

Elgot Categories and Abacus Programs

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- **Structured Monoidal Categories**
... review of rig categories etc.
- **Categorical Representation of Partial Functions**
... review of (strong) representability etc.
- **Elgot Categories**
... represent the partial recursive functions
- **Abacus Programs**
... define an initial elgot category (and more)

Structured Monoidal Categories

Our monoidal categories will all be *strict*, for the sake of concision.

Composition is written *correctly*, in diagrammatic order.

$$\frac{f : A \rightarrow B \quad g : B \rightarrow C}{fg : A \rightarrow C}$$

String diagrams are read *top to bottom*, like everything else.

A *cocartesian monoidal category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\eta, \mu))$$

such that:

- $(\mathbb{C}, +, 0, \sigma^+)$ is a symmetric monoidal category.
- $\mu_A : A + A \rightarrow A$ and $\eta_A : 0 \rightarrow A$ are monoidal natural transformations.
- For all objects A , (A, μ_A, η_A) is a commutative monoid in \mathbb{C} .

$$\mu \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \quad \quad \quad | \end{array} \qquad \eta \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \quad \quad \quad | \\ \quad \quad \quad \dashv \end{array}$$

Coproducts. Copairing $[f, g] = (f + g)\mu$. Injections $\iota_0 = (1 + \eta)$.

A *traced monoidal category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), \text{Tr})$$

such that:

- $(\mathbb{C}, \oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus)$ is a symmetric monoidal category.
- Tr is a family of operations

$$\text{Tr}_{A,B}^C : \mathbb{C}(A \oplus C, B \oplus C) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(A, B)$$

which must satisfy a number of equations.

$$\text{Tr}_{A,B}^C(f) \iff \text{Diagram}$$

A traced monoidal category is called *uniform* (or *enzymatic*) in case for all appropriately typed f, g, h we have:

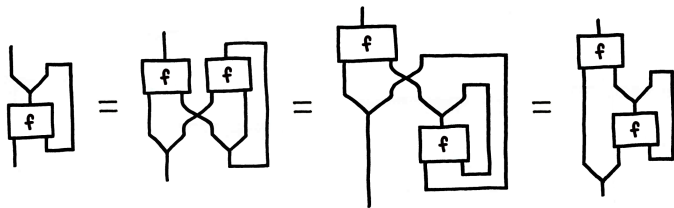
The diagram shows an equality between two expressions. On the left, a box labeled f has two input wires from below. One wire goes up to a box labeled h , and the other wire goes to the right side of the f box. On the right, a box labeled g has two input wires from below. One wire goes to the left side of the g box, and the other wire goes up to a box labeled h . An equals sign follows. To the right of this is a double arrow \Rightarrow . Further right is another equality. On the left of this second equality, a box labeled f has two input wires from below. The left wire goes to the left side of the f box, and the right wire goes up, loops around the right side of the f box, and then goes down to the right side of the f box. On the right of this second equality, a box labeled g has two input wires from below. The left wire goes to the left side of the g box, and the right wire goes up, loops around the right side of the g box, and then goes down to the right side of the g box.

For example, in a cocartesian setting uniformity implies:

The diagram shows an equality between two expressions. On the left, two boxes labeled f are positioned side-by-side. Each has one input wire from below. These two wires merge into a single wire that goes down to a box labeled f . On the right, a single box labeled f has one input wire from below. This wire goes up and splits into two wires that go to the left and right sides of the f box. An equals sign follows. To the right of this is a double arrow \Rightarrow . Further right is another equality. On the left of this second equality, a box labeled f has one input wire from below. This wire goes up, loops around the left side of the f box, and then goes down to the left side of the f box. On the right of this second equality, a box labeled f has one input wire from below. This wire goes up, loops around the right side of the f box, and then goes down to the right side of the f box.

A cocartesian monoidal category is traced if and only if it admits a parameterised fixed point operator.

