

The difference calculus for functors on presheaves

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Calculus of differences

- **Aim:** Categorify Newton's difference operator Δ
 - For $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\Delta[f](x) = f(x+1) - f(x)$
 - A discrete version of derivative

- **Inspired in part by:**
 - Work on polynomial functors by Kock [6], Niu/Spivak [7], and many others
 - Work on analytic functors by Joyal [5] *et. al.*
 - Multivariable analytic functors, e.g. Fiore/Gambino/Hyland/Winskel [4]
 - Differential structures, see Cockett/Crutwell [3]

- **Likely related to:**
 - The cartesian difference categories of Alvarez-Picallo/Pacaud-Lemay [1]
 - The Goodwillie calculus, see e.g. Bauer/Johnson/Osborne/Riehl/Tebbe [2]

General idea

- For $F: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$, perturb the input and measure the difference in output

$$\Delta[F](X) = F(X+1) \setminus F(X)$$

Example

$F(X) = X^3$, then $F(X+1)$ has eight kinds of elements:

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

$$(x_1, x_2, *), (x_1, *, x_3), (*, x_2, x_3)$$

$$(x_1, *, *), (*, x_2, *), (*, *, x_3)$$

$$(*, *, *)$$

$$\Delta[F](X) = 3X^2 + 3X + 1$$

Example

$F(X) = 2^X$ covariant power set, then $F(X+1)$ has two kinds of elements:

$$A \subseteq X \subseteq X+1$$

$$A \cup \{*\} \subseteq X+1 \quad (A \subseteq X)$$

$$\Delta[F](X) = 2^X$$

Tautness

- $F(X+1) \setminus F(X)$ not always functorial

Definition

(Manes 2002) A functor is *taut* if it preserves inverse images

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_0 \twoheadrightarrow A & & FA_0 \twoheadrightarrow FA \\ f_0 \downarrow \boxed{\text{Pb}} \downarrow f & \Rightarrow & Ff_0 \downarrow \boxed{\text{Pb}} \downarrow Ff \\ B_0 \twoheadrightarrow B & & FB_0 \twoheadrightarrow FB \end{array}$$

A natural transformation $t: F \rightarrow G$ is *taut* if the naturality squares corresponding to monos are pullbacks

$$\begin{array}{ccc} FA_0 \twoheadrightarrow FA & & \\ tA_0 \downarrow \boxed{\text{Pb}} \downarrow tA & & \\ GA_0 \twoheadrightarrow GA & & \end{array}$$

- Get a sub-2-category \mathcal{Taut} of \mathcal{Cat} whose objects are categories with inverse images and taut functors and taut natural transformations

Limits

Taut functors are closed under limits.

Proposition

(1) *Limits in $\mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$ of taut functors are taut.*

(2) *The inclusion*

$$\mathcal{T}aut(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$$

creates non-empty connected limits.

(3) *The product of taut functors is taut but the projections are not.*

Confluence

Theorem

I colimits commute with inverse images in **Set** if and only if

$$\forall \begin{array}{c} & & I_1 \\ & \nearrow^{\alpha_1} & \\ I_0 & & \\ & \searrow_{\alpha_2} & \\ & & I_2 \end{array} \quad \exists \begin{array}{c} & & I_1 & & \\ & \nearrow^{\alpha_1} & & \searrow_{\beta_1} & \\ I_0 & & & & I \\ & \searrow_{\alpha_2} & & \nearrow_{\beta_2} & \\ & & I_2 & & \end{array} \quad \beta_1 \alpha_1 = \beta_2 \alpha_2 .$$

Definition

If **I** satisfies the above conditions we say it's *confluent*.

Example

Filtered colimits, coproducts, quotients by group actions are all confluent.

Proposition

- (1) *Confluent colimits in $\mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$ of taut functors are taut.*
- (2) $\mathcal{T}aut(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set}) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$ creates all colimits.

