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Coherent and Ideal Actions

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**Joint work with Manuel Mancini e Federica Piazza*

Plan of the talk

1. Actions: internal vs external
2. A convenient setting
3. Coherent and ideal actions
4. Some case studies

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Group actions on groups

They are usually defined as *external operations*:

$$*: B \times X \longrightarrow X \quad \text{s.t. } 1 * x = x, \quad ab * x = a * (b * x), \quad g * (x + y) = g * x + g * y$$

This is unfortunate, from a categorical perspective.

A classical solution:

$$\frac{*: B \times X \longrightarrow X \quad \text{s.t. ...}}{\alpha_*: B \longrightarrow \mathbf{Aut}(X)} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{in Set} \\ \text{in Gp} \end{array}$$

Pros: - Actions are given in the internal language of the ambient category.

Cons: - The assignment $\mathbf{Aut}(-)$ is not functorial.

- Many otherwise well-behaved algebraic varieties don't have an $\mathbf{Aut}(-)$.

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Internal actions and semidirect products

Let us focus on another feature of (group) actions.

Fact. Semidirect product determines an equivalence of categories: $B\text{-Act} \simeq \mathbf{Pt}(B)$

$$\boxed{B \times X \xrightarrow{\xi} X} \quad \mapsto \quad \boxed{X \rtimes_{\xi} B \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{p_2} B \\ \xleftarrow{i_2} \end{matrix}}$$

Definition

\mathbb{C} with split pullbacks has **semidirect products** if, for all $p: E \rightarrow B$, the functor

$$p^*: \mathbf{Pt}(B) \rightarrow \mathbf{Pt}(E)$$

has a left adjoint and is monadic (hence \mathbb{C} protomodular!).

[BJ98] Bourn, Janelidze. *Protomodularity, descent and semi-direct products*

[BJK05] Borceux, Janelidze, Kelly. *Internal object actions*

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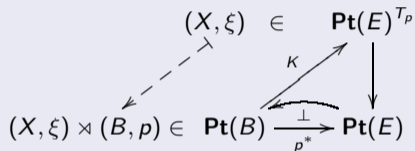
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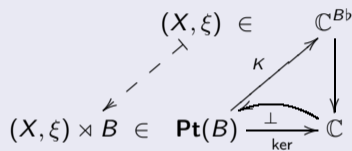
[BJK05] Borceux, Janelidze, Kelly. *Internal object actions*

Internal actions: \mathbb{C} not pointed vs \mathbb{C} pointed

Generic $p: E \rightarrow B$



\mathbb{C} pointed, choose $p: 0 \rightarrow B$



where $B \bowtie X = \ker(B + X \xrightarrow{[1,0]} B)$

If \mathbb{C} is **not** pointed, we can only describe

split epis over B as algebras on split epis over E

not a big deal, unless $\mathbf{Pt}(E)$ is somehow special...

If \mathbb{C} is pointed, $\mathbf{Pt}(0) \simeq \mathbb{C}$, and we can describe

split epis over B as algebras on their kernels in \mathbb{C}

Internal actions in non-pointed categories

Now, non-pointed categories do not have kernels...

However, the *working mathematician* knows that, although in a non-pointed category kernels cannot be defined categorically, they are often replaced by ideals, i.e. kernels living in a bigger category.

Example

If we consider a homomorphism of unitary commutative rings

$$p: A \rightarrow B$$

its kernel $X = \{x \in A \mid p(x) = 0\}$ is not a sub(unitary)ring of A in general, but rather an ideal, i.e. a kernel in the category of (non necess. unitary) commutative rings.

All this can be generalized, but first let us examine the case of rings in more detail.

Unitary actions for commutative rings

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \overset{F}{\curvearrowright} & \\ \mathbf{CRing} & \xrightarrow[U]{} & \mathbf{CRng} \\ & \underset{\perp}{\curvearrowleft} & \end{array}$$

- **CRing** exact protomodular
- **CRng** semi-abelian
- U monadic

where $F(R) := R \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$ has multiplication
 $(r, n)(r', n') = (n'r + nr' + rr', nn')$

Definition

An ideal X of A is a kernel
 $X = \ker(U(p): U(A) \rightarrow U(B))$

Now, for B in **CRng**,

$$\mathbf{Pt}_{\mathbf{CRng}}(B) \simeq B\mathbf{b}(-)\text{-Alg} \simeq B\text{-actions}$$