Defining $(-)^{\dagger} : \mathbb{C}(A, X + A) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(A, X)$ by $f^{\dagger} = \text{Tr}_{A, X}^A(\mu_A f)$ gives a parameterised fixed point operator. $f^{\dagger} = f[1_X, f^{\dagger}]$ as in:



A *rig category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$$

such that:

- $(\mathbb{C}, \oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus)$ is a symmetric strict monoidal category.
- (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) is a monoidal category.
- λ^\bullet and ρ^\bullet are natural isomorphisms with components

$$\lambda_A^\bullet : 0 \otimes A \rightarrow 0 \qquad \rho_A^\bullet : A \otimes 0 \rightarrow 0$$

- δ^l and δ^r are natural isomorphisms with components

$$\delta_{A,B,C}^l : A \otimes (B \oplus C) \rightarrow (A \otimes B) \oplus (A \otimes C)$$

$$\delta_{A,B,C}^r : (A \oplus B) \otimes C \rightarrow (A \otimes C) \oplus (B \otimes C)$$

Satisfying a number of coherence axioms. (22 axioms!)

We write \otimes as juxtaposition for objects of rig categories.

For example:

$$ABC = A \otimes B \otimes C \quad AB + AC = (A \otimes B) + (A \otimes C)$$

$$IA = I \otimes A \quad (A + B)(C + D) = (A + B) \otimes (C + D)$$

$$\delta_{A,B,C}^l : A(B + C) \rightarrow AB + AC$$

And so on. We don't do this for morphisms.

A *cocartesian rig category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), (\mu, \eta), (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$$

such that:

- $(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$ is a rig category.
 - $(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\mu, \eta))$ is a cocartesian monoidal category.
-

A *(uniform) traced rig category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), \text{Tr}, (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$$

such that:

- $(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$ is a rig category.
- $(\mathbb{C}, (\oplus, 0, \sigma^\oplus), \text{Tr})$ is a (uniform) traced monoidal category.

Categorical Representation of Partial Functions

A *natural numbers algebra* (N, z, s) in a monoidal category (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) is a diagram:

$$I \xrightarrow{z} N \xleftarrow{s} N$$

Every natural numbers algebra defines a *numeral* $\underline{n} : I \rightarrow N$ in \mathbb{C} for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ as in $\underline{0} = z$ and $\underline{n+1} = \underline{n}s$.

A natural numbers algebra is called¹ *strong* in case:

$$\underline{n} = \underline{m} \quad \Rightarrow \quad n = m$$

¹This is new terminology.

Let (N, z, s) be a natural numbers algebra in (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) .

Let $f : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a partial function, and let $\underline{f} : N^n \rightarrow N$ be a morphism of \mathbb{C} .

We say that \underline{f} represents f in case $\forall k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have:

$$f(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\underline{k_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \underline{k_n}) \underline{f} = \underline{k}$$

Representability is about interpretation.

Let (N, z, s) be a natural numbers algebra in (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) .

Let $f : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a partial function, and let $\underline{f} : N^n \rightarrow N$ be a morphism of \mathbb{C} .

We say that \underline{f} *strongly represents* f in case $\forall k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have:

$$f(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k \iff (\underline{k}_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \underline{k}_n) \underline{f} = \underline{k}$$

Strong representability is about definition.

$(\mathbb{N}, 0, +1)$ is a natural numbers algebra in $(\text{Par}, \times, 1)$.

Let $f : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a partial function, and let $g : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ be a partial function.

We say that g is *Kleene equal* to f in case $\forall k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have:

$$f(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k \iff g(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k$$

So strong representability is generalised Kleene equality ($f \simeq g$).

Let (N, z, s) be a strong natural numbers algebra in (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I)

Then any $f : N^n \rightarrow N$ of \mathbb{C} defines a partial function $\bar{f} : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ as in:

$$\bar{f}(k_1, \dots, k_n) = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } (\underline{k_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \underline{k_n})f = \underline{k} \\ \uparrow & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Moreover, f strongly represents \bar{f} .

Each f strongly represents exactly one partial function.

A *weak left natural numbers object* in (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) is a natural numbers algebra (N, z, s) with the property that for any diagram $B \xrightarrow{b} A \xleftarrow{a} A$ there exists a morphism $h : N \otimes B \rightarrow A$ such that:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{z \otimes 1_B} & N \otimes B & \xleftarrow{s \otimes 1_B} & N \otimes B \\
 1_B \downarrow & & \downarrow h & & \downarrow h \\
 B & \xrightarrow{b} & A & \xleftarrow{a} & A
 \end{array}$$

Theorem (Thibault, Lambek & Scott, Paré & Román)

Let (\mathbb{C}, \otimes, I) be a monoidal category, and let (N, z, s) be a weak left natural numbers object in \mathbb{C} . Then all primitive recursive functions are representable in \mathbb{C} relative to (N, z, s) .

