

Constructing triple categories of cybernetic processes

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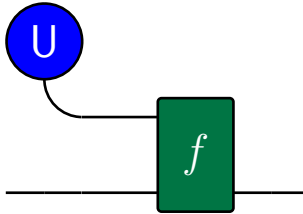
NYU Abu Dhabi



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cybernetic systems

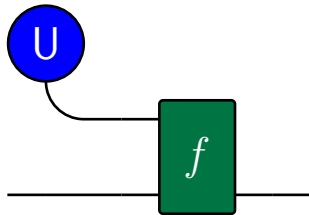
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cybernetic systems

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(Capucci, Gavranović, Hedges, and Rischel 2022)



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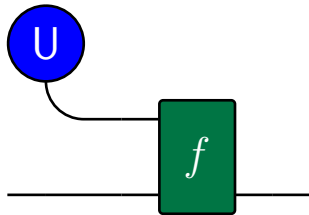
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Cont : $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ symmetric monoidal copresheaf of
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Example: $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Lens}(\mathbf{Set})$ and $\mathbf{Cont}\left(\begin{smallmatrix} X \\ S \end{smallmatrix}\right) = \{\text{selection functions } S^X \rightarrow 2^X\}$

$\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Smooth}$ and $\mathbf{Cont}(X) = \{\text{linear maps } T^*X \rightarrow TX\}$

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e.g.

- Solutions concepts in game theory
- Trajectories/equilibria of learning agents
- Flows of controlled ODEs
- ...

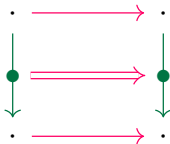
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We want tools to treat compositionally behaviour *as well as* specification!

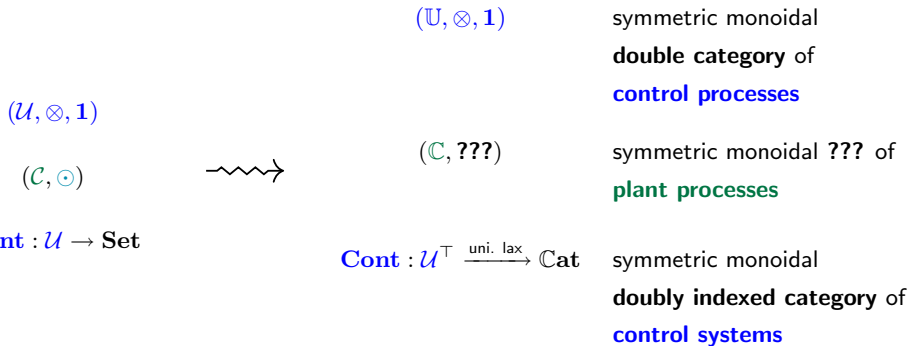
In **Categorical Systems Theory** (Myers 2021; Myers 2022) behaviour is handled compositionally using an extra dimension representing **morphisms between processes and systems**.



Ultimately, this trick allows to define **functorial (often corepresentable) notions of behaviour!**

Can we do the same for cybernetic systems?

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...and of course, a **Para** construction!

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In this talk, I will describe:

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- some behaviours we can represent in this way,
- **(bonus content)** a comparison of $\mathbb{P}\text{ara}(\text{Arena})$ with $\mathbb{O}\text{rg}$ (Shapiro and Spivak 2022)

Generalising Para

Generalising Para

The ‘type signature’ of the Para construction is that of a functor

$$\mathbf{Para} : \mathbb{P}\mathbf{sAct} \longrightarrow \mathbb{B}\mathbf{icat}$$

