



VNIVERSITAT  
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# FREE MONOIDS AND RIGUET CONGRUENCES

**XV Portuguese Category Seminar**

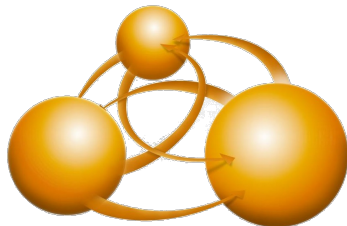
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# PRELIMINARIES

Many-sorted sets and the free monoid on a set

# MANY-SORTED SETS

Given a set  $A$ , an  **$A$ -sorted set** is an  $A$ -indexed family  $X = (X_a)_{a \in A}$  where, for every  $a \in A$ ,  $X_a$  is a set.

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are  $A$ -sorted sets, an  **$A$ -sorted mapping** from  $X$  to  $Y$  is an  $A$ -indexed family  $f = (f_a)_{a \in A}$  where, for every  $a \in A$ ,  $f_a$  is a mapping from  $X_a$  to  $Y_a$ .

$A$ -sorted sets and  $A$ -sorted mappings form a category  $\text{Set}^A$ .

An  $A$ -sorted set  $X$  is **finite** if  $\coprod X$  is finite.

Finite  $A$ -sorted sets and  $A$ -sorted mappings between them form a category  $\text{Set}_f^A$ .

## FREE MONOID ON A SET

Given a set  $A$ , a **word** on  $A$  is a mapping  $\mathbf{a}: n \rightarrow A$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We will denote by  $A^*$  the set of all words on  $A$ .  $|\mathbf{a}|$  is the domain of the word  $\mathbf{a}$ . Moreover, for a letter  $a \in A$  we will denote by  $|\mathbf{a}|_a$  the number of occurrences of  $a$  in  $\mathbf{a}$ .

Two words  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  on  $A$  can be concatenated  $\mathbf{a} \frown \mathbf{b}$ .

The empty word will be denoted by  $\lambda$ .

The **free monoid on**  $A$  is  $(A^*, \frown, \lambda)$ .

### Example

$\mathbf{a} = baac$  and  $\mathbf{b} = caba$  are words on  $A = \{a, b, c\}$ .

# FREE MONOID ON A SET

## Proposition

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\eta_A} & A^* \\
 f \downarrow & & \downarrow \exists! f^@ \\
 B & \xrightarrow{\eta_B} & B^*
 \end{array}$$

# FREE MONOID ON A SET

## Example

If we consider the sets  $A = \{a, b, c\}$  and  $B = \{x, y, z\}$  and the mapping  $f: A \rightarrow B$  defined as follows,  $f(a) = x$ ,  $f(b) = y$  and  $f(c) = z$ , then:

$$\begin{aligned} f^{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbf{a}) &= f^{\mathbb{Q}}(baac) \\ &= f(b)f(a)f(a)f(c) \\ &= yxxz \end{aligned}$$

## FREE MONOID ON A SET

We will say that two words  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are **congruent**,  $\mathbf{a} \equiv^A \mathbf{b}$ , if, for every  $a \in A$ ,  $|\mathbf{a}|_a = |\mathbf{b}|_a$ .

**Example**

The words  $\mathbf{a} = baac$  and  $\mathbf{b} = caba$  are congruent.

## FREE MONOID ON A SET

For a word  $\mathbf{a}$  and an index  $i \in |\mathbf{a}|$ , we will denote by  $\text{occ}_{\mathbf{a}}(i)$  the number of occurrence of  $\mathbf{a}(i)$  in  $\mathbf{a}$ .

For a word  $\mathbf{a}$ , a letter  $a$  occurring in  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $j \in |\mathbf{a}|_a$ , we will denote by  $\text{pos}_{\mathbf{a},a}(j)$  the position of the  $j$ -th occurrence of  $a$  in  $\mathbf{a}$ .

**Example**

For the word  $\mathbf{a} = baac$ ,  $\text{occ}_{\mathbf{a}}(2) = 1$  and  $\text{pos}_{\mathbf{a},c}(0) = 3$ .



## FREE MONOID ON A SET

For every pair of congruent words  $\mathbf{a} \equiv^A \mathbf{b}$ , the permutation

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b}}: \quad |\mathbf{a}| &\rightarrow |\mathbf{b}| \\ i &\mapsto \text{pos}_{\mathbf{b},\mathbf{a}(i)}(\text{occ}_{\mathbf{a}}(i)) \end{aligned}$$

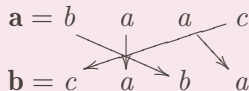
is called the **canonical permutation** for the pair  $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$

**Proposition**

The canonical permutation is such that  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{b} \circ \sigma_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b}}$ .