In a cocartesian rig category ...

A natural numbers algebra is a morphism $\iota : I + N \rightarrow N$.

A *natural numbers coalgebra* is a morphism $\gamma : N \rightarrow I + N$.

We say γ is *weakly final* in case for any $\beta : A \rightarrow I + A$ there exists $h : A \rightarrow N$ such that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\beta} & I + A \\ h \downarrow & & \downarrow 1_I + h \\ N & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & I + N \end{array}$$

Theorem (Plotkin)

In a cocartesian rig category \mathbb{C} , suppose that:

- *$\iota : I + N \rightarrow N$ is an isomorphism.*
- *(N, ι) is a weak left natural numbers object.*
- *(N, ι^{-1}) is a weakly final natural numbers coalgebra.*

Then all partial recursive functions are representable in \mathbb{C} relative to (N, z, s) where $[z, s] = \iota$.

Theorem (Plotkin)

In a cocartesian rig category \mathbb{C} , suppose that:

- $\iota : I + N \rightarrow N$ is an isomorphism.
- (N, ι) is a weak left natural numbers object.
- (N, ι^{-1}) is a weakly final natural numbers coalgebra.
- $z \neq zs : I \rightarrow N$ where $[z, s] = \iota$ (iff (N, ι) strong).
- Every partial function that is strongly representable in \mathbb{C} is partial recursive.

Then all partial recursive functions are **strongly** representable in \mathbb{C} relative to (N, z, s) where $[z, s] = \iota$.

Elgot Categories

A *pre-Elgot Category* is a tuple

$$(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\mu, \eta), \text{Tr}, (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r), (N, \iota))$$

in which:

- $(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\eta, \mu), (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$ is a cocartesian rig category.
- $(\mathbb{C}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), \text{Tr}, (\otimes, I), (\lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet), (\delta^l, \delta^r))$ is a traced rig category.
- N is an object of \mathbb{C} with $\iota : I + N \xrightarrow{\sim}$ an isomorphism.

An *Elgot category* is a pre-Elgot category in which the underlying traced rig category is uniform.

Lemma

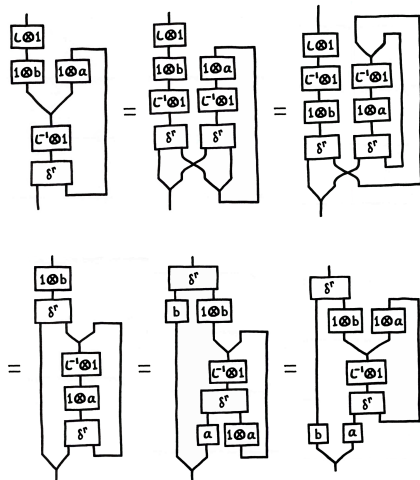
In any pre-Elgot category, (N, ι) is a weak left natural numbers object.

It suffices to show for for any $B \xrightarrow{b} A \xleftarrow{a} A$ we have $h : NB \rightarrow A$ such that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (I + N)B & \xrightarrow{\iota \otimes 1_B} & NB \\ \delta_{I,N,B}^r \downarrow & & \downarrow h \\ B + NB & \xrightarrow{[b, ha]} & A \end{array}$$

Let $h = \text{Tr}_{NB,A}^{NA}([1_N \otimes b, 1_N \otimes a](\iota^{-1} \otimes 1_A)\delta_{I,N,A}^r)$

Then $(\iota \otimes 1_B)h = \delta_{I,N,B}^r[b, ha]$ as in:



Lemma

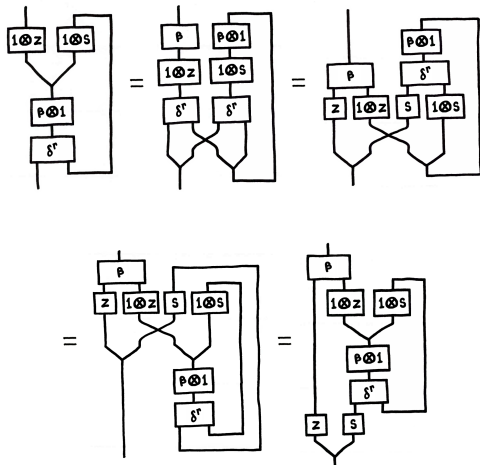
In any pre-Elgot category, (N, ι^{-1}) is a weakly final natural numbers coalgebra.