Generalising Para

For better results, we can replace bicategories with double categories:

$$\mathbf{Para}_{\mathbf{Cat}} : \mathbf{PsAct}(\mathbf{Cat}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{PsCat}(\mathbf{Cat})$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{U} \\ \downarrow \odot \\ \mathcal{C} \end{array} \longmapsto \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{h} & A' \\ (P,f) \downarrow \odot & \xRightarrow{\alpha} & \downarrow \odot (P',f') \\ B & \xrightarrow{k} & B' \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{where} & (P, f) : A \odot P \rightarrow B \quad \text{in } \mathcal{C} \\ & \alpha : P \rightarrow P' \quad \text{in } \mathcal{U} \end{array}$$

$$\text{and} \quad (\alpha \odot h) \circledcirc f' = f \circledcirc k$$

Generalising Para

Now it's easy to see how to move beyond $\mathbb{C}\mathbf{at}$: we're looking for a functor

$$\mathbb{P}\mathbf{ara}_{\mathbb{K}} : \mathbb{P}\mathbf{sAct}(\mathbb{K}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}\mathbf{sCat}(\mathbb{K})$$

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How do we actually define this functor in generality?

Constructing Para

For starters, $\mathbb{P}\text{ara}_{\text{Cat}}(\odot)_1$ is a comma category:

$$\mathbb{P}\text{ara}_{\text{Cat}}(\odot)_1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{h} & A' \\ (P,f) \downarrow \scriptstyle{\alpha} & \xRightarrow{\alpha} & \downarrow \scriptstyle{(P',f')} \\ B & \xrightarrow[k]{} & B' \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} A \odot P & \xrightarrow{\alpha \odot h} & A' \odot P' \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow f' \\ B & \xrightarrow[k]{} & B' \end{array} \right\} = \odot / \mathcal{C}$$

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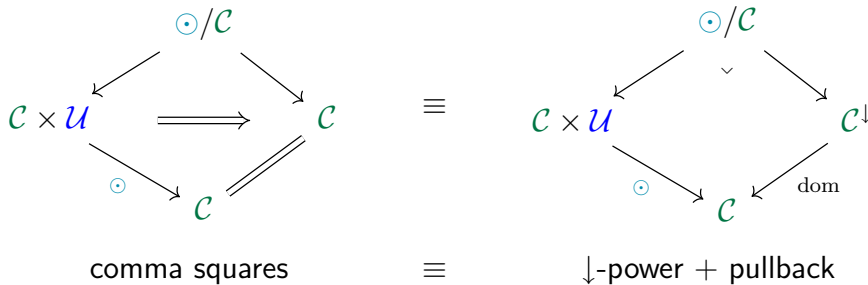
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What about the rest of the pseudocategory structure on $\mathbb{Para}_{\mathbb{K}}(\odot)$?

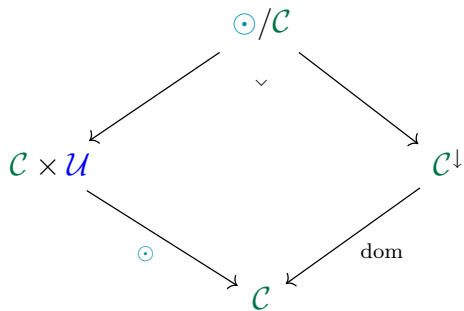
Constructing Para

If \mathbb{K} has $\mathbb{C}\text{at}$ -powers & pullbacks, we have:



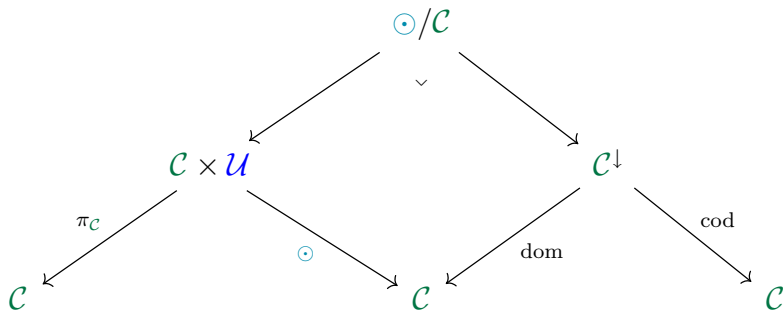
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Moreover this...

