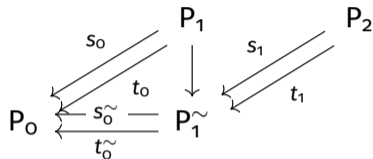
It generates a groupoid with  $P_1^{\sim}$  as set of morphisms.

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & f & & \\
 & & \curvearrowright & & \\
 x & & & y & \xleftarrow{h} z \\
 & & \curvearrowleft & & \\
 & & g & & 
 \end{array}$$

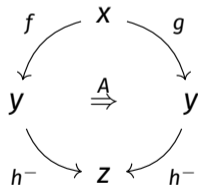
$$x \xrightarrow{f} y \xrightarrow{g} x \xrightarrow{f} y \xrightarrow{h^-} z$$

# Abstract rewriting systems

An **extended abstract rewriting system**  $\mathbf{P}$  is a graph



together with a set of **2-cells**



such that

$$s_0 \circ s_1 = s_0 \circ t_1$$

$$t_0 \circ s_1 = t_0 \circ t_1$$

# The case of monoidal categories

The prototypical situation we have in mind is the EARS  $\mathcal{P}$  with

1.  $\mathcal{P}_0$ : formal tensor expressions, e.g.  $\mathbf{e} \otimes ((\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{e}) \otimes \mathbf{y})$
2.  $\mathcal{P}_1$ : generated by  $\alpha, \lambda, \rho$  (in context)
3.  $\mathcal{P}_2$ : the coherences



## Tietze equivalence

An extended abstract rewriting system  $P = (P_0, P_1, P_2)$  **presents** the groupoid

$$\bar{P} = P^{\sim} / \sim$$

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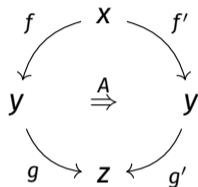
An extended abstract rewriting system  $P = (P_0, P_1, P_2)$  **presents** the groupoid

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Two EARS  $P$  and  $Q$  are **Tietze equivalent** when  $\bar{P} \cong \bar{Q}$ .

## Tietze transformations

Suppose given an EARS  $P = (P_0, P_1, P_2)$  with a 2-cell



We have the following **Tietze transformations**:

- if  $A$  can be derived from other elements  $P_2$ , we can remove it,
- we can remove  $f \in P_1$  and  $A \in P_2$  replacing all occurrences of  $f$  by  $f' \cdot g' \cdot g^{-}$ .

Those transformations produce Tietze equivalent EARS.

# Abstract rewriting systems

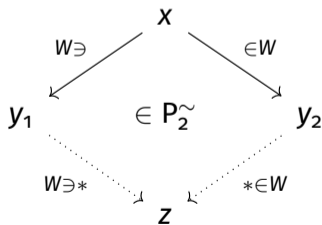
Suppose given an extended ARS  $\mathbf{P}$  together with  $W \subseteq P_1$ .

We say that  $\mathbf{P}$  is  **$W$ -convergent** when it has

- termination: there is no infinite sequence of morphisms in  $W$

$$x_0 \xrightarrow{f_0} x_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} x_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} \dots$$

- local confluence:



# Abstract rewriting systems

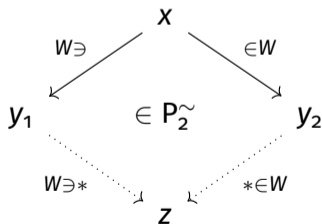
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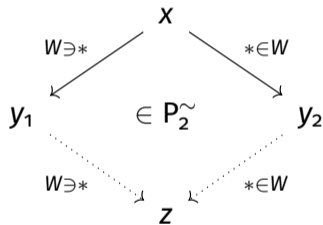
Note, by termination every element has a normal form:  $x \xrightarrow[*\in W]{n_x} \hat{x}$ .