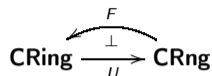
Definition (B -actions in **CRng**)

An action of the comm. ring B on the comm. ring X is a ring homomorphism $\alpha: B \otimes X \rightarrow X$ s.t.

$$b' \cdot (b \cdot x) = bb' \cdot x, \quad b \cdot xx' = (b \cdot x)x' = x(b \cdot x')$$

where $B \otimes X = B \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} X$ with $(a \otimes x)(a' \otimes x') = aa' \otimes xx'$ and $b \cdot x := \alpha(b \otimes x)$.

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The equivalence $\mathbf{Pt}_{\mathbf{CRng}}(B) \simeq B\text{-actions}$

- Given a B -action on X , define the split epi $X \rtimes B \xrightleftharpoons[p_2]{} B$ with $X \rtimes B = (X \oplus B, +, \cdot)$, multiplication: $(x, b)(x', b') = (xx' + b' \cdot x + b \cdot x', bb')$.
- Given a split epi $A \xrightleftharpoons[p]{p} B$, $X = \ker(p)$ is a B ring with $b \cdot x = s(b)x$.

Q: If B is a unitary commutative ring, and X is a B -ring, when is the split epi

$$X \rtimes U(B) \xrightleftharpoons[i_2]{p_2} U(B)$$

a split epi of unitary commutative rings?

A: This happens precisely when the B -action satisfies

$$1_B \cdot x = x, \quad \text{for all } x \in X$$

and then $(0, 1_B) \in X \rtimes U(B)$ is the multiplicative unit.

Aim of this talk: provide a framework to deal with Q&A w.r.t. internal actions.

The equivalence $\mathbf{Pt}_{\mathbf{CRng}}(B) \simeq B\text{-actions}$

- Given a B -action on X , define the split epi $X \rtimes B \xrightleftharpoons[p_2]{} B$ with $X \rtimes B = (X \oplus B, +, \cdot)$, multiplication: $(x, b)(x', b') = (xx' + b' \cdot x + b \cdot x', bb')$.
- Given a split epi $A \xrightleftharpoons[p_s]{} B$, $X = \ker(p)$ is a B ring with $b \cdot x = s(b)x$.

Q: If B is a **unitary** commutative ring, and X is a B -ring, when is the split epi

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A convenient setting for relative U -ideals

[LMS2024] Lapenta, M., Spada. *Relative ideals in homological categories...*

Basic Setting = $\mathbb{U} \xrightarrow[U]{F} \mathbb{V}$ s.t.

- \mathbb{V} homological (i.e. pp + reg.)
- U conservative (+ faithful)

Definition

$k: X \rightarrow U(A)$ is a **relative U -ideal** if $\exists \begin{array}{ccc} A & & X \xrightarrow{k} U(A) \\ \downarrow f & \text{s.t.} & \downarrow \\ B & & 0 \longrightarrow U(B) \end{array}$ is a pullback.

$\eta_X: X \rightarrow UF(X)$ is an **augmentation U -ideal** if $\eta_X = \ker(U(p_X))$,
 where $p_X: F(X) \rightarrow 0$ is the unique morphism s.t. $U(p_X) \circ \eta_X = 0$.

Theorem

If, $\forall X$ in \mathbb{V} , η_X augmentation ideal, then $\ker: (\mathbb{U} \downarrow 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$ is an equivalence.

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Relative U -ideals: not only rings...

unitary (non-associative) K -algebras: $\mathbf{UAlg}_K \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{F} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{U} \end{matrix} \mathbf{Alg}_K$ (K field)

$$F(X) = X \rtimes K \quad (x, k)(x', k') = (k'x + kx' + xx', kk') \quad k(x, k') = (kx, kk')$$

unitary C^* -algebras: $\mathbf{UCStar} \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{F} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{U} \end{matrix} \mathbf{CStar}$

$$F(X) = X \oplus \mathbb{C} \quad \text{with multiplication as above, and } (x, z)^* = (x^*, \bar{z})$$

MV-algebras and \mathbf{Set}^{op} : we will discuss them later...