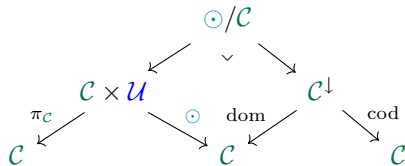


Constructing Para

Moreover this... comes from a composition of spans!

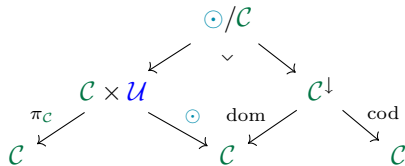


Constructing Para



These spans encode some relevant structure:

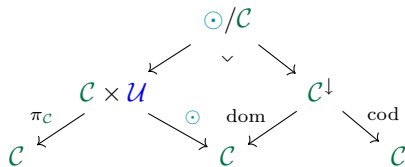
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These spans encode some relevant structure:

- both spans are **pseudomonads** in $\mathbf{Span}(\mathbb{K})$, in particular the pseudomonad structure on $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{\pi_{\mathcal{C}}} \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{U} \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathcal{C}$ coincides with the \mathcal{U} -pseudoaction on \mathcal{C} ,

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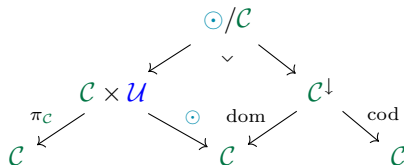
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- the resulting composite $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \odot/\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is the **underlying graph** of $\mathbf{Para}(\odot)$:

$$\mathcal{C} \longleftarrow \odot/\mathcal{C} \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

$$A \longleftarrow (P, A \odot P \xrightarrow{f} B) \mapsto B$$

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Since $\mathbf{PsCat}(\mathbb{K}) \cong \mathbf{PsMnd}(\mathbf{Span}(\mathbb{K}))$ (at least on objects), we get the full pseudocategory structure $\mathbf{Para}(\odot)$ if we can show $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \odot/\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a pseudomonad too.

Constructing Para

Such a pseudomonad structure corresponds to a composition law for parametric morphisms, which we know:

$$(P, A \odot P \xrightarrow{f} B) \circ (Q, B \odot Q \xrightarrow{g} C) = (PQ, A \odot (PQ) \xrightarrow{\delta_A} (A \odot P) \odot Q \xrightarrow{f \odot P} B \odot Q \xrightarrow{g} C)$$

Constructing Para

Abstractly, such a pseudomonad structure on $\mathcal{C} \leftarrow \odot/\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is obtained from a **pseudodistributive law**¹ between $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{\pi_{\mathcal{C}}} \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{U} \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{\text{dom}} \mathcal{C} \downarrow \xrightarrow{\text{cod}} \mathcal{C}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}/\pi_{\mathcal{C}} & \xrightarrow{\text{dist}} & \odot/\mathcal{C} \\ (P, A \xrightarrow{f} B) & \longmapsto & (P, A \odot P \xrightarrow{f \odot P} B \odot P) \end{array}$$

¹(Gambino and Lobbia 2021)

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In fact a pseudomonad $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{p} \mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\odot} \mathcal{C}$ distributes over $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{\text{dom}} \mathcal{C} \downarrow \xrightarrow{\text{cod}} \mathcal{C}$ **as soon as** p **is a fibration** in \mathbb{K} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}/p & \xrightarrow{\text{dist}} & \odot/\mathcal{C} \\ (P : \mathcal{E}_B, A \xrightarrow{f} B) & \searrow \mathcal{E}_f & (f^*P : \mathcal{E}_A, A \odot (f^*P) \xrightarrow{f \odot P} B \odot P) \\ & (f^*P : \mathcal{E}_A, A \xrightarrow{f} B) & \nearrow \odot \downarrow \end{array}$$

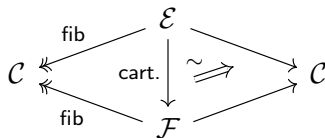
¹(Gambino and Lobbia 2021)

Fibred actions

Hence our generalised **Para** construction naturally consumes **fibred actions**:

Definition

Let \mathbb{K} be a 2-cosmos.² We call $\mathbf{fSpan}^{\cong}(\mathbb{K})$ the tricategory of \mathbb{K} -spans whose left leg is a cloven fibration. Two-cells are cartesian triangles on the left and pseudocommutative triangles on the right:



Definition

A **fibred action** is a pseudomonad in $\mathbf{fSpan}^{\cong}(\mathbb{K})$.

