

Lecture one:

The Method of Coalgebra
– in some detail –

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CWI Amsterdam & Radboud University Nijmegen

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Acknowledgements

My esteemed co-authors

- Marcello Bonsangue (Leiden, CWI)
- Helle Hansen (Delft)
- Alexandra Silva (City College London)
- Milad Niqui
- Clemens Kupke (Glasgow)
- Prakash Panangaden (McGill, Montreal)
- Filippo Bonchi (ENS, Lyon)
- Joost Winter (Warsaw), Jurriaan Rot (ENS, Lyon)
- and many others.

Samson Abramsky (Oxford)

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Overview of today's lectures

Lecture one: The method of coalgebra

Lecture two: A coinductive calculus of streams

Lecture three: Automata and the algebra-coalgebra duality

Lecture four: Coalgebraic up-to techniques

Overview of Lecture one

1. Category theory (where coalgebra comes from)
2. Duality (where coalgebra comes from)
3. How coalgebra works (the method in slogans)
4. Duality: induction and coinduction
5. What coalgebra studies (its subject)
6. Discussion

1. Category theory (where coalgebra comes from)

Why categories?

From **Samson Abramsky**'s tutorial:

Categories, why and how?

(Dagstuhl, January 2015)

Why categories?

For **logicians**: gives a syntax-independent view of the fundamental structures of logic, opens up new kinds of models and interpretations.

For **philosophers**: a fresh approach to structuralist foundations of mathematics and science; an alternative to the traditional focus on set theory.

For **computer scientists**: gives a precise handle on abstraction, representation-independence, genericity and more. Gives the fundamental mathematical structures underpinning programming concepts.

Why categories?

For **mathematicians**: organizes your previous mathematical experience in a new and powerful way, reveals new connections and structure, allows you to “think bigger thoughts”.

For **physicists**: new ways of formulating physical theories in a structural form. Recent applications to Quantum Information and Computation.

For **economists and game theorists**: new tools, bringing complex phenomena into the scope of formalisation.

Category Theory in 10 Slogans

1. Always ask: what are the **types**?
2. Think in terms of **arrows** rather than **elements**.
3. Ask what mathematical structures **do**, not what they **are**.
4. Categories as mathematical **contexts**.
5. Categories as mathematical **structures**.
6. Make definitions and constructions as **general** as possible.
7. **Functoriality!**
8. **Naturality!**
9. **Universality!**
10. **Adjoints** are everywhere.

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Categories: basic definitions

A category \mathcal{C} consists of

- **Objects** A, B, C, \dots
- **Morphisms/arrows**: for each pair of objects A, B , a set of morphisms $\mathcal{C}(A, B)$ with domain A and codomain B
- **Composition** of morphisms: $g \circ f$:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{g} & C \\ & \searrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & g \circ f & & \end{array}$$

- **Axioms**:

$$h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f \quad f \circ id = f = id \circ f$$

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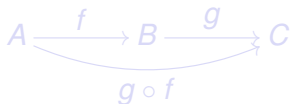
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Categories: examples

- Any kind of mathematical structure, together with structure preserving functions, forms a category. E.g.
 - sets and functions
 - groups and group homomorphisms
 - monoids and monoid homomorphisms
 - vector spaces over a field k , and linear maps
 - topological spaces and continuous functions
 - partially ordered sets and monotone functions
- Monoids are one-object categories
- **algebras**, and algebra homomorphisms
- **coalgebras**, and coalgebra homomorphisms

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Arrows rather than elements

A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ (between sets) is:

- **injective** if

$$\forall x, y \in X, f(x) = f(y) \Rightarrow x = y$$

- **surjective** if

$$\forall y \in Y, \exists x \in X, f(x) = y$$

- **monic** if

$$\forall g, h, f \circ g = f \circ h \Rightarrow g = h$$

- **epic** if

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Proposition

- m is injective iff m is monic.
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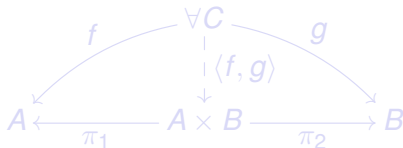
- with elements:

$$A \times B = \{ \langle a, b \rangle \mid a \in A, b \in B \}$$

where

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- with arrows (expressing a **universal** property):