It suffices to show that for any $\beta : A \rightarrow I + A$ we have $h : A \rightarrow N$ such that:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\beta} & I + A \\ h \downarrow & & \downarrow 1_I + h \\ N & \xleftarrow{\iota} & I + N \end{array}$$

Let $h = \text{Tr}_{A,N}^{AN}([1_A \otimes z, 1_A \otimes s](\beta \otimes 1_N)\delta_{I,A,N}^r)$

Then $h = \beta(1_I + h)\iota$ as in:



So we have:

Theorem

The partial recursive functions are representable in any pre-Elgot category.

and moreover:

Theorem

The partial recursive functions are strongly representable in any pre-Elgot category such that:

- *(N, ι) is a strong natural numbers algebra.*
- *Every partial function that is strongly representable is partial recursive.*

Abacus Programs

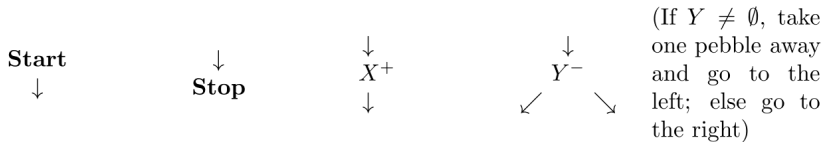
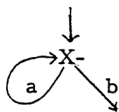
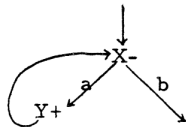


FIGURE 2. Abacus instructions

EXAMPLE 1.



EXAMPLE 2.



Next, a category \mathbb{A} of abacus programs. This construction owes much to the work of Bonchi, Di Giorgio, and Santamaria.

Objects are *polynomials* over the set $\{N\}$. i.e., $\mathbb{A}_0 = (\{N\}^*)^*$.

$I \in \{N\}^*$ is the empty sequence.

$0 \in (\{N\}^*)^*$ is the empty sequence of sequences.

Concatenation of sequences $U, V \in \{N\}^*$ is written $UV \in \{N\}^*$.

Concatenation of sequences of sequences $P, Q \in (\{N\}^*)^*$ is written $P + Q \in (\{N\}^*)^*$.

Singleton sequences of sequences are called *monomials*.

The following are all monomials:

I N NN NNN $NNNNNNN$

The following are all polynomials that are not monomials:

0 $NN + N$ $NNN + NNNN$

Important: $INN = NN = NIN$ and
 $0 + NN + N = NN = N = NN + 0 + N$ etc.

The morphisms of \mathbb{A} are given as follows:

$$\frac{U, V \text{ monomial}}{\text{succ}_{U,V} : UNV \rightarrow UNV}$$

$$\frac{U, V, \text{ monomial}}{\text{zero}_{U,V} : UV \rightarrow UNV}$$

$$\frac{U, V \text{ monomial}}{\text{pred}_{U,V} : UNV \rightarrow UV + UNV}$$

$$\frac{U \text{ monomial}}{1_U : U \rightarrow U}$$

$$\frac{U \text{ monomial}}{\eta_U : 0 \rightarrow U}$$

$$\frac{U \text{ monomial}}{\mu_U : U + U \rightarrow U}$$

$$\frac{U, W \text{ monomial}}{\sigma_{U,W}^+ : U + W \rightarrow W + U}$$

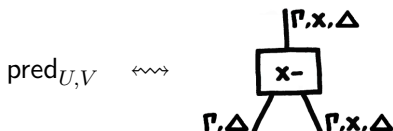
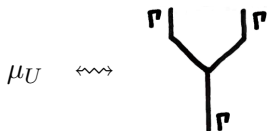
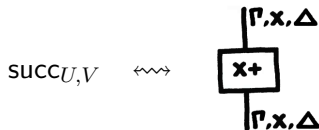
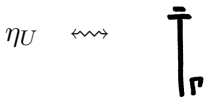
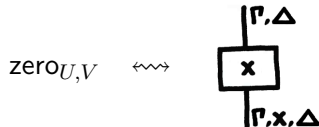
$$\frac{}{1_0 : 0 \rightarrow 0}$$

$$\frac{f : P \rightarrow Q \quad g : Q \rightarrow R}{fg : P \rightarrow R}$$

$$\frac{f : P \rightarrow Q \quad g : R \rightarrow S}{f + g : P + R \rightarrow Q + S}$$

$$\frac{W \text{ monomial} \quad P, Q \text{ polynomial} \quad f : P + W \rightarrow Q + W}{\text{Tr}_{P,Q}^W(f) : P \rightarrow Q}$$

