

Algebras and combinators

Report

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Publication date:

1979

Permanent link:

https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-a-005363190

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Originally published in:

ETH Zürich, Institut für Informatik 32



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

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Erwin Engeler ALGEBRAS AND COMBINATORS

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ALGEBRAS AND COMBINATORS

Erwin Engeler

§1 A general representation theorem

We shall prove our representation theorem for the case of algebras with one binary operation only; the generalization to arbitrary algebraic structures is sketched at the end of this section.

Let A be non-empty. Let B be a set of "formulas" defined as the smallest set \supseteq A which contains the formula $(\alpha \Rightarrow b)$ whenever α is a non-empty finite subset of B and b \in B.

<u>Definition.</u> For M,N \subseteq B let M \cdot N = {b: $\exists \alpha \subseteq$ N. $\alpha \rightarrow$ b \in M}. A 2-algebra over A is a collection of subsets of B closed under \cdot .

<u>THEOREM.</u> Every algebra $\underline{A} = \langle A, \cdot \rangle$ with one binary operation is isomorphic to a 2-algebra over A.

<u>Proof.</u> Construct the set of formulas B as above, starting with the carrier set A of the given algebraic structure \underline{A} . Then define a map f of A into the powerset of B recursively by

$$f(a) = \bigcup_{i} f_{i}(a) ,$$

where

$$f_0(a) = \{a\},$$

$$f_{i+1}(a) = f_i(a) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow y : \exists b \in A. \ b \in \alpha \subseteq f_i(b) \land y \in f_i(a \cdot b) \land \alpha \text{ finite}\}.$$

Note that $f(a) \cap A = \{a\}$. Hence

(1) if
$$f(a) = f(b)$$
 then $a = b$,

because then $\{a\} = f(a) \cap A = f(b) \cap A = \{b\}$. Thus, it remains to prove

(2)
$$f(a \cdot b) = f(a) \cdot f(b)$$
.

For this we compute as follows:

$$f(a) \cdot f(b) = \{y : \exists \alpha \subseteq f(b). \alpha \rightarrow y \in f(a)\}$$

$$= \{y : \exists \alpha \subseteq f(b) \exists \min \{a \in A\} : \exists \alpha \neq y \in f_{i+1}(a)\}$$

$$= \{y : \exists \alpha \subseteq f(b) \exists i \exists u, v \in A. au = v \}$$

$$\land u \in \alpha \subseteq f_{i}(u) \land y \in f_{i}(v)\}.$$

Because $u \in \alpha \subseteq f(b) \cap f_i(u)$ and $u \in A$, we have u = b and $v = a \cdot b$, using $f(a) \cap A = \{a\}$ again. Hence

$$\begin{split} f(a) \cdot f(b) &= \{ y : \exists \alpha \subseteq f(b) \exists i. \ b \in \alpha \subseteq f_i(b) \land \ y \in f_i(a \cdot b) \} \\ &= \{ y : \exists i. \ y \in f_i(a \cdot b) \} = \bigcup_i f_i(a \cdot b) = f(a \cdot b) \,. \end{split}$$

Thus (2) holds, and f is an isomorphic embedding as claimed.

If the structure to be represented has other operations, e.g. a ternary operation \circ , we augment the definition of B

accordingly: $A \subseteq B$ and if α, β are finite subsets of B and $c \in B$ then $(\alpha, \beta \xrightarrow{\cdot} c) \in B$ as well as $(\alpha \rightarrow c) \in B$.

Definition. For M,N,L, \subseteq B let o(M,N,L) = {c : $\exists \alpha \subseteq N \exists \beta \subseteq L$. $(\alpha,\beta \xrightarrow{} c) \in B$ }. A 2-3-algebra over A is a class of subsets of B closed under • and o.

<u>THEOREM.</u> Every algebraic structure $\underline{A} = \langle \underline{A}, \cdot, o \rangle$ is isomorphic to a 2-3-algebra.

Proof. Same as above with the map f redefined by setting

$$\begin{split} f_{i+1}(a) &= f_{i}(a) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow y : \exists b \in A. \ b \in \alpha \subseteq f_{i}(b) \\ & \land y \in f_{i}(a \cdot b) \land \alpha \text{ finite} \} \\ & \cup \{\alpha,\beta \xrightarrow{} z : \exists b,c \in A. \ b \in \alpha \subseteq f_{i}(b) \\ & \land c \in y \subseteq f_{i}(c) \land z \in f_{i}(o(a,b,c)) \\ & \land \alpha,\beta \text{ finite} \}. \end{split}$$

It is easy to extend the representation theorem to relational structures.