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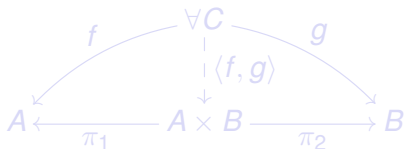
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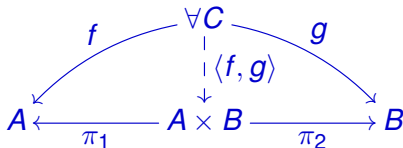
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An additional slogan for categories: duality is omnipresent

- epi - mono
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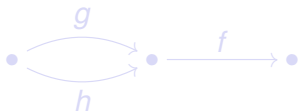
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Duality: monos and epis

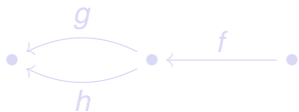
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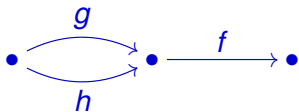


Proposition: f is monic in \mathcal{C} iff f is epic in \mathcal{C}^{op} .

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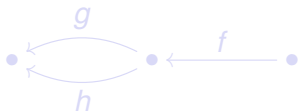
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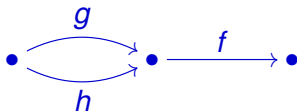


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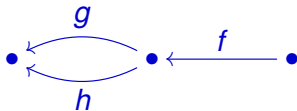
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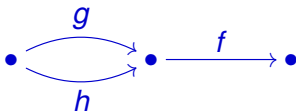


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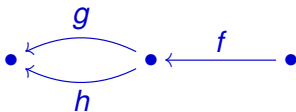
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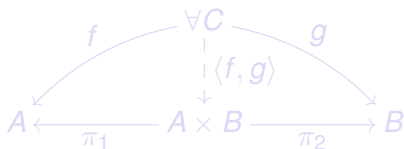
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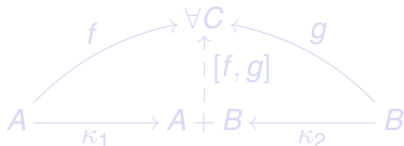
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Duality: products and coproducts

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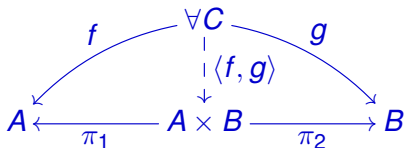
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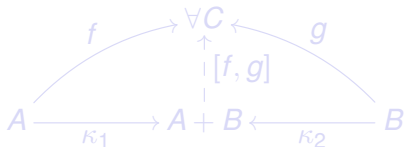
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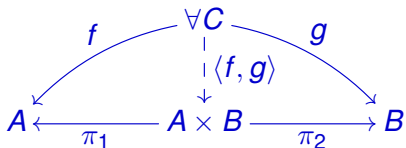
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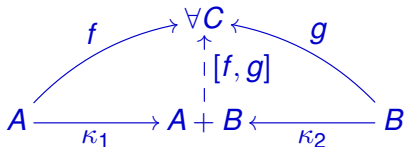
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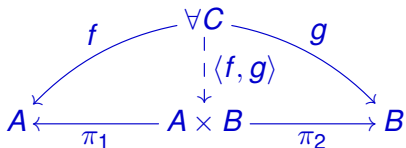
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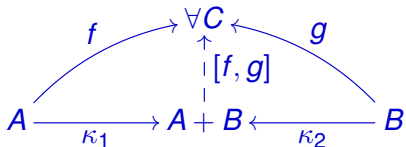
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Duality: products and coproducts

The **product** of A and B :



The **coproduct** of A and B :



Proposition: O is product in \mathcal{C} iff O is coproduct in \mathcal{C}^{op} .

Duality: initial and final objects

An object A in a category \mathcal{C} is ...