# Abstract rewriting systems

By adapting standard rewriting techniques,

## Lemma (“Newman”)

*If  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $W$ -convergent then it is  $W$ -confluent:*



# Abstract rewriting systems

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## Lemma (“Newman”)

*If  $P$  is  $W$ -convergent then it is  $W$ -confluent:*

## Lemma (“Church-Rosser”)

*If  $P$  is  $W$ -convergent then for any two parallel  $W$ -morphisms in  $\bar{P}$  are equal.*

Proof.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} x & \xrightarrow{p_1^-} & y_1 & \xrightarrow{q_1^+} & x_2 & \longrightarrow & \dots & \longrightarrow & x_n & \xrightarrow{p_n^-} & y_n & \xrightarrow{q_n^-} & y \\ n_x \downarrow & & \downarrow n_{y_1} & & \downarrow n_{x_2} & & & & \downarrow n_{x_n} & & \downarrow n_{y_n} & & \downarrow n_y \\ \hat{x} & \equiv & \hat{x} & \equiv & \hat{x} & \equiv & \dots & \equiv & \hat{x} & \equiv & \hat{x} & \equiv & \hat{x} \end{array}$$

□

# Abstract rewriting systems

## Corollary

*If  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $\mathbf{W}$ -convergent then the groupoid generated by  $\mathbf{W}$  in  $\overline{\mathbf{P}}$  is rigid.*



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*If  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $W$ -convergent then the groupoid generated by  $W$  in  $\bar{\mathbf{P}}$  is rigid.*

Writing  $N(\bar{\mathbf{P}})$  for the full subcategory of  $\bar{\mathbf{P}}$  whose objects are normal forms (are not the source of a morphism in  $W$ ),

## Theorem

*If  $(\mathbf{P}, W)$  is  $W$ -convergent then  $\bar{\mathbf{P}}/W \cong N(\bar{\mathbf{P}})$ .*

# Abstract rewriting systems

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In the example of monoids, normal forms are expressions of the form

$$x_1 \otimes (x_2 \otimes (x_3 \otimes x_4))$$

## A concrete description of normal forms

We have the intuition that the groupoid  $\mathbf{N}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})$  is presented by the extended ars  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W}$  obtained by “restricting  $\mathbf{P}$  to normal forms”:

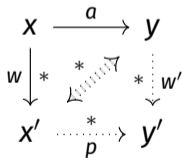
- $(\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W})_0$ : the objects of  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W}$  are the those of  $\mathbf{P}$  in  $\mathbf{W}$ -normal form,
- $(\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W})_1$ : the rewriting rules of  $\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W}$  are those of  $\mathbf{P}$  whose source and target are both in  $(\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W})_0$  (in particular, it does not contain any element of  $\mathbf{W}$ , thus the notation),
- $(\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W})_2$ : the coherence relations are those of  $\mathbf{P}_2$  whose source and target both belong to  $(\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W})_1^\sim$ .

## A concrete description of normal forms

### Theorem

Suppose that

1.  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $\mathbf{W}$ -convergent,
2. every rule  $\mathbf{a} : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbf{P}_1$  with  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $\mathbf{W}$ -normal also has a  $\mathbf{W}$ -normal target  $\mathbf{y}$ ,
3. for every cointial rule  $\mathbf{a} : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}$  in  $\mathbf{P}_1$  and path  $\mathbf{w} : \mathbf{x} \xrightarrow{*} \mathbf{x}'$  in  $\mathbf{W}^*$ , there are paths  $\mathbf{p} : \mathbf{x}' \xrightarrow{*} \mathbf{y}'$  in  $\mathbf{P}_1^*$  and  $\mathbf{w}' : \mathbf{y} \xrightarrow{*} \mathbf{y}' \in \mathbf{W}^*$  such that  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{w}' \stackrel{*}{\Leftrightarrow} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{p}$ :



4. for every coherence relation ...

Then  $\mathbf{N}(\overline{\mathbf{P}})$  is isomorphic to  $\overline{\mathbf{P} \setminus \mathbf{W}}$ .

## Summing up

Given  $(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{W})$ , we have shown that the following definitions of **coherence** of  $\mathbf{P}$  wrt  $\mathbf{W}$  are equivalent:

- (i) Every parallel zig-zags with edges in  $\mathbf{W}$  are equal  
(i.e. the subgroupoid of  $\bar{\mathbf{P}}$  generated by  $\mathbf{W}$  is rigid).
- (ii) The quotient map  $\bar{\mathbf{P}} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{P}}/\mathbf{W}$  is an equivalence of categories.
- (iii) The inclusion  $\text{Alg}(\bar{\mathbf{P}}/\mathbf{W}, -) \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\bar{\mathbf{P}}, -)$  is an equivalence of categories.
- (iv) The canonical morphism  $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{P}) \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{P}}$  is an equivalence.