Morphisms of \mathbb{A} are (modified) abacus programs:



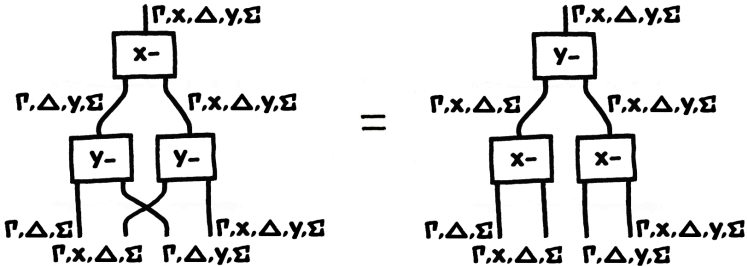
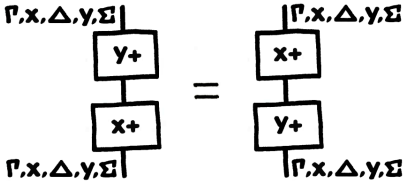
Arrows of \mathbb{A} are subject to equations ensuring that:

- $(\mathbb{A}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), (\eta, \mu), \text{Tr})$ is a cocartesian monoidal category.
- $(\mathbb{A}, (+, 0, \sigma^+), \text{Tr})$ is a uniform traced monoidal category.

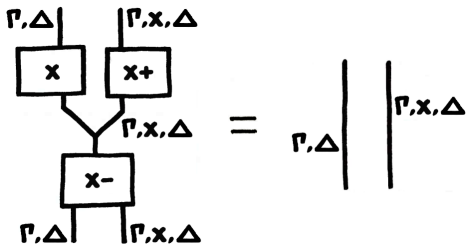
Along with a few equations concerning succ , zero , and pred :

- **[N1]** $(\text{zero}_{U,V} + \text{succ}_{U,V})\mu_{UNV}\text{pred}_{U,V} = 1_{UV+UNV}$
- **[N2]** $\text{pred}_{U,V}(\text{zero}_{U,V} + \text{succ}_{U,V})\mu_{UNV} = 1_{UNV}$
- **[N3]** $\text{succ}_{U,VNW}\text{succ}_{UNV,W} = \text{succ}_{UNV,W}\text{succ}_{U,VNW}$
- ...
- **[N9]**
 $\text{succ}_{UNV,W}\text{pred}_{U,VNW} = \text{pred}_{U,VNW}(\text{succ}_{UV,W} + \text{succ}_{UNV,W})$
- **[N10]**
 $\text{zero}_{UNV,W}\text{pred}_{U,VNW} = \text{pred}_{U,VW}(\text{zero}_{UV,W} + \text{zero}_{UNV,W})$
- **[N11]** $\text{pred}_{U,VNW}(\text{pred}_{UV,W} + \text{pred}_{UNV,W}) =$
 $\text{pred}_{UNV,W}(\text{pred}_{U,VW} + \text{pred}_{U,VNW})(1_{UVW} +$
 $\sigma_{UNVW,UVNW}^+ + 1_{UNVNW})$

Equations [N3] through [N9] say things like:



Equation [N1] says:



And equation [N2] is the “converse”.

Theorem

\mathbb{A} is an Elgot category.

Theorem

\mathbb{A} is an initial Elgot category.

Lemma

- $\underline{0} \neq \underline{1}$ in \mathbb{A} .
- If $f : \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^n$ is strongly representable in \mathbb{A} then it is partial recursive.

Theorem

\mathbb{A} strongly represents all (and only) the partial recursive functions.

The only hard part is the construction of the multiplicative monoidal category structure on \mathbb{A} .