§2 Combinatory algebras

A combinatory algebra is an algebraic structure $\underline{A} = \langle A, \cdot \rangle$ which is "combinatorially complete", i.e.

For every expression $\phi(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ built up from constants (denoting elements of A) and variables x_1, \ldots, x_n by means of the operation symbol "•" there exists an element f in A such that for all $a_1, \ldots, a_n \in A$

$$(...((f \cdot a_1) \cdot a_2)... \cdot a_n) = \phi(a_1, ..., a_n).$$

The existence of non-trivial combinatory algebras follows either from a Church-Rosser theorem as an algebra of equivalence-classes of terms or by constructions such as Scott's D_{∞} or Plotkin-Scott's $P\omega$. Our general representation theorem suggests that combinatory algebras be constructed as 2-algebras. Indeed, all combinatory algebras are isomorphic to 2-algebras.

Let $A \neq \emptyset$ and B be constructed as in the first part of section 1. Then the 2-algebra of all subsets of B already forms a combinatory algebra. Following Curry's remark that combinatorial completeness follows from two of its instances, it suffices to isolate two different subsets K and S of B such that for all M,N,L \subseteq B we have

- (1) KMN = M,
- (2) SMNL = ML(NL).

The following definitions accomplish this.

Definition.

$$\begin{split} \mathtt{K} &:= \{\sigma \to (\rho \to \mathbf{s}) \ : \ \sigma, \rho \subseteq \mathtt{B}, \quad \mathtt{s} \in \sigma \} \\ \mathtt{S} &:= \big\{ \{\tau \to (\{\mathtt{r}_1, \ldots, \mathtt{r}_n\} \to \mathbf{s})\} \to (\{\sigma_1 \to \mathtt{r}_1, \ldots, \sigma_n \to \mathtt{r}_n\} \to (\sigma \to \mathbf{s})) : \\ &\quad n \geq 1, \ \mathtt{r}_1, \ldots, \mathtt{r}_n \in \mathtt{B}, \ \tau \cup \bigcup \sigma_1 = \sigma \subseteq \mathtt{B} \big\} \; . \end{split}$$

THEOREM. The 2-algebra of subsets of B is a combinatory algebra.

<u>Proof.</u> Clearly $K \neq S$, since $(\{a\} \rightarrow (\{a\} \rightarrow a)) \in K$, $(\{a\} \rightarrow (\{a\} \rightarrow a)) \notin S$. The combinatorial laws follow by straightforward verification:

KMN = {s:
$$\exists \alpha \subseteq N \exists \beta \subseteq M$$
, $\beta \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow s) \in K$ }
= {s: $\exists \beta \subseteq M$, $s \in \beta$ } = M.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ML}(\text{NL}) &= & \{s: \exists \rho \subseteq \text{NL}. \ \rho + s \in \text{ML}\} \\ &= & \{s: \exists n \geq 1 \ \exists r_1, \dots, r_n \in \text{B} \ \exists \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \subseteq \text{L}. \\ & \{r_1, \dots, r_n\} + s \in \text{ML} \land \sigma_1 + r_1, \dots, \sigma_n + r_n \in \text{N}\} \\ &= & \{s: \exists n \geq 1 \ \exists r_1, \dots, r_n \in \text{B} \ \exists \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \subseteq \text{L} \ \exists \tau \subseteq \text{L}. \\ & \tau + (\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} + s) \in \text{M} \land \sigma_1 + r_1, \dots, \sigma_n + r_n \in \text{N}\} \\ &= & \{s: \exists \sigma \subseteq \text{L} \ \exists \eta \subseteq \text{N} \ \exists \varepsilon \subseteq \text{M}. \ (\varepsilon + (\eta + (\sigma + s))) \in \text{S}\} \\ &= & \{s: \exists \sigma \subseteq \text{L} \ \exists n \geq 1 \ \exists r_1, \dots, r_n \in \text{B} \ \exists \tau, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \subseteq \text{B}. \\ & \tau + (\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} + s) \in \text{M} \land \sigma_1 + r_1, \dots, \sigma_n + r_n \in \text{N}\} \\ &= & \{s: \exists n \geq 1 \ \exists r_1, \dots, r_n \in \text{B} \ \exists \tau, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \subseteq \text{L}. \\ & \tau + (\{r_1, \dots, r_n\} + s) \in \text{M} \land \sigma_1 + r_1, \dots, \sigma_n + r_n \in \text{N}\} \\ &= & \text{ML}(\text{NL}). \ \ \, \end{aligned}$$