²See (Bourke and Lack 2023), for our purposes: admitting \mathbf{Cat} -powers and (strict) pullbacks and equipped with a pullback-stable class of isofibrations

Fibred actions

A fibred action is an action whose actor (\mathcal{E}) depends on the actee (\mathcal{C}):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{E} & \\
 p \swarrow & & \searrow \odot \\
 \mathcal{C} & & \mathcal{C}
 \end{array}
 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad
 \odot : (A : \mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{E}_A \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

Example

$\mathcal{C} \overset{\text{dom}}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{C} \downarrow \overset{\text{cod}}{\rightarrow} \mathcal{C}$ it's the chief example: morphisms act on their domains by sending them to their codomains:

$$\begin{aligned}
 A \odot (A \xrightarrow{P} B) &= B, & A \odot (A \xrightarrow{1_A} A) &= A, \\
 (A \odot (A \xrightarrow{P} B)) \odot (A \xrightarrow{Q} C) &= A \odot (A \xrightarrow{P} B \mathbin{\text{;}} A \xrightarrow{Q} C)
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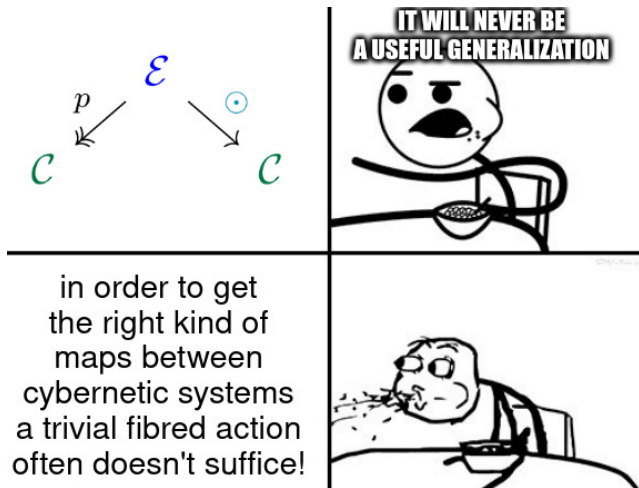
Assume $(\mathcal{C}, \times, 1)$ is a **cartesian pseudomonoid** in \mathbb{K} , then we can form the ‘simple fibred action’ $\mathcal{C} \xleftarrow{\text{fst}} S(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\times} \mathcal{C}$.

Objects of $S(\mathcal{C})$ are pairs $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix}$ of objects in \mathcal{C} and morphisms are maps

$$S(\mathcal{C}) \left(\begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} C \\ D \end{pmatrix} \right) = \mathcal{C}(A, C) \times \mathcal{C}(A \times B, D)$$

The action behaves like the self-action $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\times} \mathcal{C}$ but maps between scalars are different!

Fibred actions: a crucial generalization!



This is crucial, e.g. to make trajectories of controlled ODEs corepresentable.