## Part II

# Coherence from term rewriting systems

## From ARS to TRS

In order to obtain result about actual categorical structures,  
we need to go from ARS to term rewriting systems!

# Term rewriting systems

A term rewriting system  $P$  consists of

- $P_1$ : operations with arities
- $P_2$ : equations between generated terms

## Example

The TRS **Mon** for monoids is

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{l|l} m : 2 & \alpha : m(m(x, y), z) = m(x, m(y, z)) \\ e : 0 & \lambda : m(e, x) = x \\ & \rho : m(x, e) = x \end{array} \right\rangle$$



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An **extended term rewriting system P** consists of

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- $P_3$ : equations between 2-generators

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The diagram illustrates two commutative structures, A and C, enclosed in large angle brackets. Structure A is a square with horizontal arrows on top and bottom, and vertical arrows on left and right. Structure C is a triangle with a horizontal arrow on top and two diagonal arrows on the sides.

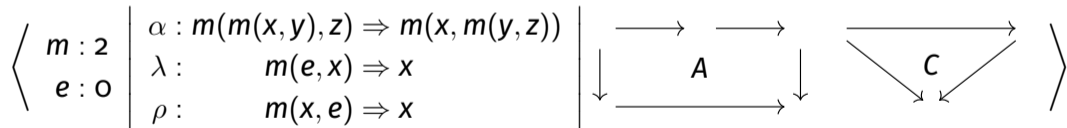
# Term rewriting systems

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## Example

The 2-TRS **Mon** for **monoids** is



## Remark

Fixing  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $\mathbf{P}$  induces an **abstract rewriting system** on terms  $m \rightarrow n$ .

## Lawvere theories

A **Lawvere theory**  $\mathcal{T}$  is a cartesian category such that objects are integers with cartesian product given by addition.

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Any 2-TRS  $\mathbf{P}$  induces a 2-LT  $\bar{\mathbf{P}}$  with

- morphisms  $\langle t_1, \dots, t_n \rangle : m \rightarrow n$  are  $n$ -tuples of terms with  $m$  variables
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An **algebra** for  $\mathcal{T}$  is a product-preserving 2-functor  $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ .

### Example

An algebra for  $\overline{\mathbf{Mon}}$  is a monoidal category.

# Algebras for Mon

With **Mon** being

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A functor  $F : \overline{\mathbf{Mon}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$  consists of

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**A**
**U**

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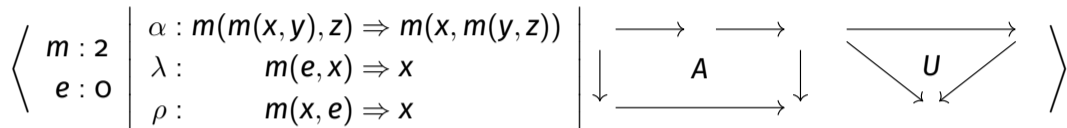
- a category  $\mathcal{C} = F1$
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$$\otimes = Fm : \mathcal{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

$$I = Fe : \mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

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- satisfying the axioms of monoidal categories

## Quotienting by rigid subgroupoids

Fix a 2-TRS  $\mathbf{P}$  with a subset  $\mathbf{W} \subseteq \mathbf{P}_2$  of 2-generators generating a  $(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1})$ -category  $\mathcal{W}$ .

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### Theorem

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A **critical branching** is a minimal non-trivial overlapping of the left member of two 2-generators.

### Theorem

*If  $\mathbf{P}$  contains a 3-generator corresponding to the confluence of each critical  $\mathbf{W}$ -branching then  $\mathcal{W}$  is 2-rigid.*

## Coherence for monoids

Consider the TRS for monoids with  $W =$  all 2-cells.

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{l} m : 2 \\ e : 0 \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \alpha : m(m(x, y), z) \Rightarrow m(x, m(y, z)) \\ \lambda : m(e, x) \Rightarrow x \\ \rho : m(x, e) \Rightarrow x \end{array} \right.$$



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It is terminating.