§3 Lambda calculi

Lambda calculi are based on binary algebraic structures $\underline{A} = \langle A, \cdot \rangle$; they enforce combinatorial completeness by providing a name

$$\lambda X.M$$
,

for each expression $\, \, \text{M} \,$, to denote the element $\, \, \text{f e A} \,$ for which

$$f \cdot N = M_X^N$$

where \textbf{M}_{X}^{N} stands for the expression obtained from M by replacing the variable X everywhere by N .

The language of a lambda calculus consists of constant symbols and variables X,Y,Z,... and is provided with the mechanisms of application (if M and N are λ -terms then so is MN) and abstraction (if M is a λ -term and X is a variable, then $\lambda X.M$ is a λ -term).

We now present an interpretation of λ -terms in the 2-algebra of all subsets of B which will make use of the latter a model of the $\lambda\beta$ -calculus. To each variable X,Y,... of the lambda calculus we associate an infinite set of new symbols $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$, resp. $\{y_1, y_2, \ldots\}$,... Let C be the smallest set \supseteq B such that both $(\alpha \rightarrow b)$ and $(\alpha; b)$ are in C whenever α is a finite subset of C and b \in C. Let C(X), C(X,Y), ... be defined the same way, taking B \cup $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$, resp. B \cup $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$ \cup $\{y_1, y_2, \ldots\}$ to start. Elements of C, C(X), C(X,Y), ... can be reduced by replacing parts of expressions of the form α ; $(\beta \rightarrow c)$ by c if $\beta \subseteq \alpha$.

<u>LEMMA 1.</u> For every w in C (resp. C(X), C(X,Y), ...) there is a unique irreducible element w^* of C (resp. C(X), C(X,Y)) which can be obtained from w by repeated applications of the reduction rule.

<u>Proof.</u> If $w = (\{a_1, \ldots a_n\} + b)$ then the unique w^* is clearly $(\{a_1^*, \ldots, a_n^*\} + b^*)$. If $w = (\{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}; b)$ and b can be reduced to $(\{c_1, \ldots, c_m\} + d)$, where each c_i is obtained from an a_j by (repeated) reductions, then b^* equals $\{c_1^*, \ldots, c_m^*\} + d^*$ by the previous case. Thus w reduces uniquely to d^* . If b cannot be so reduced, then the unique w^* is $(\{a_1^*, \ldots, a_n^*\}; b^*)$.

To indicate the occurrence of a symbol x_i or a set of symbols $\xi \subseteq \{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$ in an element of C(X), we write it $a(x_i)$, respectively $a(\xi)$. If b, respectively β is substituted for x_i , respectively ξ , we write the result as a(b), respectively $a(\beta)$.

Let now [.] be a map, which associates a subset of B to every variable of the lambda calculus. We also consider modified maps $[.]_x$, $[.]_{xy}$, ... defined as follows: $[X]_x = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$, $[Y]_x = [Y]$ for all variables $Y \neq X$, $[X]_{xy} = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots\}$, $[Y]_{xy} = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots\}$, $[Z]_{xy} = [Z]$ for all $Z \neq X, Y$. The maps [.], $[.]_x$, ... are extended to all lambda-terms by:

Definition.

$$[MN] = \{ (\alpha; b)^* : \alpha \subseteq [N], b \in [M] \},$$

$$[MN]_{X} = \{ (\alpha; b)^* : \alpha \subseteq [N]_{X}, b \in [M]_{X} \},$$

$$[\lambda X.M] = \{ (\tau \to a(\tau))^* : \tau \subseteq B, a(\xi) \in [M]_{X} \},$$

$$[\lambda X.M]_{X} = [\lambda X.M],$$

$$[\lambda Y.M]_{Y} = \{ (\tau \to a(\xi, \tau))^* : \tau \subseteq B, a(\xi, \eta) \in [M]_{YY} \}, Y \neq X.$$

