

# On characterisation of finitary algebraic categories

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The aim of this article is to characterise categories which are  $V$ -algebraic (equals  $V$ -theoretical) over  $V$  where  $V$  is a symmetric monoidal closed category satisfying suitable limit-colimit commutativity conditions (basically axiom  $\pi$ ).

## Introduction

In the theory of finitary  $V$ -algebraic categories over a category  $V$  satisfying axiom  $\pi$  (Borceux and Day [3]) there are two basic characterisation theorems. The first of these is discussed in Borceux and Day [4], Section 2.5, and is based on the concept of *rank* of a functor.

The aim of this paper is to describe the second characterisation theorem which is closer to the original characterisation theorem of Lawvere for  $V = \mathit{Ens}$  (see Diers [7], Corollary 5.5.6). This second theorem is based on the notion of a suitable *strong projective generator* in the category; namely the free algebra on  $I \in V$  when the category is known to be algebraic.

In Section 3 we develop the theory of near-cartesian closed categories. The principal example of such a category is the category of pointed  $k$ -spaces; the tensor product in this category is the "smash product"  $X \# Y$  of pointed spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  and while this is not the cartesian product there are canonical diagonals  $X \rightarrow X \# X \# X \# \dots \# X$ . This allows us to deduce, from the characterisation theorem, that *all* operadic categories on pointed  $k$ -spaces are algebraic (that is,

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theoretical). The main interest here derives from the well-known fact that in the theory of infinite loop spaces it is possible to use theories (Boardman and Vogt [2] and Beck [1]) or operads (May [11] and Kelly [9]). We also point out other instances where this phenomenon occurs.

Throughout the article we assume that  $V = (V, \otimes, I, [-, -], \dots)$  is a complete and cocomplete symmetric monoidal closed category satisfying axiom  $\pi$ , and we assume that all categorical algebra is *relative* to  $V$  unless otherwise stated. We assume some familiarity with Borceux and Day [3] and [4]. The basic algebra appears in [6] and [7].

### 1. Preliminaries

We recall that a (finitary)  $V$ -theory is a finite-product-preserving functor  $t : V_f^{OP} \rightarrow T$  which is one-one on objects, where  $V_f$  denotes the full subcategory of  $V$  comprising the finite copowers of  $I \in V$ . Each  $V$ -theory  $(T, t)$  generates a monad  $T = T(T)$  on  $V$  which has the property

$$\int^{V_f} [n, X] \otimes [m, Tn] \cong [m, TX]$$

for all  $m \in V_f$ , and is thus the "restriction to  $V$ " of the monadic adjunction  $t^* \dashv [t^{OP}, 1] : [T, V] \rightarrow [V_f^{OP}, V]$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T^b \simeq V^T & \hookrightarrow & [T, V] \\ \uparrow F_T \quad \downarrow U_T & & \uparrow t^* \quad \downarrow [t^{OP}, 1] \\ V & \xrightarrow{\hat{J}} & [V_f^{OP}, V] \end{array} ,$$

where  $J : V_f \rightarrow V$  is the canonical inclusion. We say that  $T(T)$  has algebraic rank  $J$ . By Day [5], Theorem 2.1, and the density of  $J$ , it follows that  $V^T$  is category equivalent to the full subcategory  $T^b$  comprising the finite-product-preserving functors from  $T$  to  $V$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.1.** *Let  $t : V_f \rightarrow T$  be a  $V$ -theory and let  $A$  be a small category with finite products. Let  $G : A \rightarrow V$  be a finite-product-*

preserving functor and let  $H : A^{op} \rightarrow T^b$  be any functor. Then the mean tensor product  $GA * HA$  exists in  $T^b$  and is isomorphic to  $\int^A GA \otimes HA$  in  $[T, V]$ .

Proof. Iterated use of axiom  $\pi$  gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ m, \int^A GA \otimes HA(tl) \right] &\cong \int^A GA \otimes HA(tl)^m \\ &\cong \int^A GA \otimes HA(tm), \end{aligned}$$

as required for  $\int^A GA \otimes HA$  in  $[T, V]$  to in fact be a  $T$ -algebra. //

We also recall from Borceux and Day [4] that if  $(T, t)$  is a commutative  $V$ -theory then  $T$  has a canonical symmetric monoidal structure  $\otimes : T \otimes T \rightarrow T$  such that  $t : V_f^{op} \rightarrow T$  preserves tensor products.