Recap

When \mathbb{K} is a 2-cosmos (suitably complete 2-category), we have a functor:

$$\mathbf{Para}_{\mathbb{K}} : \mathbf{PsMnd}(\mathbf{fSpan}^{\cong}(\mathbb{K})) \longrightarrow \mathbf{PsMnd}(\mathbf{fSpan}^{\cong}(\mathbb{K}))$$

which (on carriers) is:

$$\mathbf{Para}_{\mathbb{K}} \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & \mathcal{E} & \\ p \swarrow & & \searrow \odot \\ \mathcal{C} & & \mathcal{C} \end{array} \right) := \begin{array}{ccc} & \odot / \mathcal{C} & \\ \text{dom} \swarrow & & \searrow \text{cod} \\ \mathcal{C} & & \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

To avoid coherence hell for the pseudodistributive law, one has to toil away a bit more: this leads, for instance, to replace \mathbf{PsMnd} with a (conjectural) Kleisli completion for a certain kind of enriched bicategories (Garner and Shulman 2016). This is a very cool story categorical story, and yields another extra bit of generality!

DJM sketched it in his CT2023 talk.

Applications

The process theory $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$

To each fibration $q : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ corresponds a double category $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$ (Myers 2021) so defined:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \left(\begin{array}{c} A^- \\ A^+ \end{array} \right) & \xrightleftharpoons[h]{h^b} & \left(\begin{array}{c} C^- \\ C^+ \end{array} \right) \\ \begin{array}{c} \downarrow f \\ \uparrow f^\sharp \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} \downarrow g \\ \uparrow g^\sharp \end{array} \\ \left(\begin{array}{c} B^- \\ B^+ \end{array} \right) & \xrightleftharpoons[k]{k^b} & \left(\begin{array}{c} D^- \\ D^+ \end{array} \right) \end{array}$$

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$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} A^- \\ A^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right), \dots, \left(\begin{smallmatrix} D^- \\ D^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **bundles** (objects in \mathcal{B})

$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} h^b \\ g \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} k^b \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **charts** (maps in \mathcal{B})

$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} f^\sharp \\ f \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} g^\sharp \\ g \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **lenses** (maps in \mathcal{B}^\vee)

the square exists if both squares (int. and ext.) commute

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Example

Let $q = \text{cod} : \mathbf{Set}^\perp \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, then objects of $\mathbb{A}rena(\text{cod})$ are (equivalent to) polynomials, the maps are still known as lenses and charts; and the double category we obtain is cartesian monoidal.

The process theory $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$

To each fibration $q : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ corresponds a double category $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$ (Myers 2021) so defined:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \left(\begin{smallmatrix} A^- \\ A^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right) & \xrightleftharpoons[h]{h^b} & \left(\begin{smallmatrix} C^- \\ C^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right) \\ f \downarrow \uparrow f^\# & & g \downarrow \uparrow g^\# \\ \left(\begin{smallmatrix} B^- \\ B^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right) & \xrightleftharpoons[k]{k^b} & \left(\begin{smallmatrix} D^- \\ D^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right) \end{array}$$

$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} A^- \\ A^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right), \dots, \left(\begin{smallmatrix} D^- \\ D^+ \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **bundles** (objects in \mathcal{B})

$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} h^b \\ g \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} k^b \\ k \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **charts** (maps in \mathcal{B})

$\left(\begin{smallmatrix} f^\# \\ f \end{smallmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{smallmatrix} g^\# \\ g \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ are **lenses** (maps in \mathcal{B}^\vee)

the square exists if both squares (int. and ext.) commute

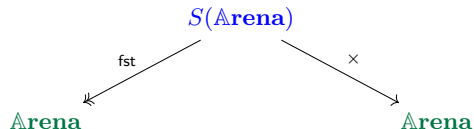
Note: when q is symmetric monoidal (resp. cartesian monoidal), so is $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$.

Example

Let $q = \text{subm} : \mathbf{Smooth}^\downarrow \rightarrow \mathbf{Smooth}$, then objects of $\mathbb{A}rena(q)$ are submersions of smooth manifolds, the maps are lenses and charts; and the double category we obtain is cartesian monoidal.