On Objects: On monomials UV is sequence concatenation. For U monomial and Q polynomial define UQ by induction on Q :

$$U0 = 0 \qquad U(V + Q) = UV + UQ$$

Now for polynomials P, Q define PQ by induction on P :

$$0Q = 0 \qquad (U + P)Q = UQ + PQ$$

This works. For all polynomials P, Q, R we have:

$$\begin{array}{lll} (PQ)R = P(QR) & IP = P & PI = P \\ 0P = 0 & P0 = 0 & (P + Q)R = PR + QR \end{array}$$

And also for monomials U we have:

$$U(Q + R) = UQ + UR$$

The rig category structure on \mathbb{A} will be *right strict*. That is, $\delta^r, \lambda^\bullet, \rho^\bullet$ will be identities.

Monomial Whiskering. Let U be monomial and define $(U \times -) : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ and $((- \times U) : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ as in:

- $U \times \text{succ}_{V,W} = \text{succ}_{UV,W}$
- $U \times \text{zero}_{V,W} = \text{zero}_{UV,W}$
- $U \times \text{pred}_{V,W} = \text{pred}_{UV,W}$
- $U \times 1_V = 1_{UV}$
- $U \times \eta_V = \eta_{UV}$
- $U \times \mu_V = \mu_{UV}$
- $U \times 1_0 = 1_0$
- $U \times \sigma_{V,W}^+ = \sigma_{UV,UW}^+$
- $U \times fg = (U \times f)(U \times g)$
- $U \times f+g = (U \times f)+(U \times g)$
- $U \times \text{Tr}_{P,Q}^W = \text{Tr}_{UP,UQ}^{UW}(U \times f)$
- $\text{succ}_{V,W} \times U = \text{succ}_{V,WU}$
- $\text{zero}_{V,W} \times U = \text{zero}_{V,WU}$
- $\text{pred}_{V,W} \times U = \text{pred}_{V,WU}$
- $1_V \times U = 1_{VU}$
- $\eta_V \times U = \eta_{VU}$
- $\mu_V \times U = \mu_{VU}$
- $1_0 \times U = 1_0$
- $\sigma_{V,W}^+ \times U = \sigma_{VU,WU}^+$
- $fg \times U = (f \times U)(g \times U)$
- $f+g \times U = (f \times U)+(g \times U)$
- $\text{Tr}_{P,Q}^W \times U = \text{Tr}_{PU,QU}^{WU}(f \times U)$

Define $\delta_{P,Q,R}^l : P(Q + R) \rightarrow PQ + PR$ by induction on P :

$$\delta_{0,Q,R}^l = 1_0$$

$$\delta_{U+P,Q,R}^l = (1_{UQ+UR} + \delta_{P,Q,R}^l)(1_{UQ} + \sigma_{UR,PQ}^+ + 1_{PR})$$

Now define $(P \times -)$ and $(- \times P)$ by induction on P :

$$0 \times f = 1_0 \quad U + P \times f = (U \times f) + (P \times f)$$

and

$$f \times 0 = 1_0 \quad f \times U + P = \delta_{R,U,P}^l((f \times U) + (f \times P))(\delta_{S,U,P}^l)^{-1}$$

Then we have (after much proof by induction):

Lemma

For all $f : R \rightarrow S$ in \mathbb{A} and all polynomials P, Q of \mathbb{A} :

- $I \times f = f$
- $f \times I = f$
- $PQ \times f = P \times (Q \times f)$
- $f \times PQ = (f \times P) \times Q$
- $(P \times f) \times Q = P \times (f \times Q)$

Lemma

For all $f : P \rightarrow Q$ and $g : R \rightarrow S$ of \mathbb{A} ,
 $(f \times R)(Q \times g) = (P \times g)(f \times S)$.

And it follows that:

Lemma

Define $f \otimes g = (f \times R)(Q \times g)$ for $f : P \rightarrow Q$ and $g : R \rightarrow S$.
Then (\mathbb{A}, \otimes, I) is a (strict) monoidal category.

Lemma

The δ^l make \mathbb{A} into a (right strict) rig category.

Theorem

\mathbb{A} is an Elgot category.

Some conjectures about \mathbb{A} :

- The multiplicative structure of \mathbb{A} is a distributive restriction category.
- \mathbb{A} *uniquely* strongly represents all and only the partial recursive functions.
- \mathbb{A} is isomorphic (perhaps equivalent) to the (rig) category of partial recursive functions.

Some questions, future work:

- What about dynamics?
- Relationship to Turing categories.
- Free cornering with choice and iteration of \mathbb{A} as a notion of *interactive* computability. Write a programming language?