- **initial** if for any object B there exists a unique arrow

$$A \dashrightarrow B$$

- **final** if for any object B there exists a unique arrow

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Proposition: A is initial in \mathcal{C} iff A is final in \mathcal{C}^{op} .

Proposition: Initial and final objects are unique up-to isomorphism.

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Where coalgebra comes from

By **duality**. From **algebra**!

Classically, algebras are sets with operations.

Ex. $(\mathbb{N}, 0, \text{succ})$, with $0 \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\text{succ} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

Equivalently,

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 + \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow [\text{zero}, \text{succ}] \\ \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

where $1 = \{*\}$ and $\text{zero}(*) = 0$.

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Algebra

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Ex.

$$\begin{array}{c} \textit{Prog} \times \textit{Prog} \\ \alpha \downarrow \\ \textit{Prog} \end{array}$$

with $\alpha(P_1, P_2) = P_1; P_2$.

Algebra, categorically

$$\begin{array}{c} F(X) \\ \alpha \downarrow \\ X \end{array}$$

where F is the type of the algebra.

Coalgebra, dually

$$\begin{array}{c} X \\ \alpha \downarrow \\ F(X) \end{array}$$

where F is the type of the coalgebra.

Example: streams

Streams are our favourite example of a coalgebra:

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{N}^\omega \\ \downarrow \langle \text{head}, \text{tail} \rangle \\ \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}^\omega \end{array}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{head}(\sigma) &= \sigma(0) \\ \text{tail}(\sigma) &= (\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \sigma(3), \dots) \end{aligned}$$

for any stream $\sigma = (\sigma(0), \sigma(1), \sigma(2), \dots) \in \mathbb{N}^\omega$.

3. How coalgebra works (its method in slogans)

- be precise about **types**
- ask what a system **does** rather than what it **is**
- **functoriality**
- interaction through **homomorphisms**
- aim for **universality**

Note that all these slogans are part of the categorical approach.

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Note that all these slogans are part of the categorical approach.

Starting point: the system's type

A coalgebra of **type** F is a pair (X, α) with

$$\alpha : X \rightarrow F(X)$$

For instance, *non-deterministic transition systems*:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} X & X & X & X \\ \downarrow \alpha & \downarrow \alpha & \downarrow \alpha & \downarrow \alpha \\ \mathcal{P}_f(A \times X) & \mathcal{P}_f(X)^A & \mathcal{P}(X)^A & 2 \times \mathcal{P}(X)^A \end{array}$$

Formally, the **type** F of a coalgebra/system is a **functor**.

The importance of knowing the system's type

The **type** F of a coalgebra/system

$$\alpha : X \rightarrow F(X)$$

determines

- a canonical notion of system equivalence: **bisimulation**
- a canonical notion of **minimization**
- a canonical interpretation: **final coalgebra** semantics
- (a canonical **logic**)

Doing versus being

Doing > Being

Behaviour > Construction

Systems as black boxes (with internal states)

Behavioural specification

Doing versus being

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Example: the shuffle product of streams

Being:

$$(\sigma \otimes \tau)(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \cdot \sigma(k) \cdot \tau(n-k)$$

Doing:

$$\sigma \otimes \tau \xrightarrow{\sigma(0) \cdot \tau(0)} (\sigma' \otimes \tau) + (\sigma \otimes \tau')$$

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Example: the Hamming numbers

Being:

The increasing stream h of all natural numbers that are divisible by only 2, 3, or 5:

$$h = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 24, \dots)$$

$$h(n) = ?$$

Doing:

$$h \xrightarrow{1} (2 \cdot h) \parallel (3 \cdot h) \parallel (5 \cdot h)$$

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Homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Y) \end{array}$$

- ... are for systems/coalgebras what **functions** are for sets.
- ... are **behaviour preserving** functions.