A convenient setting for varieties: $\mathbb{U} \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{F} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{U} \end{matrix} \mathbb{V}$, where U forgetful functor between $\mathbb{U} = (\mathbb{U}, \Sigma_{\mathbb{U}}, Z_{\mathbb{U}})$ and $\mathbb{V} = (\mathbb{V}, \Sigma_{\mathbb{V}}, Z_{\mathbb{V}})$ semi-abelian, with $\Sigma_{\mathbb{V}} \subseteq \Sigma_{\mathbb{U}}$, $Z_{\mathbb{V}} \subseteq Z_{\mathbb{U}}$.

We are particularly interested in U forgetting only constants (and the corresponding equations).

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Ideally exact contexts

Theorem ([J2024])

\mathbb{U} is ideally exact iff

 \mathcal{U} is Barr-exact

\mathcal{U} has finite coproducts

$$\exists U: \mathbb{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{V} \text{ monadic, with } \mathbb{V} \text{ semi-abelian}$$

Fact. The functor U can be chosen s.t. η is cartesian.

Fact. η cartesian iff η_X augmentation ideal, for all X in \mathbb{V} .

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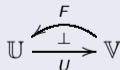
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Here is our **convenient setting**:

Definition (Ideally Exact Context)

 \mathbb{U} ideally exact, \mathbb{V} semi-abelian $F \dashv U$ monadic, η cartesian

From now on, we stick to an **ideally exact context**.

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Coherent actions and coherent points

Given an action $\xi: U(B) \bowtie X \rightarrow X$ assoc. with the split epi $A \xrightleftharpoons[p]{p} U(B)$, and $\xi_0: UF(0) \bowtie X \rightarrow X$ the

action assoc. with the canonical $UF(X) \xrightleftharpoons[UF(\iota)]{UF(\tau)} UF(0)$, T.F.A.E.

(C1) The diagram $UF(0) \bowtie X \xrightarrow[U(\iota) \bowtie 1]{} U(B) \bowtie X \xrightarrow[\xi]{} X$ commutes,

(C2) $\exists f$ s.t. $\begin{array}{ccc} UF(X) & \xrightleftharpoons[UF(\iota)]{UF(\tau)} & UF(0) \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow U(\iota) \\ A & \xrightleftharpoons[p]{p} & U(B) \end{array}$ is a pullback

Definition

An action ξ is **coherent** if it satisfies (C1), a point (p, s) is **coherent** if it satisfies (C2).

Example. An action of a unitary ring B on a non-unitary ring X is **coherent** when the multiplicative unit acts *coherently* as in $F(X) = X \rtimes \mathbb{Z}$.

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Ideal points and ideal actions

Definition

A split epi $A \begin{smallmatrix} \xrightarrow{p} \\ \xleftarrow{s} \end{smallmatrix} U(B)$ is **ideal** if there exist a split epi $A' \begin{smallmatrix} \xrightarrow{p'} \\ \xleftarrow{s'} \end{smallmatrix} B$, and an isomorphism $\sigma: U(A') \rightarrow A$ that induces an isomorphism of points.

A morphism h of split epis over $U(B)$ is ideal if there exists h' s.t. $U(h') = h$.

Fact. U full on isos $\Rightarrow (p', s')$ essentially unique.

Definition

An action $\xi: U(B) \triangleright X \rightarrow X$ is **ideal** if it determines an ideal split epi.

Example. An action of a unitary ring B on a non-unitary ring X is **ideal** precisely when the corresponding split epi is unitary.

Ideal vs Coherent

For rings, **coherent** and **ideal** actions coincide. What can be said in general?

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Theorem

In an ideally exact context, all ideal actions are coherent.

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We do not know if the converse of this statement holds in the ideally exact context.

However, when it holds, it establishes a convenient setting to study a well-behaved notion of action.

Definition

An ideally exact context admits a **good theory of actions** (it is **BAT**, for short) if all coherent actions are ideal, and all morphisms of such actions are ideal.

Ideal actions as algebras.

[J2024] G. Janelidze *Semidirect products in ideally exact categories*

Proposition (J2024)

An ideally exact context $F \dashv U: \mathbb{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$, induces a monadic adjunction:

$$\mathbf{Pt}_{\mathbb{U}}(B) \xrightleftharpoons[U^B]{F^B} \mathbb{V} \quad \text{where} \quad U^B: X \mapsto \begin{array}{c} B + F(X) \\ \downarrow [1, \iota \circ F\tau] \\ B \end{array} \quad F^B: \begin{array}{c} A' \\ \downarrow p' \\ B \end{array} \mapsto \ker(U(p'))$$

\Rightarrow one can describe points over B as algebras for the monad $B\#(-) = U^B \circ F^B$.