The process theory $\mathbb{A}rena$

Let's consider q cartesian monoidal, so that $\mathbb{A}rena$ is cartesian monoidal too and we can define the simple fibred action for it:

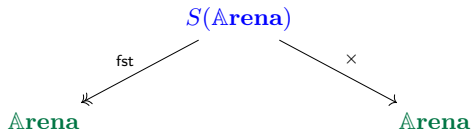


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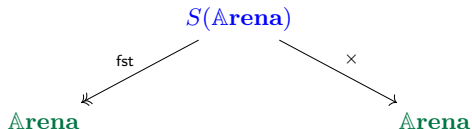


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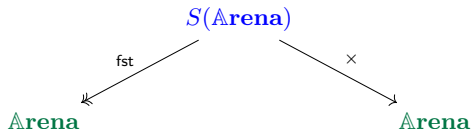


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Thus we can define $\mathbf{Para}_{\mathbf{ProTh}}$ and apply it to $\mathbb{A}rena \xleftarrow{\text{fst}} S(\mathbb{A}rena) \xrightarrow{\times} \mathbb{A}rena$.

The cybernetic process theory $\mathbb{P}\text{ara}(\mathbb{A}\text{rena})$

$\mathbb{P}\text{ara}(\mathbb{A}\text{rena}) := \mathbb{P}\text{ara}_{\mathbb{P}\text{roTh}}(\mathbb{A}\text{rena} \overset{\text{fst}}{\leftarrow} S(\mathbb{A}\text{rena}) \overset{\times}{\rightarrow} \mathbb{A}\text{rena})$ is a pseudocategory object in SymMonDblCat^v , hence a **symmetric monoidal triple category**:

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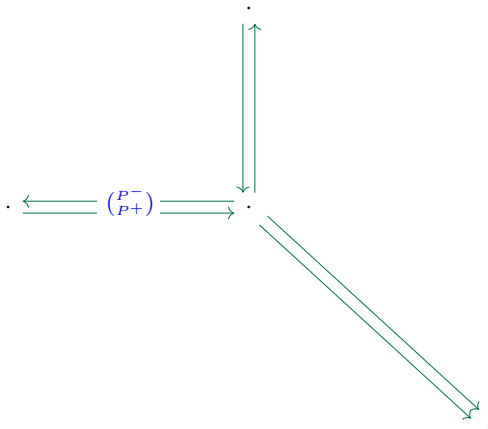
0-cells

$$\begin{pmatrix} A^- \\ A^+ \end{pmatrix}$$

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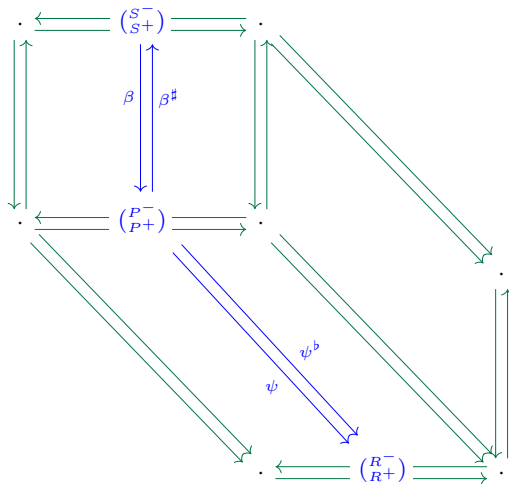
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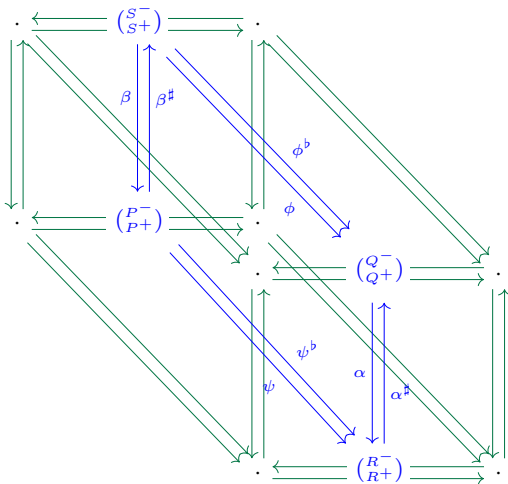
2-cells