Functoriality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ F(X) & \xrightarrow{F(h)} & F(Y) \end{array}$$

Note that for the definition of homomorphism, the type F needs to be a **functor**:

F acts on sets: $F(X)$, $F(Y)$ **and** on functions: $F(h)$

Example of a homomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ O \times X & \xrightarrow{id \times h} & O \times Y \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xleftarrow{b} & \\ x_0 & \xrightarrow{a} & x_1 \xrightarrow{b} x_2 \xrightarrow{a} x_3 \\ & & \end{array} \xrightarrow{h} \begin{array}{ccc} & \xleftarrow{b} & \\ y_0 & \xrightarrow{a} & y_1 \\ & & \end{array}$$

Minimization through (canonical) homomorphism.

Universality

Always aim at universal/canonical formulations.

For instance: final coalgebras

In final coalgebras: Being = Doing

⇒ coinduction (to be discussed shortly)

⇒ semantics

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Semantics by finality: streams

The **final** homomorphism into the set of streams:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{\exists! h} & O^\omega \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 O \times X & \xrightarrow{id \times h} & O \times O^\omega
 \end{array}$$

maps any system X to its **minimization**: e.g.,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & b & & & & \\
 & & \curvearrowright & & & & \\
 x_0 & \xleftarrow{a} & x_1 & \xrightarrow{b} & x_2 & \xrightarrow{a} & x_3
 \end{array} & \xrightarrow{h} & \begin{array}{ccc}
 & b & \\
 (ab)^\omega & \curvearrowright & (ba)^\omega \\
 & a &
 \end{array} \\
 x_0, x_2 \xrightarrow{h} (ab)^\omega & & x_1, x_3 \xrightarrow{h} (ba)^\omega
 \end{array}$$

4. Duality: induction and coinduction

- initial algebra - final coalgebra
- congruence - bisimulation
- induction - coinduction
- least fixed point - greatest fixed point

Initial algebra

The natural numbers are an example of an **initial algebra**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 + \mathbb{N} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 1 + \mathcal{S} \\ \downarrow [\text{zero}, \text{succ}] & & \downarrow \beta \\ \mathbb{N} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{S} \end{array}$$

Note: any **two** homomorphisms from \mathbb{N} to \mathcal{S} are **equal**.

Note: $id : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is a homomorphism.

Note: $[\text{zero}, \text{succ}] : 1 + \mathbb{N} \cong \mathbb{N}$.

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$\exists!$

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Final coalgebra

Streams are an example of a **final coalgebra**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{S} & \xrightarrow{\exists!} & \mathbb{N}^\omega \\ \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \langle \text{head}, \text{tail} \rangle \\ \mathbb{N} \times \mathbf{S} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}^\omega \end{array}$$

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Algebra and induction

Induction = definition and proof principle for algebras.

Ex. mathematical induction: for all $P \subseteq \mathbb{N}$,

$$(P(0) \text{ and } (\forall n : P(n) \Rightarrow P(\text{succ}(n)))) \Rightarrow \forall n : P(n)$$

(Other examples: transfinite, well-founded, tree, structural, etc.)

We show that induction is a property of **initial algebras**.

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Algebras and congruences (ex. natural numbers)

We call $R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ a **congruence** if

- (i) $(0, 0) \in R$ and
- (ii) $(n, m) \in R \Rightarrow (\text{succ}(n), \text{succ}(m)) \in R$

(Note: R is **not** required to be an equivalence relation.)

Equivalently, $R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ is a **congruence** if

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 + \mathbb{N} & \longleftarrow & 1 + R & \longrightarrow & 1 + \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow [\text{zero}, \text{succ}] & & \downarrow \exists! \gamma & & \downarrow [\text{zero}, \text{succ}] \\ \mathbb{N} & \xleftarrow{\pi_1} & R & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

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Initial algebras and congruences

Theorem: induction proof principle

Every congruence $R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ contains the **diagonal**:

$$\Delta \subseteq R$$

where $\Delta = \{(n, n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Proof: Because $(\mathbb{N}, [\text{zero}, \text{succ}])$ is an initial algebra,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 1 + \mathbb{N} & \xleftrightarrow{\quad} & 1 + R & \xleftrightarrow{\quad} & 1 + \mathbb{N} \\
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 \end{array}$$

