



UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN
INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE EN MATHÉMATIQUE ET PHYSIQUE

When the M meets the P

MODELS OF A LAWVERE THEORY

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19 May 2025

What is a group?

A group is a set G with

- a binary operation

$$\begin{aligned} m_G: G \times G &\longrightarrow G \\ (x, y) &\longmapsto x \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

- a 0-ary operation

$$\begin{aligned} e_G: \{\star\} &\longrightarrow G \\ \star &\longmapsto 1 \end{aligned}$$

- an unary operation

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satisfying the following axioms :

- associativity

$$x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z$$

- unity

$$x \cdot 1 = x = 1 \cdot x$$

- inverse

$$x \cdot x^{-1} = 1 = x^{-1} \cdot x$$

Axioms as commutative diagrams

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times G \times G & \xrightarrow{m_G \times \text{id}_G} & G \times G \\ \text{id}_G \times m_G \downarrow & & \downarrow m_G \\ G \times G & \xrightarrow{m_G} & G \end{array}$$

Axioms as commutative diagrams

Associativity :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (x, y, z) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & (x \cdot y, z) \\ \downarrow \text{id}_G \times m_G & \begin{array}{c} G \times G \times G \xrightarrow{m_G \times \text{id}_G} G \times G \\ \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow m_G \\ G \times G \xrightarrow{m_G} G \end{array} & \downarrow \\ (x, y \cdot z) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z \end{array}$$

What do I need to express the rules of a group?

Lawvere theory

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Objects $T^0, T^1, \dots, T^n, \dots$

Arrows $m: T^2 \rightarrow T, e: T^0 \rightarrow T, i: T^1 \rightarrow T^1$


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$$\dots \quad T^n \quad \dots \quad T^3 \quad T^2 \xrightarrow{m} T^1 \xleftarrow{e} T^0$$

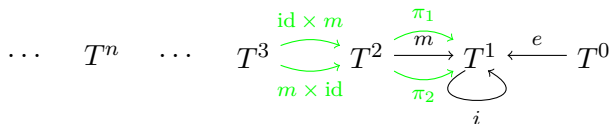


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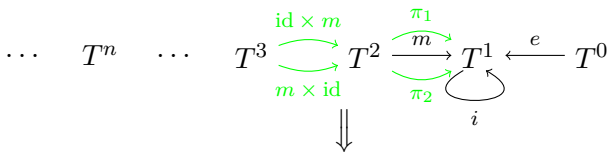


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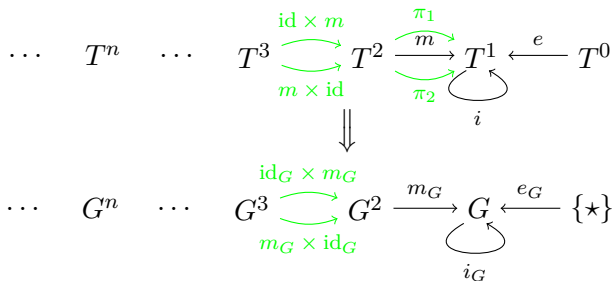


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Models as functors

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A **Lawvere theory** is a category \mathcal{T} with an object T and all its powers T^n for $N \in \mathbb{N}$.

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A **model** of a Lawvere theory \mathcal{T} is a product-preserving functor from the Lawvere theory to the category of sets

$$F: \mathcal{T} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Set}$$

$$T^0 \longmapsto \{\star\}$$

$$T^1 \longmapsto FT$$

$$T^n \longmapsto FT^n$$

$$(f: T^n \rightarrow T) \longmapsto Ff: (FT^n \rightarrow FT)$$

Back to the example of groups

Let \mathcal{T} be the Lawvere theory of groups.

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$$\mathbf{TopGrp} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\text{prod}}[\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{Top}]$$

A functor from \mathcal{T} to the category \mathbf{Top} of topological spaces is a topological group.

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$$\mathbf{LieGrp} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\text{prod}}[\mathcal{T}, \mathbf{Diff}]$$

A functor from \mathcal{T} to the category \mathbf{Diff} of smooth manifolds is a Lie group.

Hopf algebras

A **Hopf algebra** over a field \mathcal{K} is a functor from the Lawvere theory of groups to the category \mathbf{Coalg} of cocommutative coalgebras over \mathcal{K} .

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$$\mathcal{H}: \mathcal{T} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Coalg}$$

$$T \longmapsto H$$

$$m: T^2 \rightarrow T \longmapsto m_H: H \otimes H \rightarrow H$$

$$e: T^0 \rightarrow T \longmapsto u_H: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow H$$

$$i: T \rightarrow T \longmapsto S_H: H \rightarrow H$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} T \times T & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times i} & T \times T & & \\ \Delta \nearrow & & & \searrow m & \\ T & \xrightarrow{\quad ! \quad} & T^0 & \xrightarrow{\quad e \quad} & T \end{array}$$

$$x \cdot x^{-1} = 1$$

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$$m_H(a_1 \otimes S_H(a_2)) = u_H(\epsilon_H(a))$$

My research

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$$\mathbf{Hopf}_{\mathbf{coc}} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{prod}}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{Grp}}, \mathbf{Coalg})$$

$$\mathbf{HBr} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{prod}}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{SKB}}, \mathbf{Coalg})$$

$$\mathbf{HRadRng} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{prod}}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{RadRng}}, \mathbf{Coalg})$$

$$\mathbf{HDiGrp} \cong \mathbf{Fun}_{\mathbf{prod}}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{DiGrp}}, \mathbf{Coalg})$$