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The critical branchings are

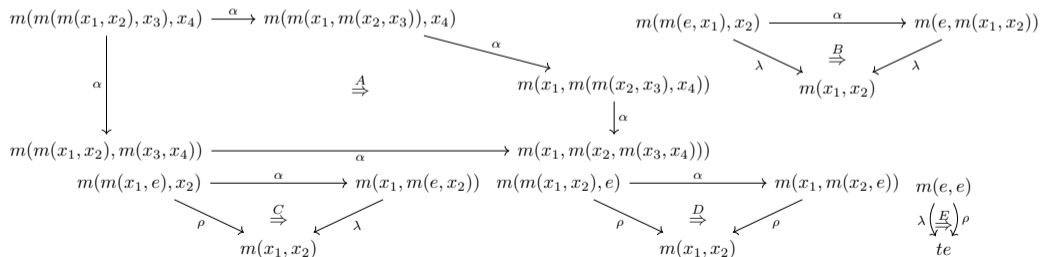
$$m(m(m(x_1, x_2), x_3)) \quad m(m(e, x_1), x_2) \quad m(m(x_1, e), x_2) \quad m(m(x_1, x_2), e) \quad m(e, e)$$

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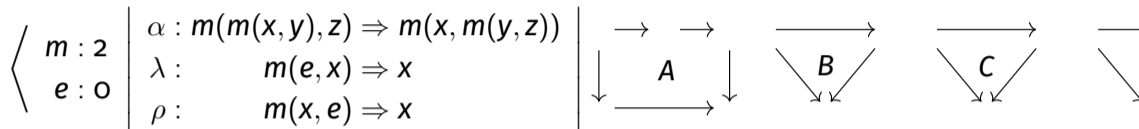
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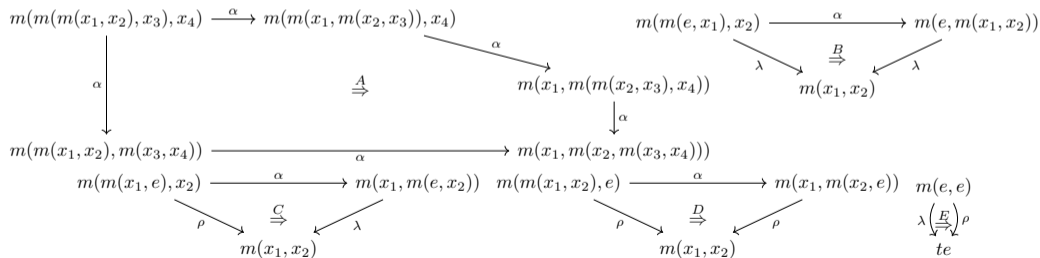


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It is  $W$ -convergent and thus 2-rigid.

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### Corollary (Coherence)

*Any two structural morphisms in a monoidal category are equal.*

## Comparing algebras

A 2-functor

$$F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

between 2-categories is

- **essentially surjective** when for every  $d \in \mathcal{D}$  there is  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $F(c) \simeq d$



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- a **biequivalence** when there is an adjoint 2-functor  $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that the components of unit and the counit are equivalences

$$c \simeq G(Fc)$$

$$F(Gd) \simeq d$$

# Algebras

Given a 2-LW  $\mathcal{T}$ , we write  $\text{Alg}(\mathcal{T})$  for the 2-category of algebras of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

## **Theorem (Yanofsky'00)**

*A morphism  $F : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}'$  of theories is a biequivalence if and only if the functor  $\text{Alg}(F) : \text{Alg}(\mathcal{T}') \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\mathcal{T})$  induced by precomposition is a biequivalence.*

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Given  $\mathcal{W}$  2-rigid if we could show that the functor

$$\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}/\mathcal{W}$$

is a biequivalence, we would deduce that

$$\text{Alg}(\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{W}) \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\mathcal{T})$$

is a biequivalence... but this is not the case!