Examples

- Polynomial functors $P(X) = \sum_{i \in I} X^{A_i}$ are taut
- Analytic functors $\tilde{F}(X) = \int^n X^n \times F(n) \cong \sum_n X^n \times F(n)/S_n$ are taut
($F: \mathbf{Bij} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ a species)
- Manes: Collection monads are finitary taut monads

The difference operator

Proposition

(1) If $F: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is taut then

$$\Delta[F](X) = F(X + 1) \setminus F(X)$$

defines a taut subfunctor of $F(X + 1)$.

(2) A taut transformation $t: F \rightarrow G$ restricts to a taut transformation $\Delta[t]: \Delta[F] \rightarrow \Delta[G]$.

The functor

$$\Delta: \mathcal{Taut}(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Taut}(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$$

is called the *difference operator*.

Example

$$\Delta[C] = 0$$

$$\Delta[X] = 1$$

Colimits

Proposition

Δ preserves colimits: For $\Gamma: \mathbf{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{Taut}(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set})$

$$\Delta[\varinjlim_I \Gamma I] \cong \varinjlim_I \Delta[\Gamma I]$$

Corollary

(1) $\Delta[F + G] \cong \Delta[F] + \Delta[G]$

(2) $\Delta[CF] \cong C\Delta[F]$

Limits

Proposition

$$\Delta[F \times G] \cong (\Delta[F] \times G) + (F \times \Delta[G]) + (\Delta[F] \times \Delta[G]).$$

More generally:

Proposition

$$\Delta \left[\prod_{i \in I} F_i \right] \cong \sum_{J \subsetneq I} \left(\prod_{j \in J} F_j \right) \times \left(\prod_{k \notin J} \Delta[F_k] \right).$$

Theorem

Δ preserves non-empty connected limits

$$\Delta \left[\lim_{\leftarrow I} \Gamma I \right] \cong \lim_{\leftarrow I} \Delta[\Gamma I].$$

Lax chain rule

Theorem

For taut functors F and G there is a taut natural transformation

$$\gamma_{G,F}: (\Delta[G] \circ F) \times \Delta[F] \longrightarrow \Delta[G \circ F]$$

which is:

- (1) monic,
- (2) natural in F and G ,
- (3) associative

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Delta[H] \circ G \circ F) \times (\Delta[G] \circ F) \times \Delta[F] & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \times \gamma_{G,F}} & (\Delta[H] \circ G \circ F) \times \Delta[G \circ F] \\ \gamma_{H,G \circ F} \times \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma_{H,G \circ F} \\ (\Delta[H \circ G] \circ F) \times \Delta[F] & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{H \circ G, F}} & \Delta[H \circ G \circ F] \quad , \end{array}$$

- (4) unitary

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\Delta[\text{Id}] \circ F) \times \Delta[F] & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{\text{Id}, F}} & \Delta[\text{Id} \circ F] \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ 1 \times \Delta[F] & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \Delta[F] \quad , \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} (\Delta[F] \circ \text{Id}) \times \Delta[\text{Id}] & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{F, \text{Id}}} & \Delta[F \circ \text{Id}] \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \Delta[F] \times 1 & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \Delta[F] \quad . \end{array}$$

Tangent structure

For a taut functor F we define

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Set} \times \mathbf{Set} & \xrightarrow{T} & \mathbf{Set} \times \mathbf{Set} \\ P_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow P_1 \\ \mathbf{Set} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathbf{Set} \end{array}$$

$$T(X, Y) = (FX, \Delta[F](X) \times Y)$$

Proposition

$T: \mathcal{Taut}(\mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Taut}(\mathbf{Set} \times \mathbf{Set}, \mathbf{Set} \times \mathbf{Set})$ is a lax normal monoidal functor