$\xleftarrow{\quad} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad}$ (dashed arrows) $\xleftarrow{\quad} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad}$ (solid arrows)

we have $\pi_1 \circ ! = id = \pi_2 \circ !$, which implies $!(n) = (n, n)$, all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Initial algebras and induction

Theorem: The following are equivalent:

1. For every congruence relation $R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$,

$$\Delta \subseteq R$$

2. For every predicate $P \subseteq \mathbb{N}$,

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Proof: Exercise. □

In other words: two equivalent formulations of **induction!**

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Coalgebra and coinduction

Coinduction = definition and proof principle for coalgebras.

Coinduction is **dual** to induction, in a very precise way.

Categorically, coinduction is a property of **final coalgebras**.

Algorithmically, coinduction generalises Robin Milner's
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Final coalgebras and bisimulations

Theorem: coinduction proof principle

Every bisimulation $R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^\omega \times \mathbb{N}^\omega$ is contained in the diagonal:

$$R \subseteq \Delta$$

where $\Delta = \{(\sigma, \sigma) \mid \sigma \in \mathbb{N}^\omega\}$.

Proof: Because $(\mathbb{N}^\omega, \langle \text{head}, \text{tail} \rangle)$ is a final coalgebra,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{N}^\omega & \xleftarrow{\pi_1} & R & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & \mathbb{N}^\omega \\ \langle \text{head}, \text{tail} \rangle \downarrow & & \exists! \gamma \downarrow & & \downarrow \langle \text{head}, \text{tail} \rangle \\ \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}^\omega & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{N} \times R & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}^\omega \end{array}$$

we have $\pi_1 = \pi_2$, which implies $\sigma = \tau$, for all $(\sigma, \tau) \in R$.

Final coalgebras and bisimulations

Theorem: coinduction proof principle

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Final coalgebras and coinduction

The following are equivalent:

1. For every bisimulation relation $R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^\omega \times \mathbb{N}^\omega$,

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Congruences and bisimulations: dual?

$R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ is a **congruence** if

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 + \mathbb{N} & \longleftarrow & 1 + R & \longrightarrow & 1 + \mathbb{N} \\ \downarrow [\text{zero, succ}] & & \downarrow \exists ! \gamma & & \downarrow [\text{zero, succ}] \\ \mathbb{N} & \xleftarrow{\pi_1} & R & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

$R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^\omega \times \mathbb{N}^\omega$ is a **bisimulation** if

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Congruences and bisimulations: dual?

$R \subseteq S \times T$ is an F -congruence if

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Induction and coinduction: dual?

For every **congruence** relation $R \subseteq \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$,

$$\Delta \subseteq R$$

For every **bisimulation** relation $R \subseteq \mathbb{N}^\omega \times \mathbb{N}^\omega$,

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Induction and coinduction: dual?

For every **congruence** relation R on an **initial algebra**:

$$\Delta \subseteq R$$

For every **bisimulation** relation R on a **final coalgebra**:

$$R \subseteq \Delta$$

An aside: fixed points

Let (P, \leq) be a preorder and $f : P \rightarrow P$ a monotone map.

Classically, least fixed point **induction** is:

$$\forall p \in P : f(p) \leq p \Rightarrow \mu f \leq p$$

Classically, greatest fixed point **coinduction** is:

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Any preorder (P, \leq) is a category, with arrows:

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Any monotone map is a functor:

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Lfp **induction** and gfp **coinduction** become:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f(\mu f) & \text{---} \rightarrow & f(p) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mu f & \text{---} \rightarrow & p \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} p & \text{---} \rightarrow & \nu f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ f(p) & \text{---} \rightarrow & f(\nu f) \end{array}$$

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Fixed point (co)induction = initiality and finality

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- the behaviour of – often infinite, circular – **systems**
(their equivalence, minimization, synthesis)
- rather: the **universal principles** underlying this behaviour
- these days applied in many different scientific disciplines