# Local equivalences vs biequivalences

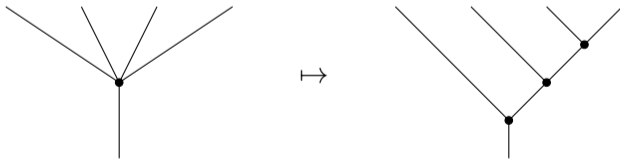
With  $\mathcal{W}$  = all 2-cells, the functor

$$\mathbf{Mon} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mon}/\mathcal{W}$$

is an essentially surjective local equivalence (an equivalence on homs),  
there is a natural operation

$$\mathbf{Mon}/\mathcal{W} \rightarrow \mathbf{Mon}$$

but this is only a pseudofunctor:



## A conjecture

### Conjecture

*When  $\mathcal{W}$  is 2-rigid, the canonical 2-functor*

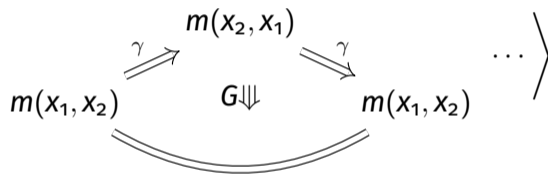
$$\text{Alg}(\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{W}) \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\mathcal{T})$$

*has a left adjoint such that the components of the unit are equivalences.*

# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

The theory of **commutative monoids** is

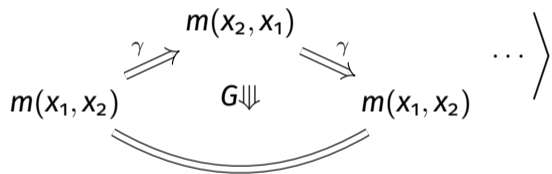
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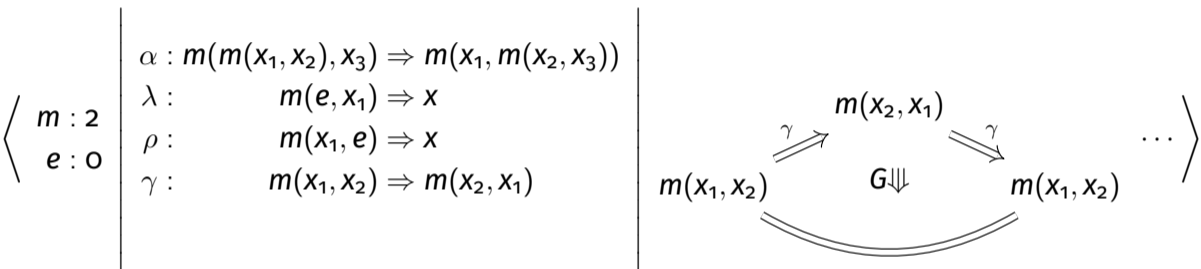


Its algebras are **symmetric monoidal categories**.



# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

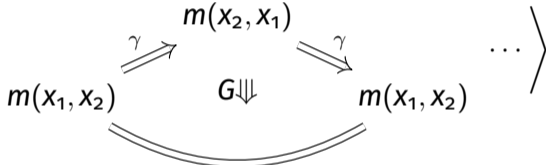
The theory of **commutative monoids** is



- if we take  $\mathcal{W}$  generated by  $\alpha, \lambda, \rho$  and add 3-cells as before, we are  $\mathcal{W}$ -convergent: every symmetric monoidal category is equivalent to a strict one
- but we can do more!

# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

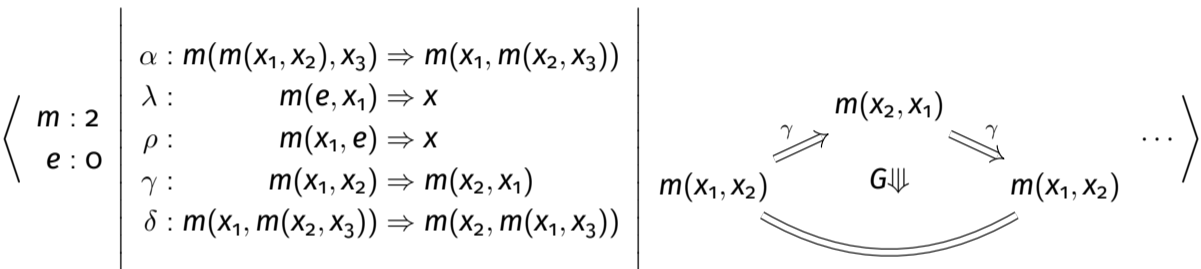
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	$\rho : m(x_1, e) \Rightarrow x$	
	$\gamma : m(x_1, x_2) \Rightarrow m(x_2, x_1)$	
	$\delta : m(x_1, m(x_2, x_3)) \Rightarrow m(x_2, m(x_1, x_3))$	