Fact. There is a morphism of monads $\gamma_{B,X}$ given by:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} U(B) \wr X & \longrightarrow & U(B) + X & \xrightarrow{[1,0]} & U(B) \\ \downarrow \gamma_{B,X} & & \downarrow [U(i_1), U(i_2) \circ \eta_X] & & \parallel \\ B\#X & \longrightarrow & U(B + F(X)) & \xrightarrow{U([1, \iota \circ F\tau])} & U(B). \end{array}$$

Ideal actions as algebras.

[J2024] G. Janelidze *Semidirect products in ideally exact categories*

Proposition (J2024)

An ideally exact context $F \dashv U: \mathbb{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$, induces a monadic adjunction:

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Lemma

An action $\xi: U(B)\flat X \rightarrow X$ is ideal if and only if there exists a $B\#$ -algebra $\xi': B\#X \rightarrow X$ s.t.

$$U(B)\flat X \xrightarrow{\gamma_{B,X}} B\#X \xrightarrow{\xi'} X$$

ξ

Theorem

For an ideally exact context $F \dashv U: \mathbb{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$, with U full on isos, T.F.A.E.

- (i) All the coherent B -actions are ideal and all the morphisms of coherent B -actions are ideal.
- (ii) The following diagram is a pullback:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{V}^{B\#} & \xrightarrow{(-) \circ \gamma_B} & \mathbb{V}^{U(B)\flat} \\ S \downarrow & & \downarrow (-) \circ ((U\iota)\flat 1) \\ \mathbb{V} & \xrightarrow{[\xi_0]} & \mathbb{V}^{UF(0)\flat} \end{array}$$

where S forgetful and $[\xi_0](X) = \xi_{0,X}$.

Corollary

For an ideally exact context $F \dashv U: \mathbb{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$, with U full on isos,

T.F.A.E.

- (i) *The context is BAT*

- (ii) For all B in \mathbb{U} , this diagram is a pullback:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbb{V}^{B\#} & \xrightarrow{(-)\circ\gamma_B} & \mathbb{V}^{U(B)b} \\
S \downarrow & & \downarrow (-)\circ((U_L)b1) \\
\mathbb{V} & \xrightarrow{[\xi_0]} & \mathbb{V}^{UF(0)b}
\end{array}$$

- (iii) The natural transformation $\overline{U}: \#-alg \Rightarrow \flat-alg: \mathbb{U}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}$ is cartesian, where \overline{U} is the functor between the categories of algebras induced by the morphism of monads $\gamma = \gamma_{B,X}$.

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BAT contexts

In the last part of my talk, I will examine some BAT ideally exact context, i.e. with a good theory of actions.

- (i) (Unitary) non-associative K -algebras.
- (ii) (Bounded) Wajsberg hoops, but it also applies to product hoops.
- (iii) $\mathbf{Set}^{op} \xrightarrow{U} \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}$

(i) Non-associative K -algebras.

Recall. A non-associative algebra on a field K is a K -vector space A endowed with a bilinear operation. A variety \mathbb{V} of non-associative algebras is a class of such algebras that satisfy specified identities.

A variety \mathbb{V} of non-associative algebras is **unit-closed** if, for any algebra X ,

$$\langle X, 1 \rangle / \{x1 = x = 1x\}$$

is an algebra of the variety (eg. K -**Lie** is not).

Fact. Varieties of non-associative algebras are semi-abelian.

Proposition

If a variety of non-associative algebras \mathbb{V} is unit-closed, and \mathbb{U} is the corresponding variety of unitary algebras, then the free/forgetful adjunction

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ & \curvearrowright & \\ \mathbb{U} & \xrightarrow{U} & \mathbb{V} \\ & \perp & \end{array}$$

gives a BAT ideally exact context.

Proof of the proposition for non-associative K -algebras.

proof (outline). Given f s.t. the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & U(X \rtimes K) & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{U(p_2)} \\ \xleftarrow{U(i_2)} \end{array} & U(K) \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow U(\iota) \\
 X & \xrightarrow{k} & A & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{p} \\ \xleftarrow{s} \end{array} & U(B)
 \end{array}$$

the K -algebra A has unit $s(1_B)$ preserved by p .