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Example: dynamical systems

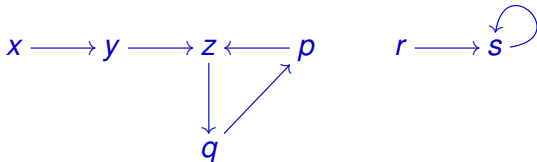
A dynamical system is:

set of states X and a transition function $t: X \rightarrow X$

Notation for transitions:

$$x \rightarrow y \equiv t(x) = y$$

Examples:

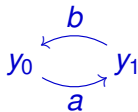
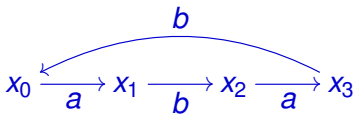


Example: systems with output

A system with output:

$$\langle o, t \rangle : X \rightarrow O \times X$$

Notation: $x \xrightarrow{a} y \equiv o(x) = a$ and $t(x) = y$.



Example: infinite data types

For instance, **streams** of natural numbers:

$$\mathbb{N}^\omega = \{\sigma \mid \sigma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}\}$$

The behaviour of streams:

$$(\sigma(0), \sigma(1), \sigma(2), \dots) \xrightarrow{\sigma(0)} (\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \sigma(3), \dots)$$

where we call

$\sigma(0)$: the *initial value* (= head)

$\sigma' = (\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \sigma(3), \dots)$: the *derivative* (= tail)

Example: streams

$$(1, 1, 1, \dots) \xrightarrow{1} (1, 1, 1, \dots) \xrightarrow{1} (1, 1, 1, \dots) \xrightarrow{1} \dots$$

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Example: streams

$$(1, 2, 3, \dots) \xrightarrow{1} (2, 3, 4, \dots) \xrightarrow{2} (3, 4, 5, \dots) \xrightarrow{3} \dots$$

$$(1, 2, 3, \dots) \xrightarrow{1} (2, 3, 4, \dots) = (1, 2, 3, \dots) + (1, 1, 1, \dots)$$

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Example: non-well-founded sets

Historically important: Peter Aczel's book.

$$x = \{x\} \quad y = \{y\}$$



$$x = \{y\} \quad y = \{z\} \quad z = \{x, y\}$$



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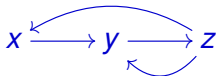
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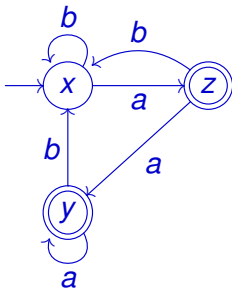


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Example: automata

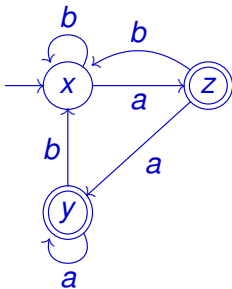
A deterministic automaton



- initial state: x
- final states: y and z
- $L(x) = \{a, b\}^* a$

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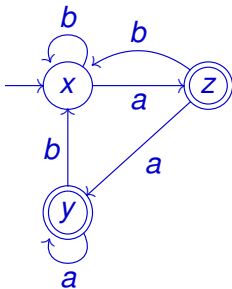
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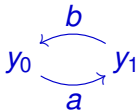
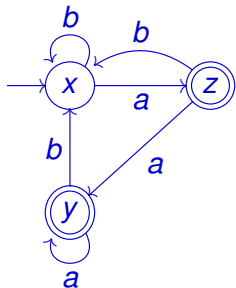
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All these examples: **circular** behaviour



Where coalgebra is used

- logic, set theory
- automata
- control theory
- data types
- dynamical systems
- games
- economy
- ecology

6. Discussion

- New way of thinking – give it time
- Extensive example: streams (Lecture two)
- Algebra and coalgebra (Lecture three and four)
 - bisimulation up-to
 - cf. CALCO
- Algorithms, tools (Lecture four)
 - Cf. [Hacking nondeterminism with induction and coinduction](#)
Bonchi and Pous, Comm. ACM Vol. 58(2), 2015