**PROPOSITION 1.2.** *If  $(T, t)$  is a commutative  $V$ -theory then  $T^b$  is a symmetric monoidal closed category enriched over  $V$ .*

Proof. Clearly  $T^b$  is closed under exponentiation in  $[T, V]$ , because the internal-hom is given by  $[A, B] = \int_T [A(tn), B(tn \otimes -)]$  which preserves finite products whenever  $B$  is a  $T$ -algebra. The unit object is the free  $T$ -algebra on  $I \in V$ , namely  $T(tl, -)$ . The tensor product of two algebras  $A$  and  $B$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A \bar{\otimes} B &= \int^{T \otimes T} A(tm) \otimes B(tn) \otimes T(tm \otimes tn, -) \\ &\cong \int^T A(tm) \otimes \int^T B(tn) \otimes T(tm \otimes tn, -). \end{aligned}$$

But, for each fixed  $m$ ,  $\int^T B(tn) \otimes T(tm \otimes tn, -)$  is a  $T$ -algebra; so let it be  $H(tm)$  in Proposition 1.1. This then shows that  $A \bar{\otimes} B$  is again a  $T$ -algebra. Thus the convolution structure on  $[T, V]$  restricts to  $T^b$ . //

This result was established in Borceux and Day [4] but is recalled here for convenience in Section 3.

## 2. Structure-semantics and characterisation

We denote by  $Adg = Adg(J)$  the category whose objects are functors  $U : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  having a left  $J$ -adjoint and whose morphisms are functors  $M : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}'$  such that  $U'M = U$  (see Diers [6], Section 4). The functor  $(J-)$  semantics

$$Sem : Th^{OP} \rightarrow Adg$$

is given by  $Sem(T) = (V^T, U_T)$ .

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Semantics*  $Sem : Th^{OP} \rightarrow Adg$  is fully faithful and has a left adjoint.

*Proof.* This is just the  $V$ -analogue of Diers [6], Theorem 4.2. //

The left adjoint is the structure functor

$$Str : Adg \rightarrow Th^{OP}$$

which maps  $F \xrightarrow{J} U : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  to the obvious algebraic theory generated by  $F \xrightarrow{J} U$ . We have

$$\epsilon : Str \circ Sem \cong 1 : Th^{OP} \rightarrow Th^{OP} ,$$

$$\eta : 1 \Rightarrow Sem \circ Str : Adg \rightarrow Adg .$$

**THEOREM 2.2.** *Given  $F \xrightarrow{J} U : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$ , then  $\mathcal{B}$  is algebraic with respect to  $U$  if  $\mathcal{B}$  is cocomplete,  $U$  reflects isomorphisms, and  $U$  preserves  $GA * HA$  whenever  $A$  is a small category with finite products,  $G : A \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  is a finite-product-preserving functor, and  $H : A^{OP} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is a functor.*

*Proof.* Note first that, using the fact that  $Str (Sem Str) \cong Str$ , we obtain a functor  $H : T^{OP} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  such that

(\*) 
$$\begin{array}{ccc} T^{OP} & \xrightarrow{H} & \mathcal{B} \\ \downarrow Y & & \downarrow U \\ T^{\mathcal{O}} & \xrightarrow{U_T} & \mathcal{V} \end{array}$$

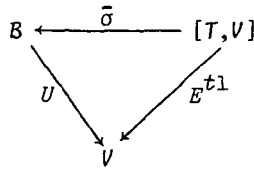
commutes, and such that  $\text{Lan}_Y H$  is left adjoint to  $\eta_B : B \rightarrow T^b$ . Thus, since  $B$  is cocomplete,  $\eta_B$  has a left adjoint  $\sigma$  which is the restriction to algebras of a left adjoint  $\bar{\sigma}$  to  $B \rightarrow [T, V]$ ; namely

$$\bar{\sigma}(G) = \int^T G(tn) \cdot H(tn) .$$

We require

- (i)  $\sigma\eta \cong 1 : B \rightarrow B$ , and
- (ii)  $1 \cong \eta\sigma : T^b \rightarrow T^b$ .

Because  $U$  reflects isomorphisms, we require for (i) that  $U\sigma\eta \cong U$ . But  $U_T\eta \cong U$ , so we need  $U\sigma \cong U_T : T^b \rightarrow V$ ; this also guarantees (ii). Finally, to establish the result, consider



Then  $\bar{\sigma}(G) = \int^T G(tn) \cdot H(tn)$  for all  $G \in [T, V]$ . If  $G \in T^b$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} U\left\{\int^T G(tn) \cdot H(tn)\right\} &\cong B\left(F1, \int^T G(tn) \cdot H(tn)\right) \text{ since } F \xrightarrow{J} U, \\ &\cong \int^T G(tn) \otimes B(F1, H(tn)) \text{ by hypothesis,} \\ &\cong \int^T G(tn) \otimes UH(tn) \\ &\cong \int^T G(tn) \otimes T(Tn, T1) \text{ by } (*), \\ &\cong G(t1) \text{ by the representation theorem,} \\ &= U_T(G) \text{ as required.} \quad // \end{aligned}$$

An object  $P \in B$  is called an *abstractly finite projective generator* of  $B$  if  $B(P, -) : B \rightarrow V$  reflects isomorphisms and preserves  $GA * HA$  whenever  $A$  is a small category with finite products,  $G : A \rightarrow V$  is a finite-product-preserving functor, and  $H : A^{op} \rightarrow B$  is any functor.

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *Let  $B$  be cocomplete with an abstractly finite*

projective generator  $P$ . Then  $U = \mathbb{B}(P, -) : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  is algebraic.

Proof. The adjoint  $F \dashv U$  is given by  $F(n) = {}^n P$ , so the result follows from the theorem.

**COROLLARY 2.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a  $\pi$ -category (see Borceux and Day [4], Definition 2.1.1). Then  $\mathbb{B}$  is algebraic over  $\mathcal{V}$  if and only if  $\mathbb{B}$  is cocomplete and has an abstractly finite projective generator.*

Proof. Over a  $\pi$ -category any algebraic category is cocomplete, since it has coequalisers of reflective pairs. Moreover,  $FI$  is an abstractly finite projective generator of  $T^b$  by Proposition 1.1. //

In conclusion we note that if  $F \dashv U : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  and  $UF : \mathcal{V}_f \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  has the structure of a monoidal functor then the theory of the structure of  $U$  is commutative.

**THEOREM 2.5.** *If  $\mathcal{V}$  is a  $\pi$ -category, then  $\mathbb{B}$  is commutatively  $\mathcal{V}$ -algebraic over  $\mathcal{V}$  if and only if  $\mathbb{B}$  is cocomplete and has a symmetric monoidal closed structure  $(\mathbb{B}, I, \otimes, [-, -], \dots)$  whose identity object  $I$  is an abstractly finite projective generator of  $\mathbb{B}$ . //*

### 3. Example: near-cartesian closed categories

The category of pointed compactly generated spaces ( $k$ -spaces) is more than just algebraic over compactly generated spaces. It is equipped with a canonical identification map  $A \times B \rightarrow A \otimes B$  and this permits us to consider *diagonals*  $A \rightarrow A \otimes \dots \otimes A$ . The key theoretical observation at this point is that if  $T$  is a commutative  $\mathcal{V}$ -theory over a closed category  $\mathcal{V}$  which satisfies axiom  $\pi$  then, in the presence of a suitable diagonal functor  $T \rightarrow T \otimes T$ , the functor  $\int^T A(tn) \otimes T(tn \otimes \dots \otimes tn, -)$  is again a  $T$ -algebra and is, in fact, the  $m$ th tensor power of  $A$ .

In order to formalise what we have in mind here, we introduce the following definition.

**DEFINITION 3.1.** The closed category  $\mathcal{V}$  is called *near-cartesian* if there exists an ordinary natural transformation  $e_{AB} : A \times B \rightarrow A \otimes B$  such that the following diagrams commute:

(1)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 I & \xrightarrow{\delta} & I \times I \\
 & \searrow \cong & \downarrow e \\
 & & I \otimes I,
 \end{array}$$

(2)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (A \times B) \otimes (C \times D) & \xrightarrow{\begin{matrix} (p \otimes p) \\ p \otimes p \end{matrix}} & (A \otimes C) \times (B \otimes D) \\
 \downarrow e \otimes e & & \downarrow e \\
 (A \otimes B) \otimes (C \otimes D) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & (A \otimes C) \otimes (B \otimes D),
 \end{array}$$

and

(3)

$$\int^n [n, A] \otimes (\otimes^m n) \cong \otimes^m A \text{ for all } m > 0 \text{ and } A \in V.$$

Note that it is possible to write (3) because (1) and (2) imply the existence of a canonical functor  $K = K(e) : A \times B \rightarrow A \otimes B$  for any  $V$ -categories  $A$  and  $B$ . The following consequence is easily established.

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** *Let  $V$  be near-cartesian and let  $(T, t)$  be a commutative  $V$ -theory. Then the  $m$ -fold tensor power ( $m > 0$ ) of a  $T$ -algebra  $A$  is given by the formula*

$$A \otimes \dots \otimes A = \int^T A(tn) \otimes T(tn \otimes \dots \otimes tn, -). \quad //$$

**THEOREM 3.3.** *Let  $(T, t)$  be a commutative theory over the near-cartesian closed category  $V$  and suppose  $V$  is a  $\pi$ -category. Let  $R$  be a monad on  $T^b$  generated by an operad on  $T^b$ . Then  $(T^b)^R$  is algebraic over  $V$ .*

**Proof.** For the concept of an operad we refer to May [11]. The important aspect here is that the endofunctor  $R$  is given by an expression

of the form  $RA = \int^n S_n \bar{\otimes} (\bar{\otimes}^n A)$  where  $n$  runs over either the free

$V$ -category on the integers or the free  $V$ -category on the permutation category (the integers are greater than or equal to 0, with no morphisms  $n \rightarrow m$  if  $n \neq m$ , and the morphisms  $n \rightarrow n$  being the permutations on  $n$ ). Let us denote the  $V$ -adjunctions involved by

$$V \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xleftarrow{U} \end{array} T^b \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F'} \\ \xleftarrow{U'} \end{array} (T^b)^R .$$

Both adjunctions  $F \dashv U$  and  $F' \dashv U'$  are monadic and both  $U$  and  $U'$  create coequalisers of reflective pairs; hence  $UU'$  reflects isomorphisms and  $(T^b)^R$  is cocomplete. Thus, by Theorem 2.2, it remains to check that  $UU'$  preserves  $GA * HA$  whenever  $A$  is a small category with finite products,  $G : A \rightarrow V$  preserves finite products, and  $H : A^{op} \rightarrow (T^b)^R$  is any functor. But already  $U$  preserves  $GA * U'HA$  so it remains to check that  $R$  on  $T^b$  preserves  $GA * U'HA$ . For any  $H' : A^{op} \rightarrow T^b$  we have

$$R(GA * H'A) = \int^n Sn \bar{\otimes} (\bar{\otimes}^n(GA * H'A)) ,$$

where

$$\bar{\otimes}^n B = \int^T B(tm) \otimes T(tm \otimes \dots \otimes tm, -) : T \rightarrow V .$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\otimes}^n(GA * H'A) &\cong \int^T \left\{ \int^A GA.H'A \right\} (tm) \otimes T(tm \otimes \dots \otimes tm, -) \\ &\cong \int^T \left\{ \int^A GA.H'A(tm) \right\} \otimes T(tm \otimes \dots \otimes tm, -) ; \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} R(GA * H'A) &\cong \int^n Sn \bar{\otimes} \left[ \int^A GA . \left\{ \int^T H'A(tm) \otimes T(tm \otimes \dots \otimes tm, -) \right\} \right] \\ &\cong \int^A GA . \left[ \int^n Sn \bar{\otimes} \int^T H'A(tm) \otimes T(tm \otimes \dots \otimes tm, -) \right] \\ &\cong GA * RH'A . \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by induction, we have  $R^p(GA * H'A) \cong GA * R^p H'A$  for  $p \geq 0$ . Thus  $U'$  creates  $GA * HA$ , as required. //

In order to generate examples of near-cartesian closed categories we consider the following

**DEFINITION 3.4.** A symmetric monoidal monad  $T = (T, \mu, \eta)$  on a cartesian closed category is called *near-cartesian* if the transformation



$\tilde{T} : TX \times TY \rightarrow T(X \times Y)$  is left inverse to the canonical transformation  $\kappa : T(X \times Y) \rightarrow TX \times TY$ .

**LEMMA 3.5.** *Let  $V$  be cartesian closed and let  $T = (T, \mu, \eta)$  be a near-cartesian monad on  $V$ . Suppose  $T$  preserves coequalisers of reflective pairs and let  $F \dashv U$  denote the associated monoidal adjunction over  $V$ . Then  $\tilde{U}_{AB} : UA \times UB \rightarrow U(A \otimes B)$  is a (regular epimorphic)*

*natural transformation in  $V$ .*

We leave the proof to the reader as an exercise.

**THEOREM 3.6.** *Let  $V$  be cartesian closed and let  $T = (T, \mu, \eta)$  be a finitary near-cartesian monad on  $V$ . Then  $V^T$  is a near-cartesian closed category.*

*Proof.*  $V^T$  satisfies axiom  $\pi$  by Borceux and Day [3]. To satisfy Definition 3.1 we choose  $e_{AB} = \tilde{U}_{AB}$ , using Lemma 3.5. Then, by Definition 3.1, (1) and (2) are simple consequences of applying  $U$  and using the naturality of  $\tilde{U}$ . It remains to prove that

$$\int^{Fn} [Fn, A] \otimes (\otimes^m Fn) \cong \otimes^m A$$

for all  $m > 0$  and  $A \in V^T$ . By virtue of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F^2A \times F^2A & \xrightarrow{e} & F^2A \times F^2A \xrightarrow{\zeta} FA \otimes FA \cong F(A \times A) \xrightarrow{\zeta} A \times A \\
 & & \searrow \zeta \otimes \zeta \quad \swarrow e \\
 & & A \otimes A
 \end{array}$$

we have that  $e$  is the coequaliser in  $V^T$  of a pair of morphisms  $F^2A \times F^2A \rightarrow A \times A$ . We then have

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \int^{Fn} [Fn, A] \otimes (F^2Fn \times F^2Fn) & \longrightarrow & F^2A \times F^2A \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \downarrow \\
 \int^{Fn} [Fn, A] \otimes (Fn \times Fn) & \xrightarrow{\cong} & A \times A \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \int^{Fn} [Fn, A] \otimes (Fn \otimes Fn) & \longrightarrow & A \otimes A
 \end{array}$$

where the isomorphism follows from axiom  $\pi$  on  $V^T$ . For similar reasons the top morphism is an epimorphism, so  $\int^{Fn} [Fn, A] \otimes (Fn \otimes Fn) \cong A \otimes A$ . The proof is analogous for  $m > 2$ . //

**EXAMPLE 3.7** ( $V$  cartesian closed). Let  $A$  be a commutative semigroup in  $V$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{1} & A \\ \delta \searrow & & \nearrow m \\ & A^2 & \end{array}$$

commutes (sometimes such an object is called a *semilattice* (without a unit)). Then  $TX = X + A$  is a near-cartesian unary monad on  $V$ . Thus the category  $A/V$  is near-cartesian closed.

**EXAMPLE 3.8** ( $V$  cartesian closed). Let  $G : V \rightarrow V$  be a symmetric monoidal finitary near-cartesian endofunctor on  $V$  and let  $\varepsilon : G \Rightarrow 1$  be a monoidal natural transformation. Then  $TX = X + GX$  is near-cartesian and finitary. Thus the category " $G/V$ " is near-cartesian closed.

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