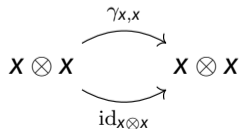
- it can be completed as a locally confluent presentation by adding a generator  $\delta$  and a bunch of coherence relations

# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

The theory of **commutative monoids** is



- it is not terminating otherwise we could show “full coherence” including



# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

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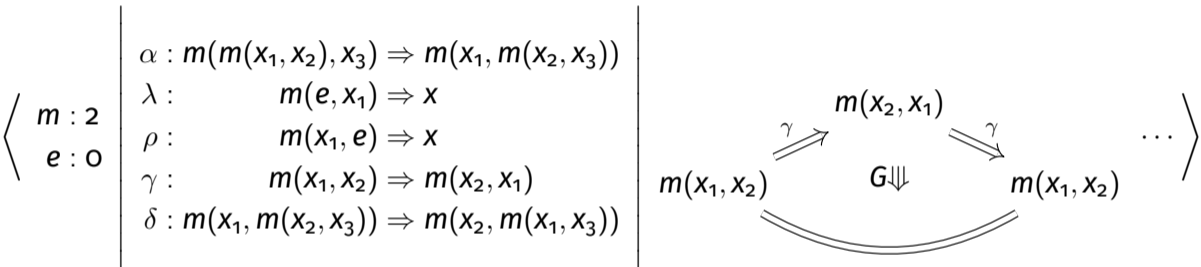
- restricting to affine terms (without repeated variables is not enough):

$$m(x_1, x_2) \xrightarrow{\gamma(x_1, x_2)} m(x_2, x_1) \xrightarrow{\gamma(x_2, x_1)} m(x_1, x_2)$$

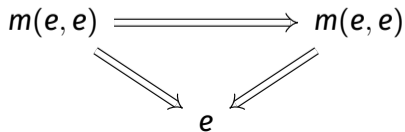
- but we don't need both  $m(x_1, x_2) \Rightarrow m(x_2, x_1)$  and  $m(x_2, x_1) \Rightarrow m(x_1, x_2)$ !

# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

The theory of **commutative monoids** is



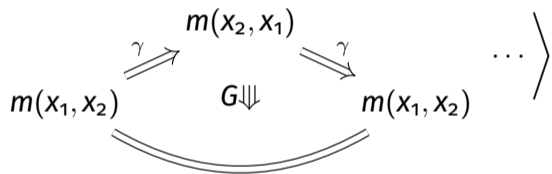
- if we only keep morphisms “sorting variables”, we are almost terminating excepting for situations such as  $m(e, e) \Rightarrow m(e, e)$  which can be removed:



# The case of symmetric monoidal categories

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## Theorem

*In a symmetric monoidal category, every diagram whose source is a tensor product of distinct objects commutes.*

Part III

**Conclusion**

## Rigidity!

A quotient of (2-)category by a subgroupoid  $\mathcal{W}$  is **coherent** when  $\mathcal{W}$  is **rigid**.

This is the case when  $\mathcal{W}$  is generated by a **convergent rewriting system**.

This also explains situations such as coherence for rig categories:

$$\delta_{x,y,z} : x \otimes (y \oplus z) \rightarrow (x \otimes y) \oplus (x \otimes z)$$

$$\delta'_{x,y,z} : (x \oplus y) \otimes z \rightarrow (x \otimes z) \oplus (y \otimes z)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & (a + b)(c + d) & \\ & \swarrow \quad \searrow & \\ a(c + d) + b(c + d) & & (a + b)c + (a + b)d \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ ac + ad + bc + bd & \xrightarrow{\sim} & ac + bc + ad + bd \end{array}$$



Thanks!

Questions?