Actually, given that $a = k(x) + s(b) \in A$, one has

$$a \cdot s(1_B) = (k(x) + s(b)) \cdot s(1_B) = k(x) \cdot s(1_B) + s(b)$$

but

$$\begin{aligned}
 k(x) \cdot s(1_B) &= f\eta_X(x) \cdot fU(i_2)(1_K) = f(\eta_X(x) \cdot U(i_2)(1_K)) \\
 &= f((x, 0) \cdot (0, 1_K)) = f(x, 0) = k(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Wajsberg Hoops

A **hoop** is an algebra $(A; \cdot, \rightarrow, 1)$ s.t. $(A; \cdot, 1)$ is a commutative monoid and

$$(H1) \quad x \rightarrow x = 1$$

$$(H2) \quad x \cdot (x \rightarrow y) = y \cdot (y \rightarrow x)$$

$$(H3) \quad x \cdot y \rightarrow z = x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow z)$$

A **Wajsberg hoop** is a hoop s.t.

$$(W) \quad (x \rightarrow y) \rightarrow y = (y \rightarrow x) \rightarrow x$$

A **bounded hoop** is a hoop $(A; \cdot, \rightarrow, 1)$ with a constant $0 \in A$ s.t.

$$(B) \quad 0 \rightarrow x = 1$$

Facts:

- Hoops are \wedge -semilattices, with $x \wedge y := x \cdot (x \rightarrow y)$.
- Hoops are partially ordered, with $x \leq y$ iff $x \rightarrow y = 1$ iff $\exists u$ s.t. $x = u \cdot y$.
- Bounded Wajsberg hoops are term-equivalent to MV-algebras.

*The categories **Hoop**, **WHoop**, **BWHoop** are defined.*

(ii) Whoops: the free bounded hoop.

Proposition (LMS2024)

Hoop and **WHoop** are semi-abelian, **BWHoop** is protomodular.

The adjunction $\text{BWHoop} \xrightleftharpoons[U]{F} \text{WHoop}$ gives an ideally exact context, where

$F(X) = (X \times L_2; \cdot, \rightarrow, 0, 1)$ with operations you don't really want to read:

$$(x, \mathbf{0})(y, \mathbf{0}) = ((x \rightarrow xy) \rightarrow y, \mathbf{0})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{0})(y, \mathbf{1}) = (y \rightarrow x, \mathbf{0})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{1})(y, \mathbf{0}) = (x \rightarrow y, \mathbf{0})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{1})(y, \mathbf{1}) = (xy, \mathbf{1})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{0}) \rightarrow (y, \mathbf{0}) = (y \rightarrow x, \mathbf{1})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{0}) \rightarrow (y, \mathbf{1}) = ((x \rightarrow xy) \rightarrow y, \mathbf{1})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{1}) \rightarrow (y, \mathbf{0}) = (xy, \mathbf{0})$$

$$(x, \mathbf{1}) \rightarrow (y, \mathbf{1}) = (x \rightarrow y, \mathbf{1})$$

[ACD2010] Abad, Castaño, Díaz Varela. *MV-closures of Wajsberg hoops...*

Proposition

The ideally exact context $\text{BWHoop} \xrightleftharpoons[U]{F} \text{WHoop}$ is BAT.

Proof of the proposition for Wajsberg hoops.

proof outline. Given f s.t. the following diagram commutes (i.e. (p, s) is coherent)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{\eta_X} & U(X \times L_2) & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{U(p_2)} \\ \xrightarrow{U(i_2)} \end{array} & U(L_2) \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow f & & \downarrow U(\iota) \\
 X & \xrightarrow{k} & A & \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{s} \\ \xrightarrow{p} \end{array} & U(B)
 \end{array}$$

A has bottom element $s(0_B)$ preserved by p (i.e. (p, s) is ideal).