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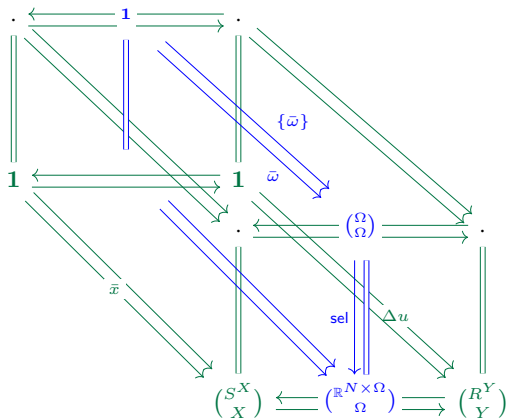
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3-cells



Example: fixpoints of games

When constructed suitably (i.e. as described in Capucci 2023), an open game is a basic 2-cell in $\mathbf{Para}(\mathbf{Arena})$ and maps from the trivial basic 2-cell fix correspond to Nash equilibria:



Here $u : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ is a payoff function, $\bar{x} \in X$ an initial state and $\bar{\omega} \in \Omega$ a strategy profile.

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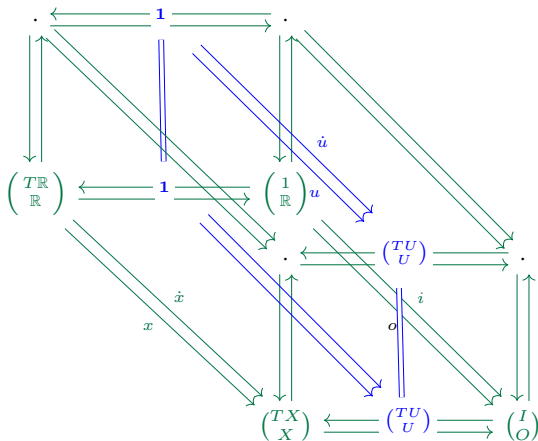
When constructed suitably (i.e. as described in Capucci 2023), an open game is a basic 2-cell in $\mathbb{P}\text{ara}(\mathbb{A}\text{rena})$ and maps from the trivial basic 2-cell fix correspond to Nash equilibria:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbf{1} & \xRightarrow[\bar{x} \times \bar{\omega}]{-\times \{\bar{\omega}\}} & \begin{pmatrix} S^X \\ X \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \Omega \\ \Omega \end{pmatrix} \\
 \parallel & & \updownarrow \\
 \mathbf{1} & \xRightarrow{\Delta u} & \begin{pmatrix} R^Y \\ Y \end{pmatrix}
 \end{array}
 \iff
 \underbrace{\bar{\omega} \in \text{sel}(\lambda \omega . \text{coplay}(\bar{x}, \omega, \Delta u(\text{play}(\bar{x}, \omega))))}_{\text{Nash equilibrium}}$$

Here $u : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ is a payoff function, $\bar{x} \in X$ an initial state and $\bar{\omega} \in \Omega$ a strategy profile.

Example: trajectories of open controlled ODEs

Let $\begin{pmatrix} f^\sharp \\ f \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} TX \\ X \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} TU \\ U \end{pmatrix} \rightleftharpoons \begin{pmatrix} I \\ O \end{pmatrix}$ be an open controlled ODE. Let clock be the 'walking trajectory' system, i.e. the uncontrolled ODE on \mathbb{R} defined as $\frac{dx}{dt} = 1$. Then maps from the latter into the first in $\mathbf{Arena}(\text{subm})$ correspond to solutions of the open controlled ODE:



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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{pmatrix} T\mathbb{R} \\ \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\langle \dot{x}, \dot{u} \rangle} \\ \xrightarrow{\langle x, u \rangle} \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} TX \\ X \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} TU \\ U \end{pmatrix} \\
 \uparrow \text{d/dt} & & \uparrow f \quad \uparrow f^\sharp \\
 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} & \xrightarrow{i} & \begin{pmatrix} I \\ O \end{pmatrix}
 \end{array}
 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad
 \begin{array}{c}
 o(t) = f(x(t), u(t)) \\
 \underbrace{\langle \dot{x}(t), \dot{u}(t) \rangle = f^\sharp(i(t), x(t), u(t))}_{\text{trajectory of the open controlled ODE}}
 \end{array}$$