# FREE MONOID ON A SET

## Example



## Proposition

If  $a \equiv^A b$  and  $b \equiv^A c$ , then

$$(1) \sigma_{a,a} = \text{id}_{|a|}$$

$$(2) \sigma_{b,c} \circ \sigma_{a,b} = \sigma_{a,c}$$

$$(3) \sigma_{a,b}^{-1} = \sigma_{b,a}$$

# THE CATEGORY $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A}^*)$

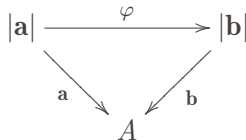
The first category equivalent to  $\mathbf{Set}_f^A$

# THE CATEGORY $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$

Let  $A$  be a set. The category  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$  is defined as follows.

**Objects.** Words on  $A$ .

**Morphisms.** A morphism from  $\mathbf{a}$  to  $\mathbf{b}$  is a mapping  $\varphi: |\mathbf{a}| \rightarrow |\mathbf{b}|$  such that the diagram



commutes.

If  $|A| \geq 2$ , the category  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$  is not skeletal.

# THE FUNCTOR $C$ FROM $Set$ TO $Cat$

$$Set \xrightarrow{C} Cat$$

$$C(A^*) \xrightarrow{C(f)} C(B^*)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & & C(A^*) \\ f \downarrow & \mapsto & \downarrow C(f) \\ B & & C(B^*) \end{array}$$

where

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a & & f^@ (a) \\ \varphi \downarrow & \mapsto & \downarrow \varphi \\ b & & f^@ (b) \end{array}$$

$$C(\mathbf{A}^*) \simeq \text{Set}_f^A$$

## Proposition

The categories  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$  and  $\text{Set}_f^A$  are equivalent.

The equivalence is

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 C(\mathbf{A}^*) & \xrightarrow{\downarrow^A(\cdot)} & \text{Set}_f^A \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{a} \\ \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathbf{b} \end{array} & \mapsto & \begin{array}{c} (\mathbf{a}^{-1}[\{a\}])_{a \in A} \\ \downarrow (\varphi)_{a \in A} \\ (\mathbf{b}^{-1}[\{a\}])_{a \in A} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

# THE CATEGORY $Q(\mathbf{A}^\star)$

A Riguet quotient of  $C(\mathbf{A}^\star)$

# RIGUET CONGRUENCE

Riguet 1960 [2]

A Riguet congruence on a category  $C$  is an ordered pair

$$\Phi = \left( \Phi^{\text{ob}}, \left( \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}} \right)_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix} \in \Phi^{\text{ob}} \times \Phi^{\text{ob}}} \right)$$

in which

- $\Phi^{\text{ob}}$  is an equivalence relation on  $\text{Ob}(C)$  and,
- for every matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix} \in \Phi^{\text{ob}} \times \Phi^{\text{ob}}$ , in which we agree that  $(a, a') \in \Phi^{\text{ob}}$  and  $(b, b') \in \Phi^{\text{ob}}$ ,  $\Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}}$  is a subset of  $\text{Hom}_C(a, b) \times \text{Hom}_C(a', b')$  such that



# RIGUET CONGRUENCE

for every  $(a, a'), (a', a''), (b, b'), (b', b''), (c, c') \in \Phi^{\text{ob}}$

1.  $\Delta_{\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(a,b)} \subseteq \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}};$
2.  $(\Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}})^{-1} = \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}};$
3.  $\Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ a'' & b'' \end{pmatrix}} \circ \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}} \subseteq \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a'' & b'' \end{pmatrix}};$
4. if  $(f, f') \in \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}}$  and  $(g, g') \in \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} b & c \\ b' & c' \end{pmatrix}}$  then  $(g \circ f, g' \circ f') \in \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ a' & c' \end{pmatrix}};$
5. if  $f: a \rightarrow b$ , then there exists an  $f': a' \rightarrow b'$  such that  $(f, f') \in \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}}.$

## RIGUET QUOTIENT

For a Riguet congruence  $\Phi$  on a category  $C$  we define its quotient relative to  $\Phi$  is defined as follows

**Objects.**  $\text{Ob}(C/\Phi) = \text{Ob}(C)/\Phi^{\text{ob}}$

**Morphisms.**  $\text{Hom}_{C/\Phi}([a], [b]) = \{[f] \mid f \in \text{Hom}_C(a, b)\}$  where

$$[f] = \bigcup_{a' \in [a], b' \in [b]} \left\{ f' : a' \rightarrow b' \mid (f, f') \in \Phi^{\text{fl}}_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix}} \right\}$$

### Proposition

The projection functor  $\text{pr}_\Phi$  is a functor from  $C$  to  $C/\Phi$ .