Actually, for all $a \in A$, $s(0_B) \rightarrow a \in X$, since

$$p(s(0_B) \rightarrow a) = p(s(0_B)) \rightarrow p(a) = 0_B \rightarrow p(a) = 1$$

however

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &= f(1, 1) = f((1, 0) \rightarrow (s(0_B) \rightarrow a, 1)) = f(1, 0) \rightarrow f((s(0_B) \rightarrow a, 1)) \\
 &= (f \circ U(i_2))(0) \rightarrow (f \circ \eta_X)(s(0) \rightarrow a) \\
 &= s(0_B) \rightarrow (s(0_B) \rightarrow a) = s(0_B) \cdot s(0_B) \rightarrow a \\
 &= s(0_B \cdot 0_B) \rightarrow a = s(0_B) \rightarrow a
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $s(0_a) \leq a$.

(iii) A non varietal example: \mathbf{Set}^{op}

Dualize the classical **pointed sets adjunction** in order to obtain an **ideally exact context**:

$$\mathbf{Set} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\text{forgetful}} \\ \xrightarrow[\mathbf{1+(-)}]{\top} \end{array} \mathbf{Set}_* \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{Set}^{op} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{F} \\ \xrightarrow[U]{\perp} \end{array} \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}$$

where \mathbf{Set}_*^{op} is semi-abelian and \mathbf{Set}_*^{op} is ideally exact, and

$$U: A \mapsto (1 + A, 1) \quad F: (X, \star) \mapsto X$$

Notice that unit and counit, as functions, go backward!

$$\eta_{(X, \star)}: (X, \star) \rightarrow^{op} UF(X, \star) = (1 + X, 1) \text{ is given by } [\star, id_X]: 1 + X \rightarrow X$$

$$\epsilon_A: 1 + A = FU(A) \rightarrow^{op} A \text{ is given by } i_2: A \rightarrow 1 + A$$

Split extensions in \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}

[D2022] Deval. *A categorical approach to internal actions and semidirect products*

$$B \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{p} \\ \xleftarrow{s} \end{array} A \xrightarrow{k} X$$

Where:

- we represent arrows of \mathbf{Set}_*^{op} via functions in \mathbf{Set}_* , basepoint often omitted,
- s is a split epi, $p = \ker(k)$ is a split mono,
- $k = \text{coker}(p)$ is a normal epi, and $X = (1 + (A \setminus p(B)), 1)$.

Fact. The normal epi k has a unique splitting

$$\delta: X \rightarrow A \quad \text{with} \quad \delta(1) := \star_A \text{ and } \delta(x) := x \text{ if } x \neq 1$$

The case of \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}

The canonical split epi associated with a pointed set (X, \star_X) is

$$UF(\{*\}, *) = (1 + \{*\}, 1) \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{1+\star_X} \\ \xleftarrow{1+\tau_X} \end{matrix} UF(X, \star_X) = (1 + X, 1)$$

with cokernel (X, \star_X) .

Proposition

The ideally exact context $\mathbf{Set}^{op} \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{F} \\ \perp \\ \xrightarrow{U} \end{matrix} \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}$ is BAT.

Proof of the proposition for \mathbf{Set}_*^{op}

We prove that if (A, p, s) induces a coherent action (i.e. the diagram commutes), \exists split mono (A', p', s') under B s.t. $A = 1 + A'$, $p = 1 + p'$ and $s = 1 + s'$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 1 + \{*\} & \xrightleftharpoons[1+\tau_X]{1+\star_X} & 1 + X & \xrightarrow{[\star_X, id_X]} & X \\
 \uparrow 1+\tau_B & & \uparrow f & & \parallel \\
 1 + B & \xrightleftharpoons[s]{p} & A & \xrightarrow{k} & X
 \end{array}$$

For $a \in A$,

$$s(a) = 1 \Leftrightarrow a = p(1).$$

Indeed, $a = p(1) \Rightarrow s(a) = sp(1) = 1$. Viceversa, if $s(a) = 1$, $1 = (1 + \tau_B)(s(a)) = (1 + \tau_X)(f(a))$ so that $f(a) = 1$, and $a \in \ker(k)$, i.e. $\exists z \in 1 + B$ s.t. $p(z) = a$. Now, $z \notin B$. If so, $f(a) = \star_X$, contradiction. Hence $z = 1$.

Now we can define $A' = A \setminus \{p(1)\}$, and the split extension (k, p, s) becomes

$$1 + B \xrightleftharpoons[1+s']{1+p'} 1 + A' \xrightarrow{k'} X \quad p' = p|_{A'}, \quad s' = s|_{A'}.$$