Polynomial functors

Proposition

If $P(X) = \sum_{i \in I} X^{A_i}$ is a polynomial functor, then $\Delta[P](X)$ is again polynomial

$$\Delta[P](X) \cong \sum_{S \subseteq A_i, i \in I} X^S$$

Example

$$\Delta[X^A] = \sum_{S \subseteq A} X^S$$

Example

$$\Delta[X^n] = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k} X^k$$

Multivariable functors

- Extend the difference calculus to functors

$$F: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$$

- **B** families of functors in **A** variables
- Partial difference with respect to A :

For Φ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}$, perturb it by adding a single element of type A freely,
 $\Phi \rightsquigarrow \Phi + \mathbf{A}(A, -)$

$$\Delta_A[F](\Phi) = F(\Phi + \mathbf{A}(A, -)) \setminus F(\Phi)$$

- The one-variable theory carries over with some modifications
- Based on profunctors

Profunctors (a.k.a. 2-matrices)

- A profunctor $P: \mathbf{A} \multimap \mathbf{B}$ is a functor $P: \mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$
A morphism of profunctors is a natural transformation
- P can be thought of as a \mathbf{B} by \mathbf{A} matrix of sets
- Composition of $P: \mathbf{A} \multimap \mathbf{B}$ with $Q: \mathbf{B} \multimap \mathbf{C}$ is “matrix multiplication”

$$(Q \otimes P)(A, C) = \int^B Q(B, C) \times P(A, B)$$

- Identities are hom functors

$$\text{Id}_{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A}(-, -): \mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$$

2-vectors (a.k.a. presheaves)

- A profunctor $\mathbb{1} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{A}$ is a functor $\mathbb{1}^{op} \times \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ which we identify with the presheaf $\Phi \in \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}$
- Composing Φ with a profunctor P gives an object $P \otimes \Phi$ of $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$ and so we get a functor $P \otimes (): \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$ which is cocontinuous (2-linear)
- Its partial difference with respect to A is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_A[P \otimes ()](\Phi) &= P \otimes (\Phi + \mathbf{A}(A, -)) \setminus P \otimes \Phi \\ &\cong (P \otimes \Phi + P \otimes \mathbf{A}(A, -)) \setminus P \otimes \Phi \\ &\cong P \otimes \mathbf{A}(A, -) \\ &\cong P(A, -)\end{aligned}$$

a constant functor (independent of Φ)

$$\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$$

Tense functors

$P \otimes ()$ is not taut!

Definition

F is *tense* if it preserves complemented subobjects and their pullbacks

$t: F \rightarrow G$ is *tense* if the naturality squares corresponding to complemented subobjects are pullbacks

- If F preserves binary coproducts then it's tense, so $P \otimes ()$ is tense
- There is a sub-2-category of \mathcal{Cat} , \mathcal{Tense} , consisting of presheaf categories, tense functors and tense natural transformations

Proposition

- (1) Let $\Gamma: \mathbf{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}})$ be such that $\Gamma(I)$ is tense for every I . Then $\varprojlim \Gamma$ is also tense. If \mathbf{I} is confluent so is $\varinjlim \Gamma$.
- (2) $\mathcal{T}ense(\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}) \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathcal{C}at(\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}})$ creates non-empty connected \varprojlim and all \varinjlim .

Partial difference

Proposition

Let $F: \mathbf{Set}^A \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^B$ be tense, then

$$\Delta_A[F](\Phi) = F(\Phi + \mathbf{A}(A, -)) \setminus F(\Phi)$$

defines a tense subfunctor

$$\Delta_A[F] \succrightarrow F(- + \mathbf{A}(A, -))$$

functorial in F

$$\Delta_A: \mathcal{Tense}(\mathbf{Set}^A, \mathbf{Set}^B) \rightarrow \mathcal{Tense}(\mathbf{Set}^A, \mathbf{Set}^B).$$

Definition

$\Delta_A[F]$ is the *partial difference* of F with respect to A .