RIGUET CONGRUENCE ON  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$ 

We consider the following binary relations on objects and morphisms of  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$ :

**Objects.**  $\mathbf{a} \equiv^A \mathbf{b}$ .

**Morphisms.** If  $\mathbf{a} \equiv^A \mathbf{a}'$  and  $\mathbf{b} \equiv^A \mathbf{b}'$ , then  $\varphi: \mathbf{a} \rightarrow \mathbf{b}$  and  $\varphi': \mathbf{a}' \rightarrow \mathbf{b}'$  are such that  $\varphi \equiv^A_{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{a}' & \mathbf{b}' \end{pmatrix}} \varphi'$  if the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} |\mathbf{a}| & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & |\mathbf{b}| \\ \sigma_{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{a}'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \sigma_{\mathbf{b},\mathbf{b}'} \\ |\mathbf{a}'| & \xrightarrow{\varphi'} & |\mathbf{b}'| \end{array}$$

# THE CATEGORY $Q(\mathbf{A}^*)$

## Proposition

$\left( \equiv^A, \left( \equiv^A \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix} \right)_{\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a' & b' \end{pmatrix} \in \equiv^A \times \equiv^A} \right)$  is a Riguet congruence on  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$ .

We let  $Q(\mathbf{A}^*)$  stand for the quotient category  $C(\mathbf{A}^*) / \equiv^A$ .

The category  $Q(\mathbf{A}^*)$  is skeletal.

# THE FUNCTOR Q FROM Set TO Cat

$$\text{Set} \xrightarrow{Q} \text{Cat}$$

$$Q(A^*) \xrightarrow{Q(f)} Q(B^*)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & & Q(A^*) \\ f \downarrow & \mapsto & \downarrow Q(f) \\ B & & Q(B^*) \end{array}$$

where

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [a] & & [f^@](a) \\ [\varphi] \downarrow & \mapsto & \downarrow [\varphi] \\ [b] & & [f^@](b) \end{array}$$

# THE MAPPING $|\varphi|_a$

For every mapping  $\varphi: \mathbf{a} \rightarrow \mathbf{b}$  in  $C(\mathbf{A}^*)$  and every  $a$  in  $A$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 |\mathbf{a}| & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & |\mathbf{b}| \\
 \text{pos}_{\mathbf{a},a} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{pos}_{\mathbf{b},a} \\
 |\mathbf{a}|_a & \xrightarrow{\exists! |\varphi|_a} & |\mathbf{b}|_a
 \end{array}$$

## Proposition

If  $\varphi \equiv^A_{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{a}' & \mathbf{b}' \end{pmatrix}} \varphi'$ , then, for every  $a$  in  $A$ ,  $|\varphi|_a = |\varphi'|_a$ .

$$\mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{A}^*) \simeq \mathbf{Set}_f^A$$

## Proposition

The categories  $\mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{A}^*)$  and  $\mathbf{Set}_f^A$  are equivalent.



The equivalence is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{A}^*) & \xrightarrow{(|\cdot|_a)_{a \in A}} & \mathbf{Set}_f^A \\ \begin{array}{c} [\mathbf{a}] \\ \downarrow [\varphi] \\ [\mathbf{b}] \end{array} & \longmapsto & \begin{array}{c} (|\mathbf{a}|_a)_{a \in A} \\ \downarrow (|\varphi|_a)_{a \in A} \\ (|\mathbf{b}|_a)_{a \in A} \end{array} \end{array}$$

# CONCLUSIONS

1.  $\text{Set}_f^A \simeq C(\mathbf{A}^*) \simeq Q(\mathbf{A}^*)$ .
2.  $Q(\mathbf{A}^*)$  plays an analogous role for the category  $\text{Set}_f^A$  as  $\text{Card}_f$  does for  $\text{Set}_f$ .
3. To the best of our knowledge, it is the first example of a non-trivial Riguet congruence.



-  Juan Climent Vidal, Enric Cosme Llópez and Raúl Ruiz Mora, **Free monoids and Riguet congruences**, 2025. arXiv:2505.15767
-  Jacques Riguet, **Catégorisation de la notion de structures et de structures locales chez N. Bourbaki et C. Ehresmann**, I. Séminaire Dubreil. Algèbre et théorie des nombres, tome 14, n°1 (1960-1961), exp. n°5, pp. 1–32.



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