Bonus: Para(Arena) and Org

In (Shapiro and Spivak 2022) they define a double category \mathbf{Org} where

- objects are *polynomial functors*, i.e. functors of the form $p = \sum_{i:p(1)} y^{p[i]}$
- loose arrows $(S, \phi) : p \multimap q$ are *polynomial coalgebras*, i.e. coalgebras of the form

$$S : \mathbf{Set}, \quad \phi : S \longrightarrow [p, q](S)$$

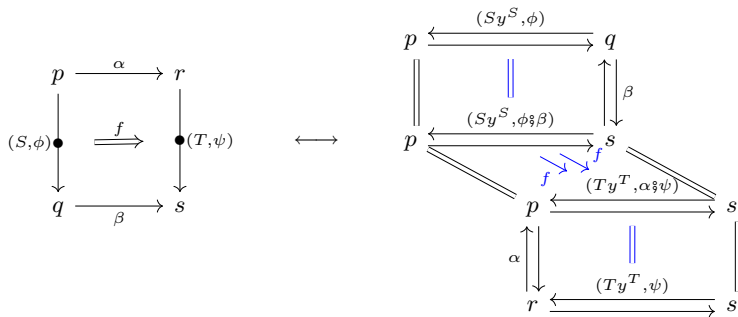
where $[-, -]$ is the closed structure associated to the Hancock product,

- tight arrows $h : p \rightarrow r$ are morphisms of polynomial functors,
- squares are given by maps between the carriers of the coalgebras, plus a commutativity condition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & r \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 (S, \phi) \bullet & \xRightarrow{f} & \bullet (T, \psi) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 q & \xrightarrow{\beta} & s
 \end{array}
 \quad := \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 S & \xrightarrow{f} & T \\
 \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi \\
 [p, q](S) & & [r, s](T) \\
 [p, \beta](S) \downarrow & & \downarrow [\alpha, s](T) \\
 [p, s](S) & \xrightarrow{[p, s](f)} & [p, s](T)
 \end{array}$$

Bonus: $\mathbf{Para}(\mathbf{Arena})$ and \mathbf{Org}

Recalling that $\mathbf{Poly} \cong \mathbf{Lens}(\mathbf{cod}_{\mathbf{Set}})$, and that polynomial coalgebras can equivalently be given as parametric maps $Sy^S \otimes p \rightarrow q$, and that coalgebra maps between them are *charts*, we see that \mathbf{Org} embeds in $\mathbf{Para}(\mathbf{Arena})$ 'diagonally':



Hence \mathbf{Org} distills the structure of $\mathbf{Para}(\mathbf{Arena})$ (or variants thereof) for the purposes of “dynamic enrichment”. We converge on the same structure!

Question: is enrichment in $\mathbf{Para}(\mathbf{Arena})$ interesting?

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 p & \xlongequal{\quad} & p \\
 (S, \phi) \downarrow \bullet & & \downarrow \alpha \\
 q & \xrightarrow{\quad f \quad} & r \\
 \beta \downarrow & & \bullet \downarrow (T, \psi) \\
 s & \xlongequal{\quad} & s
 \end{array}
 \longleftrightarrow
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & (Sy^S, \phi \circ \beta) & \\
 p & \xleftarrow{\quad} & s \\
 & \searrow & \nearrow \\
 & p & s \\
 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\
 & (Ty^T, \alpha \circ \psi) &
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What we left out:

- The gory categorical details of the generalised **Para** construction,
- How to actually get cybernetic **systems**, by running **Para** in **SysTh** ($= \mathbf{SymMonDbllxCat}^v$)





Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

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