LEMMA 2. Let L be a lambda-term in which the variable X does not occur free, and let $M_{\rm X}^{\rm L}$ result from M by replacing X everywhere in M by L. Then

$$[M_X^L] = \{a(\lambda)^* : \lambda \subseteq [L], a(\xi) \in [M]_X\}.$$

If Y is also not free in L then

$$[M_X^L]_y = \{a(\lambda,\eta)*: \lambda \subseteq [L], a(\xi,\eta) \in [M]_{xy}\}.$$

<u>Proof.</u> It suffices to prove the first statement, because $[L]_y = [L]$. The first statement is shown by induction on the structure of M.

(a)
$$[X_X^L] = [L] = \{a(\lambda)^* : \lambda \subseteq [L], a(\xi) \in [X]_X = \{x_1, x_2, ...\}\},$$

 $[Y_X^L] = [Y] = \{a(\lambda)^* : \lambda \subseteq [L], a(\xi) \in [Y]_X = [Y]\}.$

(b)
$$[(MN)_X^L] = [M_X^L N_X^L] = \{(\alpha; b) * : \alpha \subseteq [N_X^L], b \in [M_X^L]\}$$

 $= \{(\alpha(\lambda_1); b(\lambda_2)) * : \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \subseteq [L], \alpha(\xi_1) \subseteq [N]_X,$
 $b(\xi_2) \in [M]_X\}$

- = $\{c(\lambda)^* : \lambda \subseteq [L], c(\xi) \in [MN]_{\mathfrak{p}}\}.$
- (c) Assume, without loss of generality, that Y is not free in L. Then

$$\begin{split} & [\ (\lambda Y.M)_{X}^{L}] \ = \ [\lambda Y.M_{X}^{L}] \ = \ \{ \ (\tau \to a(\tau)) \, * \ : \ \tau \subseteq B, \ a(\eta) \in [M_{X}^{L}]_{Y} \} \\ & = \ \{\tau \to b(\lambda,\tau) \, * \ : \ \tau \subseteq B, \ \lambda \subseteq [L], \ b(\xi,\eta) \in [M]_{XY} \} \\ & = \ \{c(\lambda) \, * \ : \ \lambda \subseteq [L], \ c(\xi) \in [\lambda Y.M]_{Y} \}. \end{split}$$

<u>Definition</u>. $|M| = [M] \cap B$.

<u>THEOREM.</u> If M=N is provable in the lambda calculus, then for all maps [.] we have |M|=|N|.

 $\underline{\mathtt{Proof.}}$ For the only non-trivial axiom we have

$$|(\lambda X.M)N| = [(\lambda X.M)N] \cap B = \{(\alpha;b)*: \alpha \subseteq [N], b \in [\lambda X.M]\} \cap B$$

- = $\{(\alpha; \tau \rightarrow b(\tau)) * : \alpha \subseteq [N], \tau \subseteq B, b(\xi) \in [M]_{v}\} \cap B$
- = $\{b(\tau)^* : \tau \subseteq [N], b(\xi) \in [M]_X\}$ \cap B, because for reduction must have $\tau \subseteq \alpha \subseteq [N]$,
- = [M_X^N] \cap B = |M_X^N| by Lemma 2 and definition of |.|.

The verification of the rules of proof are all trivial, except

M = N implies $\lambda X.M = \lambda^{\circ} X.N$.

Observe

$$\left| \, \lambda \, X \, . \, M \, \right| \; = \; \left\{ \, \tau \; \rightarrow \; a \left(\tau \right) \, \ast \; : \; a \left(\xi \right) \; \in \; \left[\, M \, \right]_{\, X} \right\} \; \cap \; B \; = \; \bigcup_{\tau \subseteq B} \left\{ \, \tau \, \rightarrow \, a_{\tau} \; : \; a_{\tau} \; \in \; \left| \, M \, \right|_{\, \left(\tau \right)} \, \right\}$$

where $[X]_{(\tau)} = \tau$, $[Y]_{(\tau)} = [Y]$ for all $Y \neq X$. Because $|M|_{(\tau)} = |N|_{(\tau)}$ for all τ by assumption, we have therefore $|\lambda X.M| = |\lambda X.N|$.