- $\Delta_A[C] = 0$
- $\Delta_A[P \otimes ()] \cong P(A, -)$ (constant)

Limits and colimits

Proposition

$\Delta_A: \mathcal{Tense}(\mathbf{Set}^A, \mathbf{Set}^B) \rightarrow \mathcal{Tense}(\mathbf{Set}^A, \mathbf{Set}^B)$ preserves colimits and non-empty connected limits

Corollary

(1) $\Delta_A[F + G] \cong \Delta_A[F] + \Delta_A[G]$

(2) $\Delta_A[C \times F] \cong C \times \Delta_A[F]$

Proposition

$$\Delta_A \left[\prod_{i \in I} F_i \right] \cong \sum_{J \subsetneq I} \left(\prod_{j \in J} F_j \right) \times \left(\prod_{k \notin J} \Delta_A[F_k] \right)$$

Corollary

$$\Delta_A[F \times G] \cong (\Delta_A[F] \times G) + (F \times \Delta_A[G]) + (\Delta_A[F] \times \Delta_A[G])$$

(Discrete) Jacobian

For $F: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$ a tense functor

Proposition

For Φ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}$, $\Delta_A[F](\Phi)$ is (contravariantly) functorial in A

$$\Delta[F](\Phi): \mathbf{A}^{op} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$$

- $\Delta[F](\Phi)$ is a profunctor $\mathbf{A} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{B}$, the (discrete) Jacobian of F at Φ

Proposition

$\Delta[F](\Phi)$ is functorial in Φ giving a tense functor

$$\Delta[F]: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{B}} = \mathcal{P}rof(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})$$

Proposition

$\Delta[F]$ is functorial in F giving the Jacobian functor

$$\Delta: \mathcal{T}ense(\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}ense(\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{B}})$$

Alternate formulations

- **Differential operator**

$$D[F]: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \times \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$$

$$D[F](\Phi, \Psi) = \Delta[F](\Phi) \otimes \Psi$$

$D[F]$ is cocontinuous in the second variable

- **Tangent functor**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \times \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} & \xrightarrow{T[F]} & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \times \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \\ \downarrow P_1 & & \downarrow P_1 \\ \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \end{array}$$

$$T[F](\Phi, \Psi) = (F(\Phi), \Delta[F](\Phi) \otimes \Psi)$$

$T[F]$ also cocontinuous in the second variable

Lax chain rule

Theorem

For tense functors $F: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$, $G: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{C}}$ and Φ in $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}}$ we have a canonical comparison

$$\gamma: \Delta[G](F(\Phi)) \otimes_{\mathbf{B}} \Delta[F](\Phi) \rightarrow \Delta[GF](\Phi)$$

which is

- (1) natural in Φ
- (2) natural in F and G
- (3) associative
- (4) normal

Corollary

$T: \mathcal{Tense} \rightarrow \mathcal{Tense}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} & & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \times \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \\ \downarrow F & \mapsto & \downarrow T[F] \\ \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} & & \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \times \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}} \end{array}$$

is a lax normal functor

Multivariable analytic functors

After Fiore *et al.* [4]

- $\mathbf{!A}$ free symmetric monoidal category generated by \mathbf{A}
 - Objects: finite sequences $\langle A_1, \dots, A_n \rangle$
 - Morphisms: $(\sigma, \langle f_1, \dots, f_m \rangle): \langle A_1, \dots, A_n \rangle \longrightarrow \langle A'_1, \dots, A'_m \rangle$
 $\sigma: m \longrightarrow n$ bijection, $f_i: A_{\sigma i} \longrightarrow A'_i$
- $\mathbf{A-B}$ symmetric sequence (multivariable species) is a profunctor $P: \mathbf{!A} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}$
- Defines a *multivariable analytic functor*

$$\tilde{P}: \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{B}}$$

$$\tilde{P}(\Phi)(B) = \int^{\langle A_1 \dots A_n \rangle \in \mathbf{!A}} P(A_1, \dots, A_n; B) \times \Phi A_1 \times \dots \times \Phi A_n$$

Theorem

\tilde{P} is tense and $\Delta[\tilde{P}]$ is an analytic functor $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Set}^{\mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{B}}$

The difference symmetric sequence

$\Delta[\tilde{P}] \cong \tilde{Q}$ for $Q: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}^{op} \times \mathbf{B}$

$$Q(A_1, \dots, A_n; A, B) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P(A_1, \dots, A_n, A, \dots, A; B) / \{\text{id}_n\} \times S_k$$

where there are k A 's in the k^{th} summand

When $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B} = \mathbb{1}$, $\mathbf{A} \cong \mathbf{Bij}$ and we recover the original definition of species and analytic functor. Then

$Q: \mathbf{Bij} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$

$$Q(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P(n+k) / \{\text{id}\} \times S_k$$

A Q -structure on n is a positive integer k and an equivalence class of P -structures on $n+k$, two structures being equivalent if there is a permutation of $n+k$ fixing the first n elements which transforms one into the other

Exponential functors

- How should we categorify $f(x) = a^x$, $a > 0$?

Example

$F(X) = 2^X$ covariant power set

If L is a sup-lattice we can make $F(X) = L^X$ into a covariant functor $L^X: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ by Kan extension. For $f: X \rightarrow Y$ and $\phi \in L^X$

$$F(f)(\phi)(y) = \bigvee_{f(x)=y} \phi(x).$$

Proposition

$L^X: \mathbf{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{Set}$ is taut and

$$\Delta[L^X] \cong L_* \times L^X$$

where $L_* = L \setminus \{\perp\}$.

Example

$$\Delta[3^X] \cong 2 \times 3^X$$

Dirichlet functors?

- A first try might be

$$F(X) = \sum_{i \in I} L_i^X$$

- For every positive integer n the ordinal

$$\mathbf{n} = \{1 < 2 < 3 < \dots < n\}$$

is a sup-lattice, but ...

- For any unbounded sequence $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbf{n}_i^X \cong \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbf{n}^X$$

Normalized exponentials

- L^X is not connected: $\pi_0(L^X) \cong L$

$$L^X \cong \sum_{l \in L} C_l(X) \quad C_l(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow L \mid \bigvee f(x) = l\}$$

- The *normalized exponential*

$$L^{[X]} = \{f: X \rightarrow L \mid \bigvee f(x) = \top\}$$

- $L^X = \sum_{l \in L} (L/l)^{[X]} \quad L/l = \{l' \in L \mid l' \leq l\}$

Proposition

$L^{[X]}$ is taut and

$$\Delta [L^{[X]}] \cong \sum_{\substack{l \vee l' = \top \\ l' \neq \perp}} (L/l)^{[X]}$$

Corollary

If \top is join irreducible (i.e. $l \vee l' = \top \Rightarrow l = \top$ or $l' = \top$) then

$$\Delta [L^{[X]}] \cong L_* \times L^{[X]} + \sum_{l \neq \top} (L/l)^{[X]}$$

(Covariant) Dirichlet functors

Proposition

If $\langle L_i \rangle_{i \in I}$ and $\langle M_j \rangle_{j \in J}$ are two families of sup-lattices such that

$$\sum_{i \in I} L_i^{[X]} \cong \sum_{j \in J} M_j^{[X]}$$

then there is a bijection $\alpha: I \rightarrow J$ and lattice isomorphisms

$$L_i \cong M_{\alpha(i)} .$$

Definition

A (covariant) Dirichlet functor is a functor of the form

$$F(X) = \sum_{i \in I} L_i^{[X]}$$

for $\langle L_i \rangle$ a family of sup-lattices.

Dirichlet difference

Proposition

Dirichlet functors are taut and closed under products and coproducts

Theorem

If $F(X) = \sum_{i \in I} L_i^{[X]}$ is Dirichlet, then so is $\Delta[F](X)$ and

$$\Delta[F](X) = \sum_{i \in I, l \in L_i} C_l \times (L_i / l)^{[X]}$$

where $C_l = \{l' \in L_i \mid l' \neq \perp \wedge l \vee l' = \top\}$

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