<u>THEOREM.</u> $|\lambda X.X| \neq |\lambda X.XX|$.

Proof.
$$|\lambda X.X| = \{\tau \to a(\tau)^* : \tau \subseteq B, a(\xi) \in [X]_X = \{x_1, x_2, ...\}\}$$

 $\cap B = \{\{a\} \to a : a \in B\}.$

$$|\lambda X.XX| = \{\tau \rightarrow a(\tau)^* : \tau \subseteq B, a(\xi) \in [XX]_X = \{(\alpha;b)^* : \alpha \subseteq [X]_X, b \in [X]_X\}$$

$$= \{\tau \to a(\tau)^* : \tau \subseteq B, \ a(\xi) = (\{x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_n}\}; \ x_{i_{n+1}})$$
 for some $n \ge 1\} \cap B$

=
$$\{\{a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}\} \rightarrow (\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}; a_{n+1})^* : a_i \in B\} \cap B$$

= $\{\{a_1, \dots, a_n, (\{a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_m}\} \rightarrow b)\} \rightarrow b : a_i, b \in B\}$
 $\neq |\lambda X. X|$.

We thank H. Barendregt for pointing out some oversights in an earlier version of this model.

§4 Continuity

In previous constructions of models of combinatory algebras, continuity played an important rôle. - For an appropriate topology we can very easily prove here that the continuous maps from the powerset of B to itself are exactly the ones which are obtained by application.

<u>Definition.</u> Let $A \neq \emptyset$ and B be as before. The sets $\{M: \alpha \subseteq M \subseteq B\}$ for finite α form the base of our topology.

Observe that in this topology a map f from the power-set of B into itself is continuous iff $f(N) = \bigcup \{f(\alpha) : \alpha \subseteq N, \alpha \text{ finite}\}.$

THEOREM. f is continuous iff $\exists M \subseteq B \forall N \subseteq B$. $f(N) = M \cdot N$.

Proof. (a) Suppose f continuous. Define

 $M = \{\alpha \rightarrow x : x \in f(\alpha), \alpha \subseteq B, \alpha \text{ finite}\}$.

Then $M \cdot N = \{x : \exists \alpha \subseteq N . \alpha \rightarrow x \in M\}$

= $\{x : \exists \alpha \subseteq N. x \in f(\alpha), \alpha \text{ finite}\}\$

= $\bigcup \{f(\alpha) : \alpha \subseteq N, \alpha \text{ finite}\}\$

= f(N) by continuity .

(b) Suppose f is given by $f(N) = M \cdot N$. We have to show continuity, i.e. $f(N) = \bigcup \{f(\alpha) : \alpha \subseteq N, \alpha \text{ finite}\}$. The latter set is, by definition equal to $\bigcup \{M \cdot \alpha : \alpha \subseteq N, \alpha \text{ finite}\}$.

Thus $x \in \bigcup \{M \cdot \alpha : \alpha \subseteq N, \alpha \text{ finite}\}\$

iff $\exists \alpha \exists \beta \subseteq \alpha \subseteq N. \beta \rightarrow x \in M \land \alpha$ finite,

iff $\exists \beta \subseteq N. \beta \rightarrow x \in M$,

iff $x \in M \cdot N$,

iff $x \in f(N)$.

§5 Applications

The simplicity of the combinatory algebras above facilitates their use as models of computation. This will be elaborated in a future paper; one example should suffice here.

Let Γ be a first-order theory with predicate symbol R (binary) and function symbol f (unary). The model of computation associated to Γ is a 2-algebra $\underline{\lambda}\underline{\Gamma}$ over the first-order language L of Γ , containing S and K (which makes it a combinatory algebra) and the following constants:

For each formula ϕ in L let $[\phi] := \{ \psi \in L : \Gamma, \phi \vdash \psi \}$.

For all variables x,y in L let $[y:=f(x)]:=\{\Delta \rightarrow \psi(x,y):\Gamma,\Delta,\;y'=f(x),\;x'=x \vdash \psi(x',y')\}\;.$

This model describes programmed computations on data and with operations that are incompletely known (only to the extent that Γ provides this knowledge) or whose description is infinite. It has been implemented at the ETH by Th. Fehlmann for the case where Γ is Peano arithmetic, and by P. Horak for exact computations with reals and power series. Descriptions of these implementations are